

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## **Arun Jaitley, service chiefs review security scenario**

*DRDO also gave an update on the various ongoing projects at the annual Unified Commanders' Conference.*

New Delhi: With the long delays in the completion of military projects increasingly becoming an issue of concern, especially in the backdrop of changing regional security and defence scenario, the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) on Monday gave an update on the various ongoing projects at the annual Unified Commanders' Conference that began on Monday. Besides the ongoing military projects, certain crucial defence plans for the five-year period from 2017-2022 were also presented, government sources have told this newspaper.

The Unified Commanders' Conference is an annual forum to take stock of the country's security preparedness and is chaired by the defence minister. Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat and IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa also presented their views during the meet.

Security issues like the Kashmir situation and issues relating to maritime domain were also discussed. It is not known whether the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in the border near Sikkim was discussed.

While resources crunch for military projects has usually been cited as a problem, the defence minister Arun Jaitley gave a strong assurance to the armed forces that "with resource availability increasing within the Indian economy, capital expenditure will be a priority area". In effect, the forces can look forward to substantial augmentation of their military hardware. The defence minister also stated that "there is a clear realisation in the government that issues relating to the Services cannot be kept pending for long and the government will be decisive in its approach". The source also said that "jointness and integration" in strategy, training, operation and setting up of joint institutions for the three military services and other branches was a focal area of the deliberations. Interestingly, Navy chief Admiral Lanba says in the foreword of the recently-released joint doctrine of the Indian Armed Forces 2017: "The rapidly changing character of conflict is constantly throwing up new challenges thereby behoving on the Indian armed forces to remain operationally current, agile, efficient and utilise scarce resources in an optimised manner".

The delay in setting up the National War Memorial and Museum also figured among the issues discussed.



## **This Delhi based VR startup helps soldiers fight better in battlefield**

*Delhi based VizExperts is developing solutions which can prevent infiltration and casualties of soldiers in the battlefield. It has clients such as Border Security Force (BSF) and Defense Research and Development Organizations (DRDO) in India.*

*By Shubham Raj*

It is not easy to miss the glitter in his eyes, as Delhi-based tech entrepreneur Praveen Bhaniramnika talks about augmented and virtual reality. The ever-shifting pitch of his voice, few thumps on the desk now and then, swift movement of the hands— his actions fail to hide his passion. "I am a technologist not a businessman. It is

Chanchal, my wife, who looks after the finances of my company," says Praveen Bhaniramka, CEO of VizExperts, a visual computing solution providing firm headquartered in New Delhi.

The company provides augmented reality solutions to defence personnel for training before they can be deployed on the ground. Founded in 2004, VizExperts' clientele includes Border Security Force (BSF), Defense Research and Development Organizations (DRDO), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) and international conglomerates such as Halliburton, AMD and SGI.

The company's solutions offer improved situational awareness to security forces in a 3D format.

"We create a 3D model of terrain and fields using the maps and data obtained from satellites. Currently used by Indian army and BSF, it helps our forces to know about the area before venturing into it," informs Praveen, who has a team of 120 people in Delhi and Bangalore developing these solutions.

His company also built a 24/7 operation capable control room for BSF. Using Virtual Reality (VR) technology, the company developed a decision support system with the complete 3D geospatial database of all the border assets of BSF along the western and eastern regions.

"We also created a virtual training exercise for soldiers of paramilitary forces which can be used with our GeorbIS 3D GIS platform," he adds. Collaborating with INCOIS (Indian National Centre For Ocean Information Services), his company has developed a system which would forewarn the authorities if there is a possibility of a tsunami. "Using data provided by sensors fit in the sea, we can predict the height and speed of the waves. It would make sure that a repeat of 2004 never happens," says the New Delhi-based entrepreneur.

Talking about his journey in the field of computer graphics, he says, "I have been passionate about graphics since my high school days," says Praveen, whose family hails from Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh.

After graduating from Banaras Hindu University, he went to Ohio State University to get a PG degree in Graphics. "My elder brother joined our family business. As I was good in studies, he encouraged me to realise my passion," says the former Silicon Graphics employee.

Talking about his former employer SGI he says that the company could not keep up with time.

SGI which was making revenue in tune of USD 4 billion in 1997, was later acquired by Rackable Systems for just USD 25 million in cash in 2009. VizExperts has a turnover of Rs 25 crore as of now. "We are planning to reach Rs 100 crore turnover by the end of this fiscal year," informs the founder of the bootstrapped company.

He also intends to expand the reach of the company by expanding its client base. The company is not seeking any investments. Apart from New Delhi, VizExperts has three offices—R&D offices in Gurgaon and Bengaluru, and one in Houston. Talking about the future of visual computing, he expects that Augmented Reality (AR) would be a field full of unlimited potential in coming years. "It could be anybody's guess how quickly it develops. Till now, the visual computing field is following the Moore's law", he concludes.



Wed, 12 July, 2017

## **New military division to handle special ops**

### **Agencies for cyber, space threats**

- *The Defence Cyber & Space Agencies will look at network security and space issues*
- *Forces are increasingly relying on dedicated networks to operate in battlefield*
- *China has already tested an anti-satellite weapon to destroy satellites of other countries*
- *The special operations division will collate the three special operations forces of the Army, Navy and IAF*

India will soon set up a specialised tri-services division to handle special operations, besides agencies to monitor cyber war and space-based threats.

This was announced by Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra at the Unified Commanders' Conference here today. The two-day conference was attended by top military commanders of the Army, Navy and Indian Air Force. "The Defence Cyber & Space Agencies and Special Operations Division will soon become a reality," a statement of the Ministry of Defence said.

Sources said the word "agencies" has been used to keep the structures lean, not manpower intensive and not top-heavy. In case these are set up at commands, these have to be headed by Maj General-rank officer.

The cyber war agency will look at network security issues as the forces are increasingly relying on dedicated networks to operate in a battlefield. In space, the security of satellites and their use are important. China has already tested an anti-satellite weapon to destroy satellites of other countries.

The special operations division will collate the three special operations forces of the Army, Navy and IAF.

The two-day conference was attended by Defence Minister Arun Jaitley, National Security Adviser Ajit Doval, three Service Chiefs and senior Ministry of Defence officials.

The conference, discussed using "big data" towards insightful decision-making, and the presentation was made by the College of Defence Management. This concept has already been introduced in training curriculum of select senior military officers.

The joint curriculum in the prestigious Defence Services Staff College, one of the oldest tri-services institutions in the world, has been increased to enhance shared perspective in executing joint operations. With the purpose of making the military physical training even more scientific, a decision to incorporate sports medicine in the methodology of training cadets, recruits and combat soldiers was also taken.

In his closing remarks, Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba stressed the need for synergised execution of operational plans and encouraged all to ensure rigorous cost benefit analysis while creating any new structures.



*Wed, 12 July, 2017*

## **Weather & Terrain Biggest Challenges in Doklam**

*By ShauryaKaranbir Gurung*

India will have to address several issues in case troops remain in Doklam for a longer time. The challenges range from delays in troops deployment, due to mandatory acclimatisation, issues regarding accommodation, roads for quick mobility and inclement weather.

The Indian Army has officially not stated the number of personnel deployed in Doklam but has confirmed that the deployment has increased since the face-off began on June 16. Army insiders say that approximately a battalion (800 troops) is likely to have been deployed at Doklam. In addition, another battalion has been placed close behind, to cater for any contingency .

Doklam in east Sikkim is guarded by a brigade of the 17 Mountain Division located at Gangtok, under 33 Corps at Sukna near Siliguri. The brigade consists of about 3000 odd soldiers guarding not only Doklam but spread from Nathu La to Doklam sector. In Doklam, specifically, under normal circumstances, a company consisting of about 120150 soldiers is always deployed.

The rest of the battalion (consisting of three companies) about 20 km behind. Following the start of the face-off, the rest of this battalion may have moved up to Doklam, increasing the total strength to about 800 troops, according to officers who have served in the region.

Furthermore, additional troops of approximately a battalion located Army's 17 Mountain Division located at Gangtok, under 33 Corps at Sukna near Siliguri. These are amongst the primary military formations to be pitted in a battle against China. The brigade itself consists of about 3000 odd soldiers which are not guarding only Doka La, but are spread from Nathu La to the Doka La sector. In Doka La, specifically, under normal circumstances, a company consisting of about 120 150 soldiers is always deployed. The rest of the battalion (consisting of about three companies) is located at a distance of about 20 kms behind Doka La. Following the start of the face-off, the rest of this battalion is likely to have moved up to Doka La, increasing the total troop strength in the area to about 800 troops, according to officers who have served in the region. Furthermore, additional troops of approximately a battalion strength (800 troops) located about two hours away, is likely to have been moved to an area in depth of Doka La to act as reserve to the Doka La battalion, raising the strength of troops to about 1500 soldiers deployed in the Doka La region, according to officers who have served in those areas. feet to ensure they don't suffer ailments related to altitude.

The acclimatisation process means that if the Army were to rush reinforcements fearing a surge in intensity of the face-off, it will have to factor a delay of approximately 8-9 days. Adding to the delay caused by acclimatisation is the route leading to Doklam from the nearest road head. These roads are treacherous and fit for use only by a limited class of vehicles. "The fast est way to go up to Doklam is by foot, because the roads are not good for the movement of vehicles," said an officer who has served in the region.

After reaching Doklam, one has to see whether the area can accommodate extra troops. Any area on the border has a finite state for accommodation, which in the case of Doklam is likely to be about 150 men. Additional troops will have to live in tents and shelters which given the altitude, terrain and the monsoon, is likely to create major difficulties for troops. "Temperatures in Doklam reach below sub zero and right now it would be raining heavily, so it won't be a good time to stay in tents," said an officer.

However, the region gives a strategic advantage to India over China. The terrain provides Indian troops visibility up to almost 10 km ahead on a clear day, enabling Doklam to see an approaching Chinese army patrol or any other enemy movement. This has always given Indian soldiers ample time to prepare for a possible adverse situation, change positions and wait for the approaching Chinese patrol. "Given the existing day and night surveillance re sources, we will always know when and how the Chinese army is building up its strength in the region," said an officer. Furthermore, Chinese troops will have to move uphill to reach Army deployments. "This means that if the Chinese want to capture an Indian post, which let's say is guarded by a 'section' consisting of 10 soldiers, they would need ten times the strength," said another officer.



*Wed, 12 July, 2017*

## **‘India-China relations a factor of stability amid global uncertainty’**

*By Suhasini Haidar*

Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar on Tuesday said while India and China had several differences, PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping had “reached a consensus” on two points during their meeting on June 8 in Astana, namely, “At a time of global uncertainty, India-China relations are a factor of stability; and in their relationship, India and China must not allow differences to become disputes.”

Dr. Jaishankar was responding to questions on the current border standoff in Sikkim after his lecture at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy on the subject “India-ASEAN and the Changing Geopolitics”.

However, he did not refer to the next meeting between the two leaders in Hamburg at the G-20 summit, which China said was not a “bilateral”, though the MEA has said the leaders had covered a “wide range of issues” during the meeting.

Despite the two leaders meeting each other twice since trouble began when Chinese PLA teams reportedly demolished Indian bunkers in the Doklam plateau (called Doko La in Bhutan, which claims the whole), and then sent in road construction teams, the stand-off has now entered its second month.

Since then, Bhutan and India have jointly countered China's claims that it was only operating in its territory, and according to officials, Indian and Chinese soldiers now stand face-to-face on the contested plateau, pitching tents there in an indication they could be there for the "long haul".

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, 12 July, 2017

# No Reason We Can't Talk It Out: FS

By Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury

***Border Issues With China: "The India-China relationship has so many dimensions and so much substance that reducing it to black and white argumentation can't be a serious proposition. It is not only that India and China have stakes in each other, the world has a vested interest in this matter"***

**"Having handled so many situations in the past, no reason (why) we won't be able to handle it now"**

India and China have handled border issues in the past and there is no reason the two countries will not be able to settle them this time, foreign secretary S Jaishankar said on Tuesday, indicating that a solution to the ongoing Sikkim standoff may be in the offing.

"It is a long border, as you know no part of the border has been agreed upon on the ground. It is likely that from time to time there are differences," Jaishankar said in Singapore.

The foreign secretary was responding to questions on the standoff between Indian and Chinese troops in the Doklam area of the Sikkim sector following a lecture on 'IndiaASEAN and the Changing Geopolitics'. The lecture was organised by the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy and the Indian High Commission.

Underlining that this was not the first time that China and India had border differences, Jaishankar said, "When such situations arise, I see no reason, when having handled so many situations in the past, (why) we would not be able to handle it."

The visit by NSA to China for BRICS NSA Summit on July 27-28 could pave the way for thaw in ties and all eyes will be on the Summit meet between the two leaders during BRICS Summit in Xiamen (China) early September for ending the stand-off.

China and India have been engaged in a standoff in the Doklam area near the Bhutan tri-junction for over three weeks after a construction party of the Chinese Army attempted to build a road. While China has indulged in war mongering and ratcheted up tensions, India has maintained calm with PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping discussing a range of issues in Hamburg on the sidelines of G-20 summit.

Delivering the lecture Jaishankar outlined nature of Sino-Indian ties. "In this changing landscape, few would dispute that the evolving IndiaChina relationship has a direct implication for Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), for the larger Asia Pacific, and perhaps even globally. We are all aware by now of the complexity inherent in the rise of two major powers near simultaneously, that too in close proximity," pointed out the Foreign Secretary who served in China between 2009-13 longest tenure or any Indian envoy in Beijing so far. India will be hosting all 10 ASEAN leaders as Chief Guests for 2018 Republic Day.

"That the powers in question are civilisational ones, with positive far history and difficult near history, adds to the challenge."

Jaishankar said that the "big debate" was about the opportunities and risks that emanate from "this twin rise" of India and China.



“Skewing the analysis in the direction of one at the expense of the other could mislead us. In truth, the India-China relationship by now has acquired so many dimensions and so much substance that reducing it to black and white argumentation cannot be a serious proposition. It is not only that India and China have stakes in each other; the world and especially Asean has a vested interest in this matter.”

Jaishankar said that the relationship between India and south-east Asia “actually reflects a profound shift in India's geopolitical outlook towards the world to its East”.

“Growing contacts and expanding cooperation with southeast Asia opened up to India the world beyond it. This was around the time when India also sought to engage Japan, S o u t h Korea and China more seriously,” recalled the foreign secretary.

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

*Wed, 12 July, 2017*

# Why Only Talk of 1962, Must Remember 1967

**By DipanjanRoy Chaudhury**

Notwithstanding rise in China's power and military strength, Nathu La is physiologically a weak spot for the People's Liberation Army , akin to the Sino-Vietnam border, having lost to the Indian and Vietnamese counterparts in 1967 and 1979, respectively .

The Indian military , overcoming the loss in 1962, had dealt a severe blow to PLA in 1967 in Nathu La sector that resulted in the death of 400 Chinese soldiers, a fact neither debated in Beijing nor Delhi. The Vietnamese Army had dealt a similar blow to PLA in 1979 along the Sino-Vietnam border merely four years after unification of Vietnam.

The Nathu La and Cho La clashes, (September 1114, 1967 for Nathu La; October 1, 1967 for Cho La) were a series of clashes between India and China along the Sikkim border. According to an Sino-Indian expert, the conflict ended with the defeat of China. Indian troops drove back the attacking forces. Many PLA fortifications at Nathu La were destroyed.

Starting from August 13, 1967, Chinese troops started digging trenches in Nathu La across the Indian border. After Indian troops observed that some trenches were inside Sikkim, it asked the local Chinese commander to withdraw from the then Indian protectorate state. On October 1, 1967, another clash between India and China took place at Cho La, a few km north of Nathu La. According to the Indian government version with which neutral experts concur, the clash was initiated by the Chinese troops after a scuffle between the two, when the Chinese troops infiltrated into Sikkim, claimed the pass and questioned the position of Indian troops. According to the defence ministry, 88 Indian Army personnel were killed and 163 wounded while China lost while China lost 340 soldiers and 450 were wounded during the two incidents. China, however, claimed a lower number of casualties. According to scholar John Garver, Professor Emeritus in the Sam Nunn School of International Af fairs at the Georgia Institute of Technology af ter the Nathu La incident, Indian concerns were roused about China's intentions regarding Sikkim. Garver also said that India was “quite pleased with the combat performance of its forces in the Nathu La clashes, seeing it as signaling dramatic improvement since 1962 war“. According to another scholar, Taylor Fravel, these incidents demonstrated the effects of China's “insecurity“ on the use of force.

Wed, 12 July, 2017

## India-China differences shouldn't become disputes'

*By Indrani Bagchi*

In the midst of the Sikkim stand-off, India took a conciliatory stance towards China with foreign secretary S Jaishankar stressing that “differences should not become disputes“, a phrase used by PM Narendra Modi during his meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping recently .

Delivering an address in Singapore on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of India-Asean ties, Jaishankar called upon China to exercise the “strategic maturity“ it is reputed to have. Without playing up the current confrontation between the two Asian powers, he said, “The fact is that today , India-China relations are really multifaceted. Last month, when the leaders of the two countries met at Astana, they reached consensus on two key points: (a) that at a time of global uncertainty , IndiaChina relations are a factor of stability and (b) in their relationship, India and China must not allow differences to become disputes.“

While Indian troops continued their vigil on Bhutanese territory against Chinese expansionism, Jaishankar acknowledged that while the evolution of India-China relationship has a “direct implication“ for Asean and the larger world, there were real challenges on this account. “India has an alarming trade deficit that in our view emanates from obstacles to market access in China. Negotiations on the long-standing boundary dispute also still continue. Differences on issues like terrorism, nuclear energy access and connectivity initiatives have also acquired some prominence,“ he said.

Putting this in the larger context of two civilisational powers rising almost simul taneously “with positive far history and difficult near history“ would be more challenging, he said.

Jaishankar said India-China relationship “has acquired so many dimensions and so much substance that reducing it to black and white argumentation cannot be a serious proposition. It is not only that India and China have stakes in each other; the world and especially Asean have a vested interest in this matter“.

In a sense, this was a message to China as well that an India-China conflict would have repercussions in the wider Asian region, which China fancies to be its playing ground. Jaishankar offered a ‘tour de horizon’ of India's relations with the Asean region demonstrating that it was not only China's to play with.

The Indian assessment is that the Chinese government, through its mission in India, is overplaying its hand, which is steadily pushing China into a corner.

Wed, 12 July, 2017

## China had already built roads in 4 other places of Bhutan

*By Saibal Dasgupta*

China has broken into Bhutanese territory and constructed roads in four other places far away from Doklam in the past years. For Bhutan, the fear of repeated Chinese incursions will not go away even if the Doklam issue is resolved, according to a Thimphu-based analyst who requested anonymity.



“Each time, China starts of insisting on its claims on our territory citing their own version of history . This is fol lowed by building a road insi de our border. They change the situation on the ground with construction work, and use the new situation to sup port their claim,” he said.

The Chinese ambassador in New Delhi, Luo Zhaohui, ga ve no inkling of what was to come when he visited Thimp hu and was interviewed by Ke unsel, the national newspaper.

“We also wish to resolve the border issues as soon as pos sible. We don't have much pro blem. Discussion is going on,” he said. The present border standoff was also sparked by road-building by Chinese troops in Doklam plateau, which is claimed by both China and Bhutan.

A look at the proceedings of the National Assembly, the Bhutanese Parliament, will show dozens of references to continued incursions by Chinese troops, and harassment of Bhutanese farmers by local people across the border.

“Royal Government protested many times to the Chinese regarding road construction activities in the past and protested two times in 2008 and five times in 2009 on the extension of road construction towards the Zuri-Phuteogang ridge,” the government told Parliamentarians in 2009.

There are other references showing how the 14th and other rounds of border talks were disrupted owing to Chinese troops entering Bhutan.

China has repeatedly mentioned the 1890 SikkimTibet treaty as the basis of its claims over the Doklam plateau. But the treaty cannot be used as a basis because Bhutan, which claims the plateau, was not a party to the treaty.

In fact, the border dispute continued even in 1960, 70 years after the treaty , and is not a settled issue, unlike Chinese claims. “In 1960, during the Official's Negotiations, China refused to discuss the Bhutan-Tibet border and the Sikkim-Tibet border,” Claude Arpi, an analyst, and Tibetologist, told TOI.



Wed, 12 July, 2017

## Malabar submarine drills worry China

By Atul Aneja

*They have someone as target: expert*

China is closely monitoring the ongoing Malabar naval exercises between India, the U.S. and Japan, in view of the Indian Navy's growing clout to detect Chinese submarines and surface ships in the Indian Ocean, using newly acquired weaponry from Washington.

A detailed article in *Pengpai*, an online portal, analyses whether Chinese submarines are the unstated target of the large naval exercises, which started on Monday in the Bay of Bengal.

A press statement released on Monday in New Delhi points out that apart from two aircraft carriers — one each from India and the U.S., and one helicopter carrier from Japan — seven Indian warships, four from the U.S. and one from Japan are participating in the manoeuvres in the North Indian Ocean. Besides, a Los Angeles class submarine from the U.S., and India's Sindhughosh underwater platform, along with the P-8 submarine detecting planes, and supporting vessels are part of the drills.

The article underscores that the presence of three aircraft carriers of three countries in the military exercises is “most noteworthy”.

It points out that the focus of the drills is anti-submarine warfare (ASW).

In turn, this has “got people really concerned”, whether the exercise is “targeted at Chinese submarines”.

“The Malabar exercise used to be a comprehensive drill that had included air defence, anti-ship elements etc. But now the subject of the drills started to show that there is more focus on anti-submarine warfare. It shows that they have someone as the target,” observes Li Jie, a Chinese naval expert.

He adds: “The U.S. and Japan both have large inventories of ASW equipment, and are experienced in this field. India can learn from them in terms of anti-submarine experience with which they can increase ASW capacity.”

During the on-going exercise, the Japanese are fielding the JS Izumo, a helicopter carrier with SH 60K helicopters. The Pengpai article highlights that the nine helicopters on board the JS Izumo are the ASW “core” of the Japan’s Self Defence Forces.

Some Chinese military specialists point out that India’s Act East Policy and China’s rise, leading to its larger footprint in the Indian Ocean, provide the larger context to the on-going manoeuvres. The article observes that in 2014, the Malabar exercise was held in the West Pacific. “Because India claimed that it had adopted the Act East strategy, so it was considered a signal from them to try and intervene in the South China Sea problem.”

Lin Minwang, a scholar at Shanghai’s Fudan University underscores that India, Japan and the U.S. will deepen their military ties in view of China’s growing military profile in the Indian Ocean, which is widely anticipated.

“As China rises, China will dispatch more military forces in the Indian Ocean to ensure its legitimate interests. In this situation the three countries will deepen their security cooperation in the Indian Ocean,” Mr. Lin said.

The article quotes the Chinese defence ministry as saying that China has sent naval ships of all levels to the Gulf of Aden and the Somalian waters to escort merchant ships since 2008. But, “because of the change in the situation accompanying and the requirements of the task, sending submarines is part of normal activity and plans”.

Mr. Li, the naval expert, attributed the expansion of the Malabar exercises to the larger contribution of naval assets by India and Japan. “Comparing this year’s drills with the past year, we can see that the Malabar exercise has a tendency of being expanded and the forces dispatched from the U.S. are relatively fixed — one career combat group. The scale of expansion is because India and Japan have sent more naval ships than before.”

The article highlighted that the presence of the U.S. built P-8 planes and the anticipated induction of MQ-9B drones in the Indian arsenal, pointed to the larger strategic convergence between India and the U.S. in the Indo-Pacific area.

“The P-8 is considered the most advanced in the world. India has bought eight of them and in the future it will buy another eight. It will fully replace the old Soviet era ASW aircraft such as the IL-38 and TU-142,” observes the article.

The online article quoted the U.S. based *Defense News* magazine, which said the U.S. State Department has cleared the sale of 22 MQ-9B drones to India, which are capable of carrying out 35 hours of non-stop surveillance of sea-space. According to plans, India will deploy these drones in the Andaman island chain.

## US starts playing Patriot games in Baltics first time

**Washington, July 11:** The United States deployed a battery of Patriot long-range anti-aircraft missiles in Lithuania to be used in Nato wargames from Tuesday — the first time the advanced defence system has been brought to the Baltics where Russia has air superiority.

The Patriot battery was brought to the Siauliai military airbase on Monday, ahead of the Tobruk Legacy exercise, and will be withdrawn when the exercise ends on July 22, a Lithuanian defence ministry spokeswoman told Reuters.

The Nato wargames take place ahead of the large-scale Zapad 2017 exercise by Russia and Belarus which Nato officials believe could bring more than 100,000 troops to the borders of Poland and the three Baltic Nato allies — the biggest such Russian manoeuvres since 2013.

Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia possess only short-range anti-aircraft missiles, leaving the skies largely unprotected in the event of hostilities and have expressed concern about their air defence weakness following Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.

As a deterrent to Russia in the flashpoint region, the United States has deployed detachments of troops since the Crimea annexation, which have been augmented by four Nato battle groups of more than 1,000 soldiers.

Referring to the NATO exercise starting on Tuesday, Lithuania's defence minister Raimondas Karoblis said, "The deployment of Patriots is important because it demonstrates that such moves are no longer a taboo in the region." "It proves that the missiles can be

brought to wherever they are needed, which is very important," he said.

— Reuters

### **MORE POWER**

■ **IT IS** the first time that the advanced defence system has been brought to the Baltics

■ **LITHUANIA DEFENCE** minister said that the deployment of Patriots is important

■ **THE PATRIOT** battery was brought to the Siauliai airbase

**hindustantimes** hindustantimes.com

## US military plane crashes, 16 killed

**ITTA BENA:** A US military plane used for refueling crashed into a field in rural Mississippi on Monday, killing at least 16 people aboard and spreading debris for miles and creating a fiery wreckage, officials said.

Leflore County Emergency Management Agency director Frank Randle told reporters that 16 bodies had been recovered after the KC-130 spiraled into the ground about 135 km north of Jackson in the Mississippi Delta.

Marine Corps spokeswoman Capt Sarah Burns said in a statement that a KC-130 "experienced a mishap" on Monday evening but provided no details.

Greenwood Fire Chief Marcus Banks told the Greenwood Commonwealth that debris from the plane was scattered in a radius of about 8 km.

An eyewitness said firefighters tried to put out the fire at the main crash site but withdrew after an explosion forced them back.

The fire produced towering plumes of smoke visible for miles across the flat region and continued to burn after dusk, more than four hours after the crash.



# NORTH KOREA **Containing Mr Kim**

## America cannot stop North Korea from building long-range missiles

THE DEFINITION of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) is one that can fly at least 5,500km (3,420 miles). The weapon that North Korea tested, with characteristic belligerence, on the Fourth of July, had a range of perhaps 6,700km. So its claim to have built an ICBM is technically correct.

That is not quite as alarming as it sounds. It allows Kim Jong Un, North Korea's dictator, to threaten Anchorage, Alaska, as well as America's bases on Guam and in Japan and South Korea. But Los Angeles and New York are still out of reach. Moreover, North Korea has not yet mastered the technology to protect a nuclear warhead as a missile re-enters the atmosphere. And for the North to achieve much longer ranges it will have to add a third stage to its two-stage missiles — a further technological leap. Nonetheless, Mr Kim's drive to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of striking America is clearly advancing rapidly. At best, America may have a few years before North Korea can rain destruction on its cities, as it so often threatens.

It was not supposed to be this way. When Mr Kim boasted of being close to launching an ICBM, on New Year's Day, Donald Trump retorted: "It won't happen." America tried to enlist China, North Korea's main trading partner, to persuade Mr Kim to desist. For a few months China made encouraging noises about curbing the flow of goods across its border with the North. But Mr Trump's growing friendship with Xi Jinping, his Chinese counterpart, seems to have cooled. Mr Trump recently admitted that pressing China into service "has not worked out". What else can he try?

Despite lots of martial talk from Mr Trump, a pre-emptive strike against North Korea is a terrifying option. It would risk setting off a war on the Korean peninsula that could claim millions of lives. The less incendiary step of trying to shoot down Mr Kim's missiles whenever he tests them would prevent the North from developing an ICBM. But



**Kim's drive to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable of striking America has been advancing rapidly.** Reuters

America may not yet have perfected the anti-missile capabilities it needs.

Mr Trump might resort to direct negotiations with North Korea — he once said that he and Mr Kim could settle all their differences over a burger at the White House. But it is hard to imagine that the North would really abandon its missile programme, which it appears to view as its one ironclad defence against a hostile world. Meanwhile, the confidence-building step that the North demands of America — suspending all military exercises with South Korea — should be a non-starter. The exercises are legal whereas the missile-testing is not. Also North Korea has a dire record of cheating on its commitments; suspension would perturb America's allies; and China, which hates displays of American might on its borders, would have an incentive to keep Mr Kim as a near-nuclear threat.

Sanctions do make life difficult for the North Korean regime. But the only measure that might truly threaten it would be to cut

its oil supply — and China has already declined to do that. America could punish more firms in China that abet trade with North Korea (secondary sanctions, in the jargon). But the border trade is too fluid and diffuse to halt the determined Mr Kim, who cares nothing for his people's hardship.

### It helps if people believe what you say

For all of Mr Trump's bluster, he has no good way of stopping North Korea from developing an effective nuclear weapon. Deterrence and containment remain the best (and possibly only) options to ensure that Mr Kim is never tempted to use his horrifying arsenal. But if deterrence is to be effective, America's threats must be credible. So Mr Trump must stop making promises he is not ready or able to honour — promises like stopping North Korea from developing an ICBM.



## Hackers target S. Korea defence

In August 2016, a cyber attack on South Korea's ministry of national defence infected around 3,000 hosts. The Korean Defence Agency reported the incident publicly in the winter of December 2016.

### AGE CORRESPONDENT

A 2016 cyberespionage attack on South Korea's defence agency has been connected with a later attack that infected 60 ATMs and stole the data from over 2,000 credit cards. This was now reported by Russian Security company Kaspersky Lab researchers, who have been following up with a detailed malware analysis on the two attacks.

Further, the malicious code and techniques used in both attacks share similarities with earlier attacks widely attributed to the infamous Lazarus group, responsible for a series of devastating attacks against commercial and government organisations around the world as well.

In August 2016, a cyberattack on South Korea's Ministry of National Defence infected around 3,000 hosts. The Defence Agency reported (Korean) the incident publicly in December 2016, admitting that some of the confidential information could have been exposed to the hackers.

Six months later, at least 60 ATMs in South Korea, managed by a single local vendor, were compromised with malware. The incident was reported (Korean) by the Financial Security Institute and, according to the Financial Supervisory Service, resulted in the theft of the details of

2,500 financial cards and the illegal withdrawal in Taiwan of approximately 2,500 USD from these accounts. Kaspersky Lab researched the malware used in the ATM incident and discovered that the machines were attacked with the same malicious code used to hit the Korean Ministry of National Defence in August 2016.

Exploring the connection between these attacks and earlier hacks, Kaspersky Lab

has found similarities with the DarkSeoul malicious operations, and others, which are attributed to the Lazarus hacking group. The commonalities include, among other things, the use of the same decryption routines and obfuscation techniques, overlap in command and control infrastructure, and similarities in code.

Lazarus is an active cybercriminal group believed to be behind a number of massive and devastating cyberattacks worldwide including the Sony Pictures hack in 2014 and the \$81 million Bangladesh Bank heist last year. "While neither the military nor the ATM attacks were huge and damaging, they are evidence of a worrying trend. South Korea has been the target of cyberespionage attacks since at least 2013, but this is the first time that its ATMs have been targeted purely for financial gain. If the connections we found are accurate, this is yet another example of

the Lazarus group turning its attention and considerable malicious arsenal to profiteering. Banks and other financial institutions need to fortify their defenses before it is too late," says Seongsu Park, Senior Security Researcher at Kaspersky Lab's Global Research and Analysis Team (GREAT).

In order to reduce risk, Kaspersky Lab recommends implementing the following security measures:

- Introduce an enterprise-wide fraud prevention strategy with special sections on ATM and internet banking security. Logical security, physical security of ATMs and fraud prevention measures should be addressed altogether as attacks are becoming more complex.

- Ensure you have a comprehensive, multi-layered security solution in place. For financial organisations, we recommend using specialised solutions with Default Deny and File Integrity Monitor capabilities such as Kaspersky Embedded Systems Security. These solutions can detect any suspicious activity within the payment devices infrastructure. We also recommend implementing network segmentation for ATM or POS devices as well.

- Conduct annual security audits and penetration tests. It is better to let professionals find vulnerabilities than to wait for them to be found by cybercriminals.

- Consider investing in threat intelligence so that you can understand the threat landscape and can help your organisation and customers to prepare and organise.

- Train your employees so they can better spot suspicious emails that could be the first stage of an attack.

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# THE TIMES OF INDIA

## ISRO builds ship terminal to track missions

In order to cater to specific tracking requirements of launch vehicles and postlaunch activity, Isro Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (Istrac), Bengaluru, has designed and developed a 4.6metre Ship Borne Transportable (SBT) Antenna Terminal that meets the launch vehicle telemetry, tracking and command (TTC) requirements.

Istrac is entrusted with the responsibility of providing tracking support for all satellite and launch vehicle missions of Isro, besides being mandated to provide space operations support for Deep Space Missions. The antenna system was integrated on Sagar Manjusha Ship hired by the National Institute of Ocean Technology.