

Armed Forces need to be adaptive in evolving geopolitical landscape: Bhatt

NEW DELHI: Union Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt on Tuesday said that the geopolitical landscape is ever-evolving, and it is imperative for our Armed Forces to be adaptive and innovative in their approach.

Addressing an event Project Udbhav here, Ajay Bhatt said, "By delving into our ancient texts and traditions, projects like Udbhav not only enrich our understanding of strategic culture, but also provide valuable insights into unconventional warfare strategies, diplomatic practices and ethical considerations in warfare".

Sharing his views on the road ahead, Bhatt underlined the importance of recognising the strength of the nation's defence which, he said, lies not only in its military might, but also in the ability to adapt to changing circumstances and leverage the cultural heritage as a source of power.

He described initiatives like 'Project Udbhav' as a guiding light for a future where India is self-reliant, and deeply rooted in its cultural heritage.

The Minister also commended the Indian Army and the United Service Institution of India (USI) for the 'Project Udbhav' initiative,



which aims to explore the country's ancient texts and oral traditions to unearth invaluable insights into its strategic culture.

He also emphasised that the spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not limited to merely production and consumption of Indian goods, but also to make sincere endeavours to imbibe the essence of Indian thought and values in the current actions and decisions.

Bhatt added that the goal of Viksit Bharat can only be realised when the nation as a

whole grasps the invaluable wisdom of ancient past and apply it contextually to shape modern-day ambitions and policies. The Minister appreciated the fact that the 'Project Udbhav' has strengthened the whole of nations' approach by deepening civil-military collaboration at the intellectual level, bringing academia, scholars, practitioners, and military experts on a common table.

He stressed that the findings of the project will not only enhance the strategic capabilities of the Indian

Army, but also serve as a testament to the timeless relevance of India's ancient wisdom.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande said Project Udbhav has revealed substantial intellectual convergences between eminent Indian and Western scholars, highlighting the resonance between their thoughts, philosophies and perspectives. He added that the endeavour has catalysed exploration into new areas by unveiling India's tribal

traditions, the Maratha Naval legacy, and the individual heroic exploits of military figures, particularly women.

"The Project has delved deep into ancient texts such as Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads and Arthashastra, which are rooted in inter-connectedness, righteousness and ethical values.

Furthermore, it has explored the epic battles of the Mahabharata and the strategic brilliance practiced during the reigns of Mauryas, Guptas and Marathas, which has shaped India's rich military heritage," Gen Pande said.

As part of 'Project Udbhav', a seminar-cum-exhibition on 'Historical Patterns of Indian Strategic Culture' was held at the National Museum

The event witnessed the inauguration of an exhibition on 'Evolution of Indian Military Systems, Warfighting, and Strategic Thoughts, from Antiquity to Independence', besides the release of 'Udbhav Compendium' and a book 'Alha Udal - Ballad Rendition of Western Uttar Pradesh'. Project Udbhav was launched by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during the Indian Military Heritage Festival on October 21, last year.



NIA takes human trafficker from Tripura to Guwahati

AGARTALA: National Investigation Agency (NIA) took custody of the most wanted human trafficker, Hannan Miah (41) arrested by Tripura police last week.

The NIA team has flown him to Guwahati on transit remand and is scheduled to be produced before the court on Tuesday.

Earlier, the NIA, based on the intelligence input of Tripura police, arrested at least 29 residents of the state from the bordering locations in two subsequent raids in the last six months who were allegedly involved in the trafficking of Rohingyas, Bangladeshi nationals, and women from poverty-stricken families from bordering areas.

However, Hannan Miah was accused of a human trafficking case last year, and the NIA announced a reward of Rs 1 lakh for his whereabouts, but he has been traceless since then. Reportedly, Hannan took shelter in Bangladesh like other criminals involved in heinous

crimes on Indian soil.

Based on local input, the officer-in-charge of the Bishalgarh police station under Sepahijala district, Rana Chatterjee, intercepted his presence in the Motinagar area, and accordingly, police detained him from the locality on Saturday.

"Hannan is an 'infamous human trafficker' and has been wanted in connection with a human trafficking case investigated by the NIA, and the case has been pending in the national probe agency court in Guwahati," said Chatterjee, adding that on the requisition of the NIA, Hannan was handed over to the NIA team.

According to sources, another 23 names have been intercepted in the intelligence network who are actively involved in heinous border crimes, human trafficking, arms dealing, and running transborder drug rackets across Myanmar and Bangladesh from Tripura, but police have yet to trace their locations.

Patra's faux pas on Lord Jagannath triggers criticism

BHUBANESWAR: A faux pas by BJP national spokesperson and Puri Lok Sabha candidate Dr Sambit Patra describing Lord Jagannath as ardent devotee of Narendra Modi, has triggered criticism from various quarters including political circles.

On Monday, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's road show in Puri, Patra made the grave error in an interview with a TV channel by claiming that Lord Jagannath is a devotee of Narendra Modi.

Though he later apologized and said it was a slip of tongue, by that time his statement was widely circulated on social media, and he was heavily trolled.

Patra said he wanted to say that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the greatest devotee of Lord Jagannath but said the opposite.

In his X handle, Patra said: "I have made this mistake unintentionally. I know some people must have been hurt but even God forgives mistakes made unintentionally." He further said, "I need to seek forgiveness from Mahaprabhu Jagannath for this slip of the tongue, and I have decided to do a 'upvaas', for three days."

However, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was quick to react to Patra's statement on the TV channel and strongly condemned the BJP leader's statement.

"Taking to his X handle, Patnaik said, 'Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannatha is the Lord of the Universe.' Calling Mahaprabhu a bhakt of another human being is an insult to the Lord." This has hurt the (devotees) sentiments and demeaned the faith of crores of Jagannatha bhaktas and Odias across the world," Patnaik said. "The Lord is the greatest Symbol of Odia Asmita. Calling Mahaprabhu a bhakt of another human being is totally condemnable," the Chief Minister said, strongly denouncing the statement made by the BJP Puri Lok Sabha candidate.

Patnaik appealed to the BJP to keep the Lord above any political discourse and said, "By this, you have deeply hurt Odia Asmita, and this will be remembered and condemned by people of Odisha for a very long time."

Taking to his X handle, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge said, "Bhakti in religion may be a road to salvation of the soul, but in politics or hero worship, is a sure road to degradation and to eventual dictatorship."

He said the comments made by the BJP's Puri candidate is an insult to Mahaprabhu Shree Jagannath revered by crores of people. "We condemn it in the strongest possible words. It reinforced our charge that a BJP, drunk with power, will not even spare our Gods, let alone India's people."

"On June 4, this arrogance shall be destroyed by the Will of the power," Kharge said in his X handle.

Can court examine legality of arrest after cognisance of ED's complaint taken: Apex Court to Hemant Soren

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked former Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren whether a writ court can examine the legality of his arrest after the trial court has taken cognisance of the prosecution complaint filed by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in the money laundering case against him related to an alleged land scam.

A bench of Justices Dipankar Datta and Satish Chandra Sharma, which posted the matter for further hearing on Wednesday, asked Soren's counsel to first satisfy the court as to how interim bail can be granted to him for campaigning in the Lok Sabha poll when his application for regular bail has been dismissed.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Arunabh Choudhury, appearing for Soren, sought time till Wednesday to respond to the court's queries.

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, opposed Soren's interim bail plea, contending his case was different from that of Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who was granted interim bail on May 10 for campaigning in the general elections.

He said the trial court had on April 4 taken cognisance



of the prosecution complaint, ED's equivalent of a charge sheet, upon finding that a prima facie case was made out against Soren.

The ED has, in its affidavit, said Soren is actively attempting to "subvert" the probe in the money laundering case against him by "misusing state machinery". It has opposed his "special prayer" for interim bail to campaign in the Lok Sabha polls.

The agency said Soren's arrest on January 31 has been upheld by the Jharkhand High Court and his regular bail application dismissed by the trial court on May 13.

On May 13, Soren referred to the top court's order granting interim bail to Kejriwal in the money laundering case against him

linked to the alleged Delhi excise scam and sought identical relief for himself.

In his appeal filed through advocate Praghya Baghel, the JMM leader said the high court had erred in dismissing his plea.

The ED has alleged that "huge amounts of proceeds of crime" were generated by Soren through manipulation of official records by showing dummy sellers and purchasers in the guise of forged/bogus documents to acquire huge parcels of land having value in crores of rupees.

The probe against Soren pertains to an 8.86-acre plot of land in Ranchi that the ED has alleged was illegally acquired by him. Soren is currently lodged in judicial custody in Ranchi's Birsamunda Central Jail.

Car accident involving juvenile: Maharashtra CM has directed for strict action, says Pune top cop

PUNE: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Home Minister Devendra Fadnis have instructed for stringent action in the case of a car accident allegedly involving a 17-year-old boy that killed two persons, Pune police chief said on Tuesday.

The Porsche car, allegedly driven by the juvenile, who the police claim was drunk at the time, knocked down two motorbike riders in the Kalyani Nagar area of Pune city in the early hours of Sunday, causing their deaths, as per officials.

The police have detained the boy's father, who is a real estate developer, and arrested three executives of two hotels for serving liquor to the juvenile, they said.

"The chief minister, the deputy chief minister and home minister (Fadnis), and the (Pune) guardian minister (Deputy CM Ajit Pawar) have given clear instructions to the police to take stringent action in this case.

The state Director General of Police has also instructed for strong action," Pune Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar told reporters here.

He addressed public's concerns that the police were not taking adequate action in the case.

Kumar affirmed that both the government and police were committed to take stringent measures against those responsible for the incident.

Asked about any pressure on the police in this case, the official said that from the beginning, the police have been acting according to the law and there is no pressure on the cops



from anyone. "I mentioned yesterday that we are ready to discuss every legal step taken by the police.

We have taken the most stringent possible action. If legal experts believe there are more stringent provisions available, they should come forward for a public discussion," he said.

Kumar said on the first day, the police invoked Indian Penal Code Section 304 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), in addition to section 304A (causing death by negligence).

"We also moved an application before a court seeking permission to treat the juvenile as an adult due to the heinous nature of the act. Unfortunately, the court rejected our application.

We have now approached the district sessions court and are awaiting the judgment," he said.

Kumar said the blood report of

the juvenile is still awaited. However, the CCTV footage of the restaurant and bill payments made there indicate the juvenile had consumed alcohol, he said.

On the allegations of "preferential treatment" being given to the juvenile while in custody after the incident, Kumar said stringent action will be taken against the police personnel if they are found to be aiding the teenager directly or indirectly.

A group of friends were returning on motorbikes at around 3.15 am on Sunday after a party when the speeding Porsche hit one of the motorcyclists at Kalyani Nagar junction.

The two riders -- Anis Awadhiya and Ashwini Costa, both 24-year-old IT professionals and hailing from Madhya Pradesh -- died of their injuries, police said.

The accused teenager was subsequently produced before the Juvenile Justice Board which granted him bail hours later.

'Severe heatwave likely in NW India for next 5 days'

NEW DELHI: Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions are most likely to continue over plains of Northwest India, north Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat for the next five days, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday.

According to IMD, "Heat wave to severe heat wave conditions very likely in pockets over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and northwest Madhya Pradesh from May 21 to 25."

Heat wave conditions are likely over Jammu division, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, northeast Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha and north Madhya Maharashtra till May 25th, the IMD said.

The weather department forecast a gradual rise of about 2-3°C in maximum temperatures over many parts of Central India for the next five days with no significant change in maximum temperatures over Northwest India and Maharashtra during the next 24 hours and gradual

rise by 2-3°C thereafter.

"Under the influence of a Low Pressure Area which is very likely to form over southwest Bay of Bengal by tomorrow, "Light to moderate rainfall at many places with heavy rainfall at isolated places is likely over North & South 24 Parganas, East Medinipur districts of West Bengal and Balasore district of Odisha on 25th May," the IMD said.

It also advised fishermen not to venture into central & adjoining south Bay of Bengal from May 23 and into North Bay of Bengal from May 24 onwards. Conditions are favourable for further advance of Southwest Monsoon over some parts of Southeast Arabian Sea, some more parts of Maldives, Comorin area and South Bay of Bengal and some more parts of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Andaman Sea during next two days, the IMD said.

On hot and humid weather, IMD said these conditions are very likely to prevail over Assam, Konkan, Goa and Odisha till Wednesday.

Kyrgyzstan violence: Parents of students from MP urge Centre to ensure their safe return

BHOPAL/UJJAIN: Parents of students from Madhya Pradesh studying in Kyrgyzstan have urged the Centre to ensure the safe return of their wards amid reports of fights between locals and foreigners in its capital Bishkek.

As many as 15,000 students from India are reportedly studying in Kyrgyzstan.

The Indian government on Saturday asked its students in Bishkek to stay indoors after the Kyrgyz capital city reported mob violence targeting international students, especially from South Asia.

Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav talked to three students, Vivek Sharma, Rohit Panchal and Ravi Sarathe, took stock of the situation and assured them of all possible help.

After holding talks with the students, Yadav said in a video statement that he was informed about the students from the state studying in Kyrgyzstan, where a fight erupted between



locals and foreigners. Yadav said that this incident triggered concern among the Indian students.

"I have talked to the students of Madhya Pradesh, including those from Ujjain, Mandasaur, Neemuch and other places. They are safe.

We are in touch with the centre and the students are provided

ment is in touch with the students. Hope the situation will be normal soon," he said.

According to the CM, as per the information given by the students, they live in hostels and do not face any issues as of now.

The CM asked the students to continue with their studies and prepare for the upcoming examinations.

There will be a two-and-a-half-months-long holiday after the examination and then they will be called, Yadav told the students.

He assured the families and students to inform the district administration in case of any difficult situation and action will be taken immediately.

Talking to PTI on Tuesday, Alka Solanki said her son Raj was a medical student in the Central Asian country.

"My son is scared because of what has happened in the country in the last two days.

I only want my son to return home safely with other students. I have spoken to my son, and

students are not permitted to go outside. They are scared," she said.

Chen Singh Choudhary, whose son Yogesh is studying MBBS, claimed there was a fight between locals and some students from Egypt over an eve-teasing incident, following which locals started attacking students from foreign countries.

"We request Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to ensure the safe return of the students," he said.

Leena Sarathe, whose son Ravi is a third-year medical student, said, "My son and other students are scared because of the situation in Bishkek.

I want my son to return home safely."

Earlier, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had advised Indian students to stay in regular touch with the Indian embassy. The Indian embassy in Kyrgyzstan said it was in touch with students, and the situation is calm.