

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## तीनों सेना प्रमुखों के साथ जेटली ने की सुरक्षा चुनौतियों की समीक्षा

नई दिल्ली, प्रेटर : रक्षा मंत्री अरुण जेटली, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार (एनएसए) अजित डोभाल और तीनों सेनाओं के प्रमुखों ने सुरक्षा चुनौतियों की समीक्षा की। सोमवार को हुई बैठक में देश की बाहरी सुरक्षा चुनौतियां, क्षेत्रीय बदलाव के साथ ही आतंकवाद के खतरे पर विचार किया गया। रक्षा मंत्रालय के मुताबिक, जेटली ने एकीकृत कमांडर कांफ्रेंस को संबोधित किया। रक्षा मंत्री ने कहा कि सेना, नौसेना और वायुसेना जिस आदर्श तरीके से काम करती है हर नागरिक और सरकार उसकी



सराहना करती है। मंत्रालय ने कहा है, 'सशस्त्र बलों ने जैसे सुरक्षा चुनौतियों का सामना किया है रक्षा मंत्री ने उसपर संतुष्टि जाहिर की। कांफ्रेंस के दौरान मजबूत सिनर्जी की भी सराहना की।'

**hindustantimes** hindustantimes.com

## INS Sindhurakshak rested 3km under sea

New Delhi: The Indian Navy has finally rested its Russian-built submarine INS Sindhurakshak that sank after an explosion onboard killing 18 sailors in August 2013.

Navy sources told HT that the submarine, one of the 10 Kiloclass submarine operated by India, was “disposed of at sea” last month.

The sources said the 2,300tonne submarine was disposed of in the Arabian Sea and its final resting point is 3,000 metres under the sea. The submarine was used as a training platform by the navy’s elite marine commandos for some time after it was salvaged.

“Usually, when a warship is decommissioned, serviceable equipment and components are removed and fitted on other vessels or what is known as cannibalisation. Each and every nut and bolt is accounted for. The Sindhurakshak was a total write-off,” a navy officer said.

The submarine’s sinking was one of the worse tragedies to hit the navy since the sinking of INS Khukri in the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

The disaster took place seven months after the 2,300-tonne warship was overhauled at the Zvezdochka shipyard in Russia at a cost of more than \$80 million.

The navy will sharpen its under warfare capabilities with the induction of first Scorpene class submarine, named Kalvari, this year. “Kalvari is ready for induction and the second boat, Khanderi, is likely to be commissioned by the year-end,” the officer said. The two submarines are among the six Scorpene boats being constructed in the country under a ₹23,562-crore programme called Project 75.

Tue, 11 July, 2017

## Doklam: India boosts troop presence

By Rajat Pandit

*'Flag Meetings Have Lost Relevance'*

The Indian Army has moved another 2,500 soldiers from their peace-time deployments in Sikkim to further reinforce its proactive stance in the ongoing troop faceoff with China on the Doklam plateau, even as it maintains high alert along the entire 4,057km Line of Actual Control from Ladakh to Arunachal Pradesh.

China has apparently also sent some troop reinforcements to Khamba Dzong and other areas near its Chumbi Valley, which juts in between Sikkim and Bhutan.

“Flag meetings between local commanders have lost their relevance. There is total stalemate. The decision to deescalate has to come from the politico-diplomatic level. The Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, set up in 2012, or talks between the two designated special representatives, is the only way to defuse the situation now,” a source said.

There are just about 300-400 troops each from India and China in the eyeball-to-eyeball but “non-aggressive” confrontation at the exact standoff site on the Doklam plateau -Bhutanese territory coveted by Beijing to add strategic depth to its narrow Chumbi Valley -near the Sikkim-Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction. But all Indian Army formations in the region, ranging from the 17 Division (headquarters at Gangtok) to 27 Division (Kalimpong) and 20 Division (Binnaguri), and all infantry mountain warfare units with over 10,000 soldiers each, are maintaining “high operational readiness for any contingency”, sources said.

Apart from the already deployed 63 and 112 Brigades in east and north Sikkim, with 3,000 troops each, sources said two battalions under the 164 Brigade have also been “activated and moved up” to the Zuluk and Nathang Valley in the state.

Similarly, “some elements” under the 20 Mountain Division have also been moved to their exercise area. “The basic aim behind all this is to ensure availability of properly acclimatised troops, who can be mobilised at short notice if required,” the source said.

On the actual faceoff site, with each side headed by a colonel-rank officer, the Indian and Chinese troops are separated by a distance of about 100-150 metres, and both have pitched tents and established logistics chains, as was earlier reported by TOI.

China is infuriated at the way Indian troops deployed in the Doka La general area proactively blocked Chinese troops and construction workers from building a motorable road towards the Zomplri Ridge on the Doklam plateau last month after Bhutanese soldiers had failed to do so. This is evident in the barrage of belligerent statements made by China, asking India to withdraw its troops from the Doklam plateau between Beijing and Thimphu.

India considers the Doklam plateau, especially the Zomplri Ridge area, strategically important because it overlooks the militarily-vulnerable ‘Chicken's Neck’ area, the narrow strip of land that connects the Indian mainland with its north-eastern states.

The assessment is that the PLA will not back off from the faceoff ahead of its 90th anniversary on August 1, which is to be followed by a crucial congress of Communist Party of China. “Indian troops are fully prepared to wait it out because they have better logistics in the region than the PLA, whose lines of communications are stretched and difficult to maintain,” the source said.

India, with Bhutanese support, maintains that the tri-junction lies at a point near Batang La based on the watershed principle, and Chumbi Valley should end there to the north of Doklam. China claims that the tri-

junction lies at Gyemochen on the Zomplri Ridge, around 7.5 km south of Batang La, to buttress its claim over Doklam.



Tue, 11 July, 2017

## Army rules out further flag meetings to end standoff

By Dinakar Peri

*'As far as the troops are concerned, they cannot take any decision. There is no point in holding such meetings'*

The Army is not expected to seek any immediate flag meeting with Chinese field commanders to resolve the Doklam border standoff. The reversal of its stand is a clear recognition of the fact that the dispute can be resolved only through high-level political intervention. The standoff, in the tri-junction of Sikkim, Bhutan and Tibet, has now entered its fourth week, even as China has ratcheted up its rhetoric in an unusual way.

### Early attempts

During the early days of the standoff, the Indian Army repeatedly requested for flag meetings, in the hope of resolving the dispute at the local level.

However, on Monday, senior Army officers ruled out any immediate flag meetings. The move comes even as the two sides failed to achieve any diplomatic or political breakthrough — there has only been a brief handshake between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the G20 summit.

“There is no belligerence or no barrel pointing. There is a state of stalemate on the ground. Diplomacy has to takeover. The issue is now at the highest levels,” a defence source said on Monday.

Pointing out that there are mechanisms such as the Special Representatives to deal with such issues, the source said flag meetings would yield nothing at this stage. “As far as troops are concerned, they cannot take any decision. There is no point in having a flag meeting,” he added.

On June 16, Chinese troops tried to construct a road through the disputed Doklam plateau, which was physically blocked by Indian troops in the area triggering the present standoff.

Since then, both sides have pitched tents and are facing each other. Nearly Indian 300 soldiers are facing a slightly lower strength of Chinese troops. They are 100-150 metres from each other.



Tue, 11 July, 2017

## Ships and planes arrive, it's days of war games

By T.K. Rohit

*The Malabar Exercise 2017 among the naval forces of India, Japan and the United States began here on Monday.*

Amid increasing rhetoric between India and China over the border standoff, the Malabar Exercise 2017 among the naval forces of India, Japan and the United States began here on Monday.

A senior U.S. Navy officer said the U.S. participation in the exercises indicated the country's interests in maritime security in the region, even as the Chinese government hoped that the Malabar Exercise was not targeted at any specific country.

**Enhancing bonhomie** - Senior officers of the three navies denied that the exercise was aimed at China. Vice-Admiral H.C.S. Bisht, Flag Officer Commanding-in- Chief, Eastern Naval Command, said, “Malabar is not to

send a message to any specific country. The underlying theme of Malabar is to understand each other's standard operating procedures and each other's ways of working better, to enhance camaraderie and bonhomie."

"As far as the United States Navy is concerned, we see India as a regional and global power and therefore India should have a regional and global link," Rear Admiral William D. Byrne Jr., Commander, Carrier Strike Group 11, said a press conference on board *INS Jalashwa* at the Chennai port.

### **Maritime security**

"The strength of the Navy is important to us because the United States has interests in the Indian Ocean and our participation in Malabar'17 and past Malabars indicate our interests in maritime security in the Indo-Asia Pacific region," Rear Admiral Byrne said.

He said the strategic message to China from this exercise would be the same that "we are sending to Canada, the Republic of Korea, or to Australia and that is — operating in the sea together is a good thing." He also said that this exercise would be a great example for the whole world.

Pointing out that this was the 21st edition of such an exercise, Vice-Admiral Bisht said the planning for the current one began a year ago.

"The standoff [in Sikkim] that you are talking of has nothing to do with Malabar. This exercise is meant for enhancing interoperability, mutual confidence, sharing of best practices ... therefore, we should not read too much into it," he said.

The exercise, he said, would be a deterrent for those with nefarious designs and non-state actors, but primarily it was to enhance interoperability and mutual understanding.

### **95 aircraft, 16 ships**

Earlier, Admiral Hiroshi Yamamura of the Japanese Maritime Defence Forces, said it was a unique opportunity to enhance their operational capability in the Indian Ocean.

Malabar 2017 is one of the largest joint exercises to be held in the region. It will feature more than 95 aircraft, 16 ships and two submarines, from the three countries.

The exercise will also see a wide range of professional interactions during the harbour phase in Chennai which began on Monday and will go on until Wednesday.

The sea phase will see a large number of operational activities between July 14 and 17.

The sea phase includes submarine familiarisation, air defence, medical evacuation drills, surface warfare, communication exercise, and search and rescue operations.

"The thrust of the exercise at sea this year would be on aircraft carrier operations, air defence, anti-submarine warfare (ASW), surface warfare, visit board search and seizure (VBBS), joint manoeuvres and tactical procedures," a press release said.

The Indian Navy will feature its aircraft carrier, *INS Vikramaditya*, with its air wing, guided missile destroyer *Ranvir*, and its stealth frigates and corvettes, including one *Sindhughosh* class submarine.

The U.S. Navy will feature ships from the Nimitz Carrier Strike Group and other units from the U.S. 7th Fleet. The nuclear-powered warship *USS Nimitz* will also take part.

The Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force will be represented by JS *Izumo*, a helicopter carrier with SH 60K helicopters and JS *Sazanami*, a missile destroyer with SH 60K integral helicopter.

*Tue, 11 July, 2017*

## **India-US-Japan naval exercise not aimed at stoking China's anxieties**

*By C Uday Bhaskar*

*China is seeking to bridge the naval gap with relation to the US with a heightened sense of urgency, and this is reflected in its reaction to the Malabar naval exercise*

Malabar 2017, the trilateral joint naval exercise, which began on Monday and brings together the navies of India, Japan and the United States, was tentatively mooted in 1992 on Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's watch. The first exercise took place in 1994 as a bilateral with the US Navy. At the time it created political ripples for the two 'estranged' democracies were engaging in a joint military exercise, albeit at a modest scale.

Domestically, the political opposition to this move came because of the negative symbolism associated with the US, especially the US Navy. The coercive role played by US Navy's seventh fleet, led by anti-aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, in the Bay of Bengal, during the 1971 Bangladesh war was still fresh on India's mind.

Since 1994, the Malabar exercise has been institutionalised in a progressively robust manner and both nations see a certain value addition in sustaining this engagement. In 2007, the scope of Malabar was enhanced and the high-point was a five-nation multilateral naval exercise that brought on board three other nations — Japan, Australia and Singapore.

However this display of multilateral naval cooperation off Okinawa heightened China's anxiety index and more problems were created wherein Beijing issued demarches to the nations concerned. Both India and the US sought to assuage Chinese concerns and the Malabar exercise was cut short.

In January 2015, India and the US upgraded Malabar formally to include Japan.

The geopolitical subtext of the Malabar exercise is complex and multi-layered. At one level, it denotes the growing level of interoperability between the navies of the US and India, and this is distinctive for India has steadfastly refrained from joining any formal military alliance.

The Indian Navy – despite its diminutive Cinderella status (in relation to the other two services) came onto the global radar in 1988 when its ships were the first to respond to an attempted coup in the Maldives. Anecdotal recall has it that then US President Ronald Reagan, when apprised of this development was supposed to have asked: "India has such a capable navy?" The subsequent 'Cactus' mop up by the Indian Army and Air Force drew accolades globally.

It took the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union for India to review and reset its relationship with the US. An astute Rao encouraged a hesitant bureaucracy that had been nurtured in an anti-American ecosystem to engage with Washington.

The naval component of the Kicklighter proposals, which suggested comprehensive military-to-military cooperation became the Malabar joint exercises and signalled an intent on both sides to sustain a professional level of interaction despite their asymmetry in capability.

One could make a case that the Malabar exercise represented the gradual security outlook liberalisation of the Indian octopus and that Rao in an unobtrusive manner provided the trigger pulse not just for economic liberalisation, but also for a strategic re-orientation of the insular Indian world view.

The resilience of the Malabar exercise is reflected in the fact that though India-US relations plummeted as far south as is possible after the May 1998 nuclear tests, the two sides picked up the naval thread after 9/11 and India provided escorts for US ships in the Indian Ocean at the time.

The deeper geopolitical salience of the exercise is about joint stewardship of the maritime domain – the traditional global commons. It is instructive to note that the concept of a 'global common' has now been



extended to include the cyber and space domains and in many ways the Malabar exercise is a symbol of the depth of such collective endeavour.

The US with its qualitative technological profile is the lead global navy – and there is no other nation in the next 10 places. China is seeking to bridge the naval gap with relation to the US with a heightened sense of urgency and anxiety, and this is often reflected in its reaction to the Malabar exercise. Hence its irate response in 2007 and subsequently signals have been conveyed by China to both Australia and Singapore to desist from donning the Malabar hat.

The current stand-off in the Doklam plateau is one strand of the troubled India-China relationship. But for now it is evident that Delhi is not seeking to play the Malabar card and stoke China's imagined anxieties about a democratic naval/maritime coalition that will bring alive the Malacca dilemma first outlined by then Chinese President Hu Jintao in 2003.

Malabar 2017 will have three carriers participating – the US Navy's Nimitz (the world's largest carrier), the INS Vikramaditya, and a Japanese helo-carrier and a nuclear submarine. While interoperability is at the core of such exercises, Malabar will burnish India's credibility in the maritime domain and punctuate the Indian Ocean region in a manner that prioritises collective effort to secure the first of the three global commons.

Whether this can be extended to other maritime domains remains to be seen.



*Tue, 11 July, 2017*

## **Malabar a signal to Beijing we are one: US commander**

Amid vociferous protests and farfrom-subtle bluster by China, the navies of India and the US and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force opened the 21st edition of maritime exercise Malabar on Monday with the US unequivocally standing by the country in its efforts to check Beijing's growing footprint in the Indian Ocean.

Commander US Strike Group 11 Rear Admiral William D Byrne said the only strategic message that Malabar 2017 is sending to “all navies is that we are better together“, adding that the drill should “eliminate possibilities of miscalculations“.

Another US commander, who asked not to be named, said the exercise would have a significant impact on China. “They will know that we are standing together and it is better to stand together,“ he said. “However, the US will not interfere in the domestic and economic relationships of (any) country .“

Rear Admiral Byrne added that the US considers the Indo-Asian and Pacific region as critical for close relationships.

Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command, Vice-admiral H C S Bisht declared the exercise open, describing it as a joint attempt to address common challenges and address shared threats.

He, however, refused to acknowledge outright that the choice of ships and the venue of the exercise had anything to do with presence of Chinese ships or Indian threat perception in the Bay of Bengal and Indian Ocean.

Exercise Malabar, one of the biggest naval military exercises at sea, will have three aircraft carriers taking part -the USS Nimitz of the US Navy , the INS Vikramaditya of the Indian Navy and the JS Izumo of the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force. In addition, 16 ships, 95 aircraft, including a large number of fighter jets, and two submarines will take part in the war games on international waters off the coast of Chennai from July 14 to 17.

The fleet deployed by the three navies is significant in its size and timing, given that China is flexing its muscles in the Indian Ocean, to the vexation of India, and that North Korea is growing increasingly hostile to its neighbours and Washington with successive nuclear-capable rocket tests, to the consternation of US.

But India and the US commanders denied that China could be snooping on the exercise.

Vice Admiral Bisht denied that Malabar 2017 would have any implication for India's current standoff with China but said the exercise is aimed at a long-term strategic relationship among the three countries.



*Tue, 11 July, 2017*

## **Bhutan not likely to side with China**

*By Saibal Dasgupta*

Bhutan is unlikely to compromise and accept China's offer to ditch India in exchange for settling their border disputes. China claims territory totalling 495 square kilometres in eastern Bhutan, and 286 square kilometres in the western sector, which includes Doklam plateau. At one stage, China offered to give up its claims in eastern Bhutan if Thimphu handed over Doklam, which would give China a commanding position over India. Bhutan did not agree.

The reason goes beyond the India-Bhutan relationship; it involves Thimphu's fears that Chinese troops may proceed further to cut off its main thoroughfare that connects the capital to Phuentsholing, where imports from India enter Bhutan.

“If Chinese troops claim the disputed area, they will be in control of the high mountain ridges. This will put our Haa, Paro and Thimphu valleys within Chinese artillery range,” a Bhutanese analyst said.

China is trying to make a big push into the Himalayan kingdom because Bhutan is undergoing major changes at the economic and socio-political levels. India is financing four major hydel projects in the nation, and will be the sole buyer of the power generated. “What is bothering the Chinese, among other things, is that Bhutan will be even more dependent on India,” said Rakesh Mohan, the former executive director for India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Bhutan for the IMF. “If all these projects come on stream in 15 years, Bhutan will become quite rich, like a petroleum-exporting country,” he added.



*Tue, 11 July, 2017*

## **China media in two minds on India strength**

*By Saibal Dasgupta*

China's official media spoke in two voices on Monday about India's military capabilities in light of the ongoing border standoff. Some commentators questioned India's ability to handle two scenarios -the firing at the Line of Control and the standoff at the border with China, while others expressed concern about growing India-US military ties and said it had put China at risk.

Pointing to the firing at the LoC, Lin Minwang, a strategic expert at the Institute for International Studies at Fudan University, said, “China has nothing to do with the situation in Kashmir, but it would be unwise for India to engage in two conflicts at the same time.” Beijing-based ‘Global Times’ quoted Lin as saying, “There are frequent conflicts and military scuffles between the areas of Kashmir controlled by the two sides.”

In another commentary, ‘China Daily’ said the ongoing Malabar Naval exercise between India, the US, and Japan was a security concern for China. This view is in contrast to those expressed by the Chinese foreign ministry, which had said on Friday that Beijing had no objection to normal bilateral relations between different countries as long as they were not directed at any country. “...The US approved a \$365 million sale of military transport aircraft to India last week and a \$2 billion deal for surveillance drones is in the works; it is



China that should feel 'security concerns', given the importance of the Indian Ocean for its trade and oil imports," the 'China Daily' editorial said.

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## **Army rejects Pak claim of strike at Indian posts**

The Army on Monday rejected the Pakistani military's claim of having destroyed two Indian posts and killing four soldiers during cross-border firing on Sunday. "Pakistan army has been violating the border ceasefire on a regular basis, with the number already having crossed 220 this year. It has deliberately targeted civilian areas," said an officer who added that the Indian Army, unlike Pakistan's, did not hide casualties and honoured its martyrs through public tributes.

"As a mature and accountable institution, the Indian Army keeps the public informed of casualties suffered through an established and transparent system," he added. The Army's response came after the Pakistani military claimed that it had killed four Indian soldiers and destroyed two posts "being used to target its civilians on Sunday". The Pakistan army said it had opened fire in response to "unprovoked firing" by India.

Meanwhile, the cross-border bus service was suspended on Monday due to overnight shelling by Pakistan. Sources said the bus from Poonch to Rawalakote did not cross the gates at Chakkan-da-Bagh.

**The Statesman**  
PEOPLE'S PARLIAMENT, ALWAYS IN SESSION

*Tue, 11 July, 2017*

## **S Koreans longing to reunite with North**

*They are in favour of a rapprochement between Seoul and Pyongyang*

Notwithstanding the successful testing of an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) by North Korea leading to heightened tension in the peninsula, South Koreans are strongly in favour of a rapprochement between Seoul and Pyongyang that will ultimately lead to the Korean unification. New South Korean President Moon Jae in's peace overtures towards the 'rogue' North Korean regime may have received a major setback in the wake of the testing of the ICBM, he is unlikely to eschew his efforts at reconciliation with the pariah state to ease the 72-year stand-off between the two Koreas, leading South Korean experts and intellectuals told a team of foreign journalists earlier this week.

The common refrain in Seoul is that the people of the North must not be punished for the 'misdeeds' of their leader Kim Jong Un, who chose to conduct the ICBM test to taunt both Washington and Seoul within days of a meeting between President Donald Trump and the South Korean President, considered one of the most progressive and liberal leaders by his countrymen. Public support for engagement with North Korea is overwhelming. Over 70 per cent of South Koreans support reestablishing dialogue channels with North Korea, according to a recent survey by the National Unification Advisory Council.

'Reunification will be great for our society, our divided families. We spend so much on our defence. We are paying a very high premium on division in the peninsula,' Bong Geun Jun, Professor and Director General at the Department of Security and Unification Studies said. And in what is being considered a significant development that has raised the reunification hopes of the South Koreans, the North just two weeks back allowed its taekwondo team to perform in the South in the first sport exchange between the two countries after President Moon's inauguration in early May.

None in Seoul can forget the tears and hugs after North and South Korean women won the 1991 team table tennis world championships, a standing ovation when athletes from the two Koreas marched together to open

the 2000 Sydney Olympics or a selfie taken by a South Korean gymnast with her North Korean opponent that went viral at last year's Rio de Janeiro Games.

South Koreans say more of these feel-good sparks could well be in the offing if North Korea participates in the Winter Olympics to be hosted by the South at Pyong Chang from February 9-25 next year when Seoul plans to showcase its economic, cultural and sporting might to the world. A spokesperson for the Winter Olympics Games Organising Committee said North Korea's participation in the biggest sporting event that South Korea is hosting after the 1988 Olympics would give an unprecedented charm to the extravaganza. Of course, there is also a minuscule group which doubts whether President Moon's efforts will pay off because of a serious escalation in North Korean nuclear and missile arsenals. Some believe that the North Korean dictator would never allow his people or any foreigner visiting his nation to defy him or even talk of unification.

They cite the example of an American student, Otto Warmbier, who last month died just days after North Korea released him from prison 17 months after he was arrested at the airport in Pyongyang for allegedly trying to steal a propaganda poster when on a sight-seeing tour organised by a Chinabased company. There are also doubts about China's ability or willingness to influence North Korea as its most important neighbour and economic partner. According to Jung Kim of the University of North Korean Studies, China and North Korea did enjoy a very strong political relationship in the past but things were not the same now. Beijing was shy of getting involved directly in the affairs of the Korean peninsula, he added.



*Tue, 11 July, 2017*

## **Trump backtracks on joint US-Russia cyber security unit**

President Donald Trump backtracked late Sunday on his widely panned proposal to team up with Russia's Vladimir Putin in forming a cyber security unit that would combat hacking.

In a tweet that he posted, Trump acknowledged the idea of a joint US-Russia cyber security team was far-fetched, though he did tout a ceasefire in Syria that he says resulted from his meeting with Putin in Hamburg on Friday.

"The fact that President Putin and I discussed a cyber security unit doesn't mean I think it can happen," Trump tweeted.

"It can't — but a ceasefire can, and did!" the President tweeted. Trump's idea was harshly criticised by Republicans who said Moscow could not be trusted after its alleged meddling in the 2016 US election. Tweeting after his first meeting with Putin on Friday, Trump said now was the time to work constructively with Moscow, pointing to a ceasefire deal in southwest Syria that came into effect on Sunday.

"Putin and I discussed forming an impenetrable cyber security unit so that election hacking, and many other negative things, will be guarded and safe," he said following their talks at a summit of the Group of 20 nations in Hamburg, Germany. Three Republican senators — Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, John McCain of Arizona and Marco Rubio of Florida - blasted the idea.

"It's not the dumbest idea I have ever heard but it's pretty close," Graham told NBC's Meet the Press programme, saying that Trump's apparent willingness to 'forgive and forget' stiffened his resolve to pass legislation imposing sanctions on Russia. "There has been no penalty," McCain, who chairs the Senate armed services committee, told CBS' Face the Nation. "Vladimir Putin... got away with literally trying to change the outcome... of our election. Yes, it's time to move forward.

But there has to be a price to pay," he added. Rubio, on Twitter, said, "Partnering with Putin on a 'Cyber Security Unit' is akin to partnering with (Syrian President Bashar al) Assad on a 'Chemical Weapons Unit'."

Trump argued for rapprochement with Moscow in his campaign but has been unable to deliver because his administration has been dogged by investigations into the allegations of Russian interference in the election

and ties with his campaign. Special Counsel Robert Mueller is investigating the matter, including whether there may have been any collusion on the part of Trump campaign officials, as are congressional committees including both the House and Senate intelligence panels.

Those probes are focused almost exclusively on Moscow's actions, lawmakers and intelligence officials say, and no evidence has surfaced publicly implicating other countries despite Trump's suggestion that others could have been involved. Moscow has denied any interference, and Trump says his campaign did not collude with Russia.

Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, told CNN's State of the Union programme Russia could not be a credible partner in a cyber security unit.

"If that's our best election defense, we might as well just mail our ballot boxes to Moscow," Schiff added. US government officials said that a recent hack into business systems of US nuclear power and other energy companies was carried out by Russian government hackers, The Washington Post reported on Saturday. Trump said he 'strongly pressed President Putin twice about Russian meddling... He vehemently denied it'.



*Tue, 11 July, 2017*

## **Mini Saturns created from charged liquid droplets**

Washington: Scientists have created miniature versions of Saturn, complete with rings, by electrifying tiny droplets of fluids.

The advance may pave the way for generating microscopic and uniform particles and capsules which are often used in products such as drugs, inks, cosmetics and paints.

When a drop of electrically conductive liquid is exposed to an electric field, the droplet responds by forming two electrically charged poles. Previous research has shown that these poles can get pulled towards the sources of the electric field, taking on cone shapes. If the pull is strong enough, the tips of the cones can spray jets of droplets. Experiments regarding this effect, known as electrospraying, often involved drops of liquid surrounded by less electrically conductive fluids.

Researchers from Northwestern University in the US, and colleagues wanted to explore what happens when drops of liquid are submerged in more electrically conductive fluids - specifically, drops of silicone oil suspended in castor oil.

When an electric field is applied to a drop of silicone oil suspended in castor oil, the drop can flatten and emit rings of fluid from its equator that break up into droplets.

If an electric field is strong enough, researchers found that the equators of these squashed drops emit concentric rings of droplets, making the drops look like miniature versions of Saturn.

In experiments, drops of silicone oil about one millimetre wide generated droplets that were about 100 times smaller, Petia Vlahovska from Northwestern University told 'Live Science'. Vlahovska noted they could generate rings in a very controllable way.

Future research will explore what materials can be used to produce this "ring of particles" effect.

"The broader the range of materials, the wider the applications will be," Vlahovska said. The findings will be published in the journal Physical Review Letters.

## New particle with a double dose of charm

**Washington:** Scientists have found an extra charming new subatomic particle that they hope will help further explain a key force that binds matter together.

Physicists at the Large Hadron Collider in Europe announced Thursday the fleeting discovery of a long theorised but never-before-seen type of baryon.

Baryons are subatomic particles made up of quarks. Protons and neutrons are the most common baryons. Quarks are even smaller particles that come in six types, two common types that are light and four heavier types. The high-speed collisions at the world's biggest atom smasher created for a fraction of a second a baryon particle called Xi cc, said Oxford

physicist Guy Wilkinson, who is part of the experiment. The particle has two heavy quarks - both of a type that are called "charm" - and a light one. In the natural world, baryons have at most one heavy quark.

It may have been brief, but in particle physics it lived for "an appreciably long time," he said.

The two heavy quarks are in a dance that's just like the interaction of a star system with two suns and the third lighter quark circles the dancing pair, Wilkinson said.

"People have looked for it for a long time," Wilkinson said. He said this opens up a whole new "family" of baryons for physicists to find and study.

"It gives us a very unique and interesting

laboratory to give us an interesting new angle on the behaviour of the strong interaction (between particles), which is one of the key forces in nature," Wilkinson said.

Chris Quigg, a theoretical physicist at the Fermilab near Chicago, who wasn't part of the discovery team, praised the discovery and said "it gives us a lot to think about."

The team has submitted a paper to the journal Physical Review Letters.

The Large Hadron Collider, located in a 27-kilometre (16.8-mile) tunnel beneath the Swiss-French border, was instrumental in the discovery of the Higgs boson. It was built by the European Organisation for Nuclear Research, known by its French acronym CERN.



## ONGC Videsh to bid for Lebanon gas field

*Announcement follows Pradhan's meeting with Lebanese Energy Minister*

India's ONGC Videsh will bid in an upcoming auction to explore and develop gas fields off the coast of Lebanon, India's oil minister said on Monday.

ONGC Videsh, the overseas investment arm of India's top explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corp., is among several companies pre-qualified to bid for offshore exploration and production licences from the Middle Eastern nation. Indian oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan, leading a delegation at the World Petroleum Congress in Istanbul, made the comment in a tweet after meeting with Lebanese Energy and Water Minister Cesar Abou Khalil.

"The meeting was important in the context of ONGC Videsh's participation in the upcoming bid round for offshore gas fields in Lebanon," Mr. Pradhan said.

The bidding process for offshore blocks 1, 4, 8, 9 and 10, three of which border Israeli waters, was postponed for years because of political paralysis in Lebanon until the formation of a new government late last year.

Lebanon, along with Cyprus, Israel and Egypt, sits on the Levant basin in the Mediterranean where gas fields have been discovered since 2009.

Other companies pre-qualified to bid include Qatar Petroleum, Britain-based New Age African Global Energy and Iran's Petropars.

### **U.S. crude purchase**

India will import crude oil from the U.S. for the first time after Indian Oil Corp. bought a cargo.

The purchase comes after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. when President Donald Trump said his country looked forward to exporting more energy products to India.

Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd. also planned to buy its first ever U.S. crude oil cargo and has issued a tender.