

On Kargil anniversary, Army chief General Bipin Rawat says future conflicts will be more violent, unpredictable

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Future conflicts will be "more violent" and "unpredictable" with technology, cyber domain playing a greater role, Chief of Army Staff General Bipin Rawat said on Saturday. He was speaking at a seminar in New Delhi to mark the 20th year of the Kargil conflict. "The military must be ready for a multi-spectrum war. The rise of non-state actors and the rapid changes in technology is changing the nature of warfare. Cyber and space domain will increasingly play a bigger role as the battle field becomes more contested and

at the same time will be seamlessly connected," General Rawat said drawing out the contours of future conflicts. The Indian Army needs and is going through a transformation. "The formation of the Space, Cyber and Special Forces divisions is indication of the transformation that the armed forces are going through," he said. The cross border strikes after Uri Brigade Headquarters attack in 2016, and Balakot air strike after the Pulwama suicide bombing in February this year not only demonstrate the political-military resolve but also another indication of the

changes, the army chief said. In 1999, the intrusion by Pakistan Army was detected in the early stages despite it being spread over 160 km across Kargil over a few months, but General VP Malik, the Chief of Army Staff during the Kargil conflict ruled out intelligence failure. "There was no intelligence or even assessment about Pakistan trying to carry out an operation," the former Chief staff said in a candid admission at the seminar. As a result, for a long time, it was believed that the heights had been taken over by the Mujahideen and therefore the approach adopted to was that of counter

insurgency," General Malik said. "We lacked surveillance equipment and depended mainly on the foot patrols," General Malik said and added, "Unlike Siachen, there wasn't much awareness about the Kargil-Batalik sector. Winter clothing, special equipment weren't even authorized for the Kargil-Batalik sector." The Kargil conflict saw one of the greatest counterattacks in military history when the Indian army overcame heavy odds to recapture strategic heights where Pakistani intruders had sneaked in and entrenched themselves firmly.

Karnataka Cong initiates backchannel negotiations to win back rebels: Report

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As the political imbroglio continued in Karnataka, Senior Congress leaders Saturday began backchannel negotiations to persuade the disgruntled MLAs, who have resigned from the Assembly, dealing a blow to the coalition government. A day after Chief Minister H D Kumaraswamy made a surprise announcement in the Assembly that he would seek a trust vote, efforts were intensified to reach out to the dissident legislators. Congress's troubleshooter and Water Resources Minister D K Shivakumar reached the residence of Housing Minister M T B Nagaraj at about 5 AM and camped there for almost four-and-a-half hours, trying to pacify him. According to reports, Deputy

Chief Minister G Parameshwara too reached Nagaraj's house to convince him to withdraw the resignation. Nagaraj had resigned from the MLAs post on Wednesday. A similar attempt was on to persuade MLAs Ramalinga Reddy, Munirathna and Roshan Baig. Sources in JD(S) said Kumaraswamy is in direct talks with at least four Congress legislators, who have resigned, and was hopeful that they would withdraw their resignation. In a bid to keep the flock together ahead of the floor test that is likely during the coming week, both the Congress and BJP shifted their MLAs to hotel and resorts. Commenting on the developments, BJP state president B S Yeddyurappa said these efforts would not yield any result as the fall of

the government was "imminent". "There's confusion in Congress and JD(S) due to which the MLAs are fleeing the party. A systematic conspiracy is going on to bring the MLAs back," Yeddyurappa told reporters here. "The atmosphere is chaotic and the fall of the government is imminent," the state BJP chief said. Claiming that the state government has lost majority, he said seeking the vote of confidence was "meaningless". Kumaraswamy made the announcement about trust vote on the floor of the Assembly, after the Supreme Court Friday ordered the Speaker to maintain status quo on the resignations of 10 rebel MLAs belonging to the Congress-JDS coalition till July 16.

The coalition government, which has been shaky since it came into being last year after a post-poll arrangement in the wake of a hung verdict, is facing a serious crisis now with 16 MLAs — 13 of the Congress and three of the JD(S) — resigning from the Assembly. Besides, two Independent legislators, who were made ministers recently to provide stability to the government, have quit the ministry and withdrawn their support to it. The ruling coalition's total strength is 116 (Congress-78, JD(S)-37 and BSP-1), besides the Speaker. With the support of the two Independents, the BJP has 107 MLAs in the 224-member House. If the resignations of the 16 MLAs are accepted, the coalition's tally will be reduced to 100. The Speaker too has a vote.

60 foreigners detained for illegal stay in Greater Noida, 17 flee from custody within hours

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Seventeen foreigners, who were detained in Greater Noida for allegedly staying in the country without valid travel documents, have escaped from police custody, officials said Friday. They were among the 60 foreign nationals from 19 countries who were detained on Wednesday over invalid visa and passport documents and faced deportation, they said. "Around 8.30 pm on Thursday, 17 of the foreigners escaped from the reserve police lines in Surajpur where they were lodged. They escaped after breaking open a bathroom window," Gautam Buddh Nagar Senior Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Krishna told PTL. He said a police inquiry has been launched into the matter and a search operation is underway to trace the 17 foreigners, all men. Superintendent of Police (City) Vineet Jaiswal, the in-charge of the probe, said two teams have been formed to search the foreigners who have escaped. "They are working in coordination with the Local Investigation Unit (LIU) since it's a matter related with

foreign nationals," Jaiswal said. Citing rules under the Foreigners Act, 1947, he said the foreign nationals were "restrained" by the police for want of valid documents. "The police can restrict the movement of foreigners in such cases and the restrictions are limited to them staying in a temporary accommodation provided by the police. They can carry out their normal business, go out for lunch or do whatever they wish to but just return to the temporary residence till the time police proceedings complete," he said. "Now with the 17 of them escaping from the police lines, in violation of the restraining order, they can even get arrested," Jaiswal told PTL. He said probe is underway and a report will be submitted soon in the case. Earlier on Thursday, police had released 12 of the 60 foreigners who could produce valid travel documents, Krishna said. Almost all of those detained are from eight African countries, including Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Ivory Coast and Angola. Twenty-eight of them are women, the police said. During the police inspection on Wednesday, 222 beer bottles marked for sale in Delhi, 3.5 kilograms of cannabis, six laptops and 114 Airtel SIM cards were seized from their residences, they said.

In cabinet rejig, Goa CM asks 4 ministers to resign to make way for new faces

Friday told reporters that he had asked his cabinet colleagues to resign. "I have directed four ministers, three from the GFP and one Independent minister to resign as ministers as directed by the party High Command," Sawant told reporters. Four new ministers — Chandrakant Kavelkar, who until Wednesday was the Leader of Opposition, current deputy speaker Michael Lobo, Jennifer Monserrate and Filipe Neri Rodrigues — will be sworn-in on Saturday. While an official statement regarding the changes in the cabinet is yet to be issued, the GFP claimed they have not received any communication

from the BJP's central leadership. "The GFP is part of the NDA and had joined the BJP-led state government after talks with the national leadership of the BJP. The present state BJP leaders were not part of the discussions then. We will take appropriate steps after talking with the central NDA leadership...we have received indications that the matter will be sorted out amicably," the party said in a statement. Earlier in the day deputy speaker Michael Lobo claimed that the decision to do away with the alliance partner GFP was because it was trying to arm-twist the government.

Sport News

Steve Waugh makes a bold statement on MS Dhoni

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Was MS Dhoni's approach in the ICC World Cup semi-final against New Zealand wrong? Should Dhoni take the lion's share of blames for India's exit from the showpiece event? Known for his straight forwards thought process, former Australia World Cup winning captain Steve Waugh answered in negative. Waugh in fact backed the former India captain and even went on say that "without Dhoni, India would not have had a chance to win that game". Hailing Dhoni's past record and his ability to finish matches, Waugh also stated it was unfair to single out Dhoni for criticism. "I think it is pretty unfair," Waugh told ANI. "MS Dhoni has won so many games to India and he has played in the same way over the long period of time. He can get you in a situation that can give you a chance to win the game and without him, there would not be a chance to win a game."

"Of course, you are not going to win every time. The other day, he was a couple of inches away from being home for the second run. He may have still won that game. I know how hard it is to win a one-day game while chasing and he has done better than anyone in the history of the game," added Waugh. New Zealand defeated India by 18 runs in the semi-final played on July 9 and July 10 (due to rain). After posting a target of 240 runs, New Zealand bowlers, Matt Henry and Trent Boult, thwarted India's top order as they reduced them to 5/3 inside four overs. However, Dhoni kept India's hope of securing final spot alive until the penultimate over, when he was run out after scoring 50 runs. Waugh said he expected India to chase the target but praised Boult and Henry's spell. "I expected India to chase down 240 but there was great bowling from Henry and Boult up front, three early wickets. Due to pressure in big game situations, it is hard to chase

runs. India will be no doubt disappointed. They would have expected to make 240," he said. In the second semi-final, England vanquished Australia by eight wickets and cruised into the tournament's final. The 51-year old eulogized the English side saying that they have no real weakness in their line-up. "England played an outstanding game of one-day cricket. Australia was a little bit off and lost early wickets just like India. They were outplayed by a really strong England side who have no real weakness in their line-up," Waugh said. Moreover, Waugh thinks that it is England's time to lift the World Cup. "I cannot really get past England but I would not be surprised if New Zealand played really well. But England, on their current form and momentum, just feels like it is their time," he said. England will compete against New Zealand in the World Cup at Lord's on July 14.

Why was MS Dhoni sent at No. 7 in semi-final? Ravi Shastri answers

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India head coach Ravi Shastri revealed the reason behind sending MS Dhoni to bat at No. 7 in the first semi-final of ICC World Cup 2019 against New Zealand at Manchester, which Virat Kohli's men lost by 18 runs and were knocked out of the tournament. Many former cricketers including Sunil Gavaskar, Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly believed sending Dhoni at his designated No. 5 position might have stemmed the flow of wickets and could even have altered the result in India's favour. Shastri, however, explained that it was a team decision. India restricted New Zealand to 239/8 in 50 overs. But chasing the modest 240 for a place in the final, India's top order was blown away by the Kiwi bowlers led by Matt Henry (3/37) on the reserve day. India lost Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, and Dinesh Karthik for just 24 runs inside

10 overs before Ravindra Jadeja (77) and Dhoni (50) shared a 116-run seventh wicket stand to raise hopes of an unlikely victory. However, it wasn't enough in the end as India fell short by 18 runs. Dhoni, who had pretty much batted at No. 5 all throughout the World Cup, was surprisingly sent in to bat after Dinesh Karthik and Hardik Pandya. "It was a team decision. Everyone was in with it—and it was a simple decision, too. Last thing you wanted was Dhoni coming out to bat early and getting out—that would have killed the chase," Shastri was quoted as saying by the Indian Express. "We needed his experience later. He is the greatest finisher of all times—and it would have been criminal to not make use of him in that way. The whole team was clear on it," Shastri reasoned. India came into the tournament as one of the favourites to lift the crown. Throughout the group stages of the 10-team event, the Men in Blue played

true to their favourites tag by winning seven of the eight games with the one against the Kiwis getting called off due to rain. They lost to England, but still managed to top the group with 15 points from nine matches. It was in the semi-final that they stumbled and Shastri, like skipper Virat Kohli and vice-captain Rohit Sharma, said 30 minutes of bad cricket cannot undermine the fact that India were good throughout the campaign. "Walk out with your heads held high. Be proud. Those 30 minutes can't erase the fact that you guys have been the best team in the last couple of years. You guys know it. One tournament, one series a" and that, too, 30 minutes of play can't decide that. You guys have earned that respect. Of course, we are all hurt and disappointed but, in the end, be proud of what you have done for the last two years," Shastri said to the Indian team, he revealed to the Indian Express.

Wimbledon: Women's singles summit clash to be played today

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In Wimbledon Tennis, the women's singles summit clash between 11th seed Serena Williams and seventh placed Simona Halep will be played today. In Men's singles, eight-time champion Roger Federer has set up the Men's Singles title clash with world number one Novak Djokovic. In the first semi-final, defending champion Djokovic, the top-seeded Serb, reached his 25th Grand Slam final when he got the better of Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut 6-2, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.



Later, in the second semi-final, second seed Federer, a 20-time Grand Slam winner, outplayed world number two Rafael

Nadal, 7-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 to move within a win of a record-equalling ninth Wimbledon Singles title.