Joint forces launch massive anti-terror operation in J&K

JAMMU, Nov 14 (IANS)



A MASSIVE anti-terrorist operation was launched in J&K's Kishtwar district on Saturday in the wake of the killings of two special police officers (SPOs) by terrorists, officials said.

Officials said the joint operation, comprising personnel from the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and Village Defence Guards (VDGs), is underway in the dense forest areas of Kishtwar in Jammu & Kashmir to trace and track down terrorists. Kishtwar's Senior Superintendent of Police Sunny Gupta is supervising the operation.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition (LOP) in the Assembly, Sunil Sharma and Kishtwar MLA, Shagun Parihar, visited the families of the deceased Special Police Officers (SPOs) and expressed their condolences and solidarity with the bereaved families.

During the visit, they assured the families that a high-level probe would be conducted into the incident and also assured fresh recruitment. Babi Chand and Rashpal Kumar were attached to the Special Operations Group (SOG) at Kiyar village in the Dachhan area.

On Wednesday, the two SPOs went missing while walking from their camp toward an Army post at Dherna in the Dachhan-Marwah belt to relieve colleagues on rotation duty.

Following a massive search operation, security forces recovered their bullet-riddled bodies from the Dherna Top forest area early on Thursday.

Investigators found empty bullet shells of Pakistani-origin armour-piercing ammunition at the scene.

The terrorists took the officers' service weapons -- an INSAS rifle and a .303 rifle.

The Kishtwar attack occurred barely 24 hours after the terrorists fired at and injured three CRPF personnel in the Akhran area near Mir Bazar in Kulgam district.

These two terrorist attacks brought the claims of terrorism having ended in J&K into serious question.

India supports UNGA resolution on permanent sovereignty of Palestinians

■ **By Yoshita Singh**
UNITED NATIONS, Nov 14 (PTI)

INDIA has voted in favour of a UN General Assembly draft resolution that reaffirms the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources and demands that Israel cease the exploitation and damage of these resources.

The 193-Member UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly, on Wednesday, in favour of the resolution 'Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources' proposed by Uruguay.

India voted in favour of the resolution along with 150 other UN Member States, while Israel and the US were among the seven nations that voted against the draft, which got 11 abstentions.

The resolution reaffirmed the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people and of the population of the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources, including land, water and energy resources. It demanded that Israel "cease the exploitation, damage, cause of loss or depletion and endangerment of the natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan.

It stressed that the wall and settlements being constructed by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, are contrary to international law and seriously deprive the Palestinian people of their natural resources.

Cede Donbas to Russia to join Nato, US tells Ukraine

Zelensky: May Put To Vote If We Get Broad Guarantees

Kyiv: US negotiators have floated the idea of Ukraine's potential withdrawal from its eastern region of Donbas in exchange for joining Nato, President Volodymyr Zelensky said, following the latest round of peace talks with Russia in Abu Dhabi.

This is the first time the question of linking Nato membership to territorial concessions has been raised during the talks, Zelensky said in remarks to reporters released by his office on Saturday. "The Americans raised a question: 'What if Ukraine joins Nato? Would Ukraine withdraw from Donbas?'" he said.

"That is why I believe Nato is back on the agenda. But you have also heard (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's signals, and this is an extremely difficult conversation." Putin has long said Ukrainian membership of Nato is a red line for Moscow, citing the issue as one reason for launching Russia's full-blown invasion in 2022.

Zelensky reiterated that Kyiv was not ready to concede territory but said that if it received a comprehensive package including security guarantees, the right to a strong and well-funded Ukrainian army and funds to rebuild, he would put the question to a national referendum. REUTERS

▶Russian truce, P 22

NO BREAKTHROUGH, EUROPE TO JOIN TALKS

- US envoys **Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff met Putin and Zelensky** Thursday after 2 days of talks in Abu Dhabi, which ended with no breakthrough
- Negotiations did lead to agreement that **5 European countries** – France, Germany, Italy, UK and Poland – **join future talks** on ending the war
- **Putin proposed truce** in Kostyantynivka. **Zelensky called it a ploy** to take elusive city



1st time in 3 yrs: Pak minister to visit India for SCO meet

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Pakistan announced on Saturday that it will participate in the inaugural Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Civilisational Dialogue, scheduled to take place in New Delhi from Nov 20 to 22. PM Narendra Modi had proposed the dialogue at the Tianjin SCO summit in 2025.

The last time a Pakistani minister visited India was in May 2023, when then-foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari travelled to Goa for a meet of the SCO foreign ministers. This will also be the first ministerial visit from either country after the Pahalgam terror attack last year. Pakistan's ministry of foreign affairs said Musadik Masood Malik, federal minister for climate change and environmental coordination will lead the country's delegation. India had invited culture minister Aurangzeb Khichi for the event.

▶Continued on P 23

MALIK LEADS TEAM

- **India invited culture minister Aurangzeb Khichi** for SCO meet. But **Musadik M Malik,** federal minister for climate change & environmental coordination, who's more experienced, will lead team
- After Bilawal's visit in 2023, Jaishankar had visited Pak in 2024. **On both occasions, there was no bilateral meet**

Agniveers have got 'additional opportunity' to become regular sailors, says Navy chief

Surendra.Singh
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New Delhi: Referring to the revamped Agnipath scheme, Navy chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, during the passing-out parade of the largest batch of over 3,300 trainees, including 2,756 Agniveers, of Indian Navy and Naviks of Indian Coast Guard at INS Chilka, said they now have an "additional opportunity" to become a regular sailor.

With the revamped Agnipath scheme offering the remaining 75% of Agniveers (25% are already absorbed in the forces as regulars) an opportunity to be regular soldiers, the Navy chief said the trainees now possess a concrete pathway to secure a rewarding career as regular sailors.

"With 3,358 trainees passing out in a single batch, this is the largest single batch ever at (INS) Chilka. Among them are 142 women Agniveers, who today become role models for millions," the admiral said.

Navy chief, Belgian counterpart hold talks

Belgian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Tanguy Botman Saturday held discussions with Admiral Swaminathan on a range of issues of mutual interest, including maritime security, operational engagements, training, personnel exchanges and collaboration in naval technology.

US trade deal talks near finishing line: EAM

Says Challenge Is To Find A Landing Point

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: External affairs minister **S Jaishankar** Saturday said many of the pending issues in the trade deal with the US were "not so much at our end" and that negotiations are near the "finishing line".

"Well, it's certainly our hope, and in many ways anticipation that we are at the last stretch," he said.

The comments come a week after a team of US officials came to India to discuss the customs and trade facilitation chapter with India, which is waiting for clarity on what the new tariff framework will be after the US Supreme Court ruled that US President Donald Trump's "reciprocal tariffs" were illegal. His comments may be an indication that govt is awaiting the next step from the Trump administration — which is conducting a second Section 301 probe against over a dozen countries for structural overcapacity.



Want a trade deal that's beneficial and balanced, the EAM said

For several weeks now, officials from both sides have been stating that talks are in the final lap, with Trump also saying the deal with India may be different from other deals. "For us, the key is that we want a trade deal which is beneficial, is balanced and which would give us a comparative advantage over groups of comparable economies," Jaishankar said at the HT Leadership Summit.

The repeated comments have raised hopes of the first tranche of the deal being announced soon, although things can move only after the US Trade Representative completes the second probe. PM Modi and Trump are due to meet in the US next month.

Jaishankar said the US is India's biggest market and having the trade deal with it would benefit the country. "For the US, Trump is obviously looking to do a whole set of bilateral deals to improve markets for himself. Now, the challenge is to find a landing point."

"I think this is not something which could have been done quickly, because these are serious issues; people's jobs and people's lives are at stake."

JS: China border now 'more alive', has got infra, military boost

New Delhi: India's border with China has become "more alive" and requires a much greater commitment of Indian troops on a sustained basis, EAM S Jaishankar said Saturday as he listed New Delhi's policy approach to enhance infrastructure along the frontier.

Jaishankar also said that India has bolstered its military capabilities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) since the deadly clashes in eastern Ladakh's Galwan Valley in 2020.

His remarks came amid ongoing efforts by New Delhi and Beijing to normalise ties that came under severe strain following the over four-year border face-off in eastern Ladakh.

"Just think about the last few years. How often do you now read — a new tunnel has been built, some new bridge has been built, another airfield has been commissioned. You're getting this news with greater and greater frequency," he said.

"What has happened today is the border with China has become more alive in a way. It has required a much greater commitment of troops on a sustained basis."

After over four years of frosty ties over the eastern Ladakh military standoff, India and China began to repair relations following a meeting between PM Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in the Russian city of Kazan in Oct 2024.

"I would say when it comes to the border, I would honestly make this point, and I think there's a lot of data and evidence to back it up, which is that the border infrastructure was really neglected till about a decade ago. I mean, people spoke about it, people drew up plan," Jaishankar said.

Jaishankar said that border infrastructure was neglected till about a decade ago, adding India's capability to 'deploy' its troops along the frontier has seen 'a very marked' improvement

He added India's capability to "deploy" its troops on that border has seen "a very marked" improvement.

He also responded to a question on views about economic asymmetry between the two countries. "Remember, when around the time when Rajiv Gandhi went to China in 1988, the Indian and Chinese economies were about the same size," he said. "...China, in the 1980s particularly, made a huge push towards modernisation and industrialisation. India in the 1980s simply missed the bus. Now, in the 1990s, we did some corrections, reforms, but we did not carry through the reforms sector by sector and keep building and raising it," he said.

"I don't want you to think of it as a political point," he said and listed efforts by the Modi govt in the areas of manufacturing and industrialisation.

Trump moves on from election rout to nuclear clout as he heads to Asia

Trump-Xi-Putin Meeting Set For Nov 19; US Won't Raise Alleged Spy Scandal With Xi

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: Domestically battered in the midterm elections, US President Donald Trump is heading to Asia next week to restore prestige on the global diplomatic stage by bringing together Russian strongman Vladimir Putin and China's leader Xi Jinping in an unprecedented nuclear summit. It is an ambitious attempt to change the conversation from electoral setbacks at home to superpower diplomacy abroad amid an increasingly complicated domestic political landscape that includes a spy sex scandal, a disastrous air traffic fiasco and growing fissures in the Trump cabinet.

The Trump-Xi-Putin meeting, scheduled for Nov 19 on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Shenzhen, will bring together leaders of the world's three most consequential nuclear powers for their first trilateral summit, although all three attended the 2019 G20 gathering. US officials who briefed the media on the upcoming trip put arms control issues on top of the agenda while indicating Trump would not be raising the Jensen Huang spy scandal with Xi.

The return of the nuclear issue to the forefront is significant. The last remaining nuclear arms-control agreement between Washington and Moscow, New START, expired in Feb, removing legally binding limits on the two countries' strategic nuclear arsenals for the first time in more than half a century. Trump has rejected a simple extension, arguing that any future arrangement should include China.

Reuters



Activists in polar bear costume carry a statue depicting US President Trump and a Statue of Liberty replica during the People's Climate March "demanding climate justice" at COP31 venue Antalya, in Turkey, Saturday

Although no agreement is expected, the White House describes the Shenzhen conversation as an opportunity to begin discussions on the subject. China, with an estimated arsenal exceeding 600 warheads, remains substantially behind the American and Russian stockpiles, each exceeding 5,000. Beijing has little incentive to accept constraints while it is expanding its nuclear capabilities. For Xi, participation offers an opportunity to reinforce China's position as an indispensable global power. For Putin, it provides another platform to engage Washington directly and demonstrate that Russia is not internationally isolated.

The more immediate bilateral business, however, will be trade with China and the Ukraine issue with Russia. Trump and Xi are expected to review the fragile trade truce, Chinese purchases of American goods, market access and unresolved disputes over critical minerals and advanced technology. Washington wants Beijing to honour its commitments while retaining leverage over semiconductor exports. The future of Nvidia's powerful H200 artificial-intelligence chips, which the Trump administration has permitted to be exported to approved Chinese customers under restrictions, is simmering against the backdrop of the Jensen Huang controversy.

Nvidia's co-founder resigned as chief executive on Nov 12 following revelations about extramarital relationships, including one involving Alice Huang, a Singapore-based business executive suspected by US intelligence agencies of being a Chinese intelligence asset. The allegations are particularly sensitive because Megaspeed International, where Alice previously worked, has been accused of facilitating the diversion of Nvidia's advanced chips into China.

Washington has long accused Beijing of systematic intellectual-property theft, industrial espionage and cyber-enabled theft of American commercial and military technology. The allegations against Alice, however, remain under investigation; they have not been independently established, and Beijing denies the espionage claims. Nvidia has also initiated an independent investigation into whether its former CEO was targeted by a foreign intelligence operation.

Yet Trump has indicated that he will not raise the Huang affair with Xi, with two senior administration officials confirming that assessment while briefing the media. Trump himself said: "No, I don't think so" when asked whether he would bring it up, adding that he expected Xi might ask him about it. He has also repeatedly defended Jensen Huang, describing him as an honourable man who built a great company.

There are several reasons for Washington's reluctance to take on Beijing. First, the intelligence investigation is ongoing, and publicly confronting China could expose sensitive intelligence sources and methods. Second, the administration wants to keep intelligence and law-enforcement matters separate from negotiations over trade. Raising an unproven espionage allegation involving a prominent American businessman could also complicate an already delicate relationship with Beijing. The immediate priority is securing economic and strategic gains.

There is another intriguing Silicon Valley subplot to the summit. Elon Musk will accompany Trump to Asia, after having publicly sought Huang's reinstatement as Nvidia CEO. Huang himself, who accompanied Trump on his May visit to China after receiving a personal invitation from President, will not be travelling this time. His absence is conspicuous: he had been an important business interlocutor on the previous visit, particularly over Nvidia's efforts to secure access to the Chinese market. Musk, meanwhile, brings his own substantial interests through Tesla and SpaceX, including commercial and national-security stakes that make him a critical presidential adviser.