

CONTENTS

S. No.	TITLE		Page No.
	Defence News		1-7
	Defence Strategic: National/International		1-7
1.	Rajnath Singh to Introduce Defence Bill in LS, All you Need to Know	<i>RepublicWorld.com</i>	1
2.	DMA Plans for Joint Maintenance Strategies to Save Cost	<i>Financial Express</i>	2
3.	Oman Minister Appreciates Progress Made by India in Defence Manufacturing	<i>The Hindu</i>	2
4.	China-Funded Naval Base in Cambodia in India's Extended Neighbourhood Nears Completion	<i>The Economic Times</i>	3
5.	Russia Launches Baltic Naval Drills, Ratcheting up Tensions with European Neighbours	<i>The Economic Times</i>	4
6.	Israeli Navy Missile Defence System Passes Sea Trials	<i>ANI</i>	5
7.	Israel Approves USD 344 Million Sale of 'David's Sling' Defense System to Finland	<i>The Economic Times</i>	5
8.	Indonesia Buys Drones worth USD 300 Million from Turkiye	<i>Hindustan Times</i>	6
9.	Force Posturing: North Korea Threatens Action against US Reconnaissance Flights	<i>Janes</i>	7
	Science & Technology News		7-9
10.	QETCI Appoints Former DRDO Secretary Vijay Kumar Sarawat as Chairman of the Board	<i>The Hindu</i>	7
11.	Chandrayaan 3 Inches Closer to Moon: What is the Role of Vikram Lander, Pragyan Rover?	<i>Hindustan Times</i>	8

Rajnath Singh to Introduce Defence Bill in LS, All you Need to Know

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is all set to table the 'Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023' in Lok Sabha today, (August 3). The Bill was earlier introduced in the Lower House of Parliament on March 15, during the Budget session, and was referred to the Standing Committee on Defence by the Speaker on April 24 for examination and report.

The Bill seeks to empower designated defence chiefs of inter-services organisations with certain administrative and disciplinary powers over all personnel serving across the defence services. The Inter-Services Organisations include Defence personnel from the Indian Navy, the Air Force and the Army, and training institutes like the National Defence Academy, National Defence College (NDC), Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), and the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC).

Key provisions of the Bill

Currently, the armed forces personnel are governed by the rules and regulations laid down by the three separate services - Army Act, 1950, Air Force Act, 1950, and the Navy Act, 1957. The officer of the same service holds the power to take disciplinary action against the person's government by the respective act.

The 'Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023', if passed in the Parliament, will empower the designated commanders to take action or charge soldiers and enforce discipline, irrespective of the Services the soldier belongs to. According to the provisions of the Bill, the Commander-in-Chief/the Officer-in Command of Inter-Services Organisations will be given the power to maintain discipline and monitor the proper discharge of duties by soldiers of all three services.

It will pave for the Central government to achieve multiple benefits such as speedy disposal of cases within the Defence forces, saving time and the Centre's money by avoiding various proceedings among Armed Forces personnel.

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/rajnath-singh-to-introduce-defence-bill-in-ls-all-you-need-to-know-articleshow.html>

Wed, 02 Aug 2023

DMA Plans for Joint Maintenance Strategies to Save Cost

The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) is working towards creating a system for the maintenance of common weapon systems and platforms.

The DMA is aiming to save costs and optimize funds through joint maintenance of common weapon systems and platforms,

While the DMA is already targeting the early formations of the joint forces' Theatre Commands, it is set to streamline the joint procurement of weapon systems and maintenance.

The DMA aims to include a fleet of light helicopters like the Cheetah and Chetak, operated jointly by all three services.

According to the official from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), a number of discussions have been held between the stakeholders from the three services and integrated defence staff on the matter.

“Even if we look around today, the light helicopters including the Cheetah/ Chetak fleet are operated by the three services and if they are maintained jointly, they can lead to savings,” an MoD official said.

“The Dornier aircraft is another example which is operated by the Indian Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard and if they are maintained jointly, we can even improve serviceability along with savings,” the official said.

The official further explained that as part of its collaborative approach, the Indian army is already facilitating joint maintenance initiatives with the Indian air force for Apache attack helicopters.

“Personnel from the Army have been posted to the Air Force units operating these choppers to undergo training in their operations, paving the way for unified maintenance practices,” MoD said

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-dma-plans-for-joint-maintenance-strategies-to-save-cost-3197135/>

Wed, 02 Aug 2023

Oman Minister Appreciates Progress Made by India in Defence Manufacturing

Appreciating the progress made by India in the field of defence manufacturing, Oman Minister of Royal Office General Sultan bin Mohammed Al Nu'amani agreed that his country could benefit from this progress.

The Minister conveyed this to Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) Admiral R. Hari Kumar, who called on him during a three-day visit to the Gulf country that concluded on Wednesday, the Navy said.

India's relations with Oman have significantly deepened in recent years especially in the maritime domain.

“During the ongoing visit, CNS met with the senior military leadership of Oman. Discussions with the Commander of Royal Navy of Oman focused on bilateral cooperation, highlighting the importance of strategic partnership between the two nations,” the Navy said.

Admiral Kumar discussed with General Al Nu’amani issues related to bilateral defence cooperation and thanked him for the assistance provided to the Indian Navy ships calling ports in Oman.

Indian naval ships on deployment in the Gulf of Aden and the region have been visiting Oman ports for Operational Turnaround (OTR) and P-8I long range maritime patrol aircraft visited Oman for OTR extending their reach and endurance.

Admiral Kumar also visited the Military Technical College, where he was given an overview of courses and programmes conducted in the college, and shown the recently inaugurated Metaverse lab which is used to impart learning through virtual reality modules on various subjects. He also visited the Maritime Security Centre, where he was briefed on its functioning. Discussions on information sharing, including white shipping data, were also held.

Admiral Kumar also met Major Generak Hamid Ahmed Sakroon, President of the Academy of Strategic and Defence Studies (ASDS). Discussing interactions between military studies institutions and need for inculcating a strategic thought process, he offered facilitating interaction between National Maritime Foundation (NMF) and ASDS, the Navy said.

On Wednesday, Admiral Kumar visited Duqm, where he interacted with the crew of INS Trikand, deployed for anti-piracy patrol. He was also given an overview of the port of Duqm and apprised of the various facilities available for ships berthing in the port as well as the ship repair and maintenance facilities, the Navy added.

Coinciding with the visit, the Navy’s indigenously designed and constructed guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam arrived at Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat on July 30 for a three-day port call which will culminate with a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Royal Navy of Oman on August 3.

The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman engage with each other under numerous foreign cooperation avenues, which include operations, training and exchange of subject matter experts in various fields, the Indian Navy said in a statement at the beginning of the visit.

The 13th edition of the bilateral, biennial naval exercise Naseem Al Bahr, which began in 1993, was conducted off Oman in 2022. The next edition is scheduled to be held in 2024.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/oman-minister-appreciates-progress-made-by-india-in-defence-manufacturing/article67150271.ece>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, 02 Aug 2023

China-Funded Naval Base in Cambodia in India’s Extended Neighbourhood Nears Completion

China's next overseas military base could be in Cambodia, in India's extended neighbourhood, throwing a challenge to New Delhi’s strategic outreach to Southeast Asia.

The base, which has been in the making for a few years, has been under scrutiny. UK-based leading think-tank Chatham House in a report published last week referred to satellite images and claimed

"dramatic transformation of the Cambodian naval base, near Sihanoukville on the Gulf of Thailand". This Chinese-funded project would extend Beijing's military reach into the contested waters of Southeast Asia, claimed Chatham House. "The latest satellite images acquired in June show an assortment of Chinese-funded building activities. Visible are land clearance operations, land reclamation efforts, the construction of several new buildings, roads and importantly a large pier much bigger than the base's original jetty," according to the report.

In the past 18 months, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is reported to have allocated 157 hectares to the building of air defences, general command facilities and a naval radar installation near the base, according to the report.

The base would help Beijing boost its power projection in Southeast Asia and even Taiwan Straits. This would be China's first naval facility in Southeast Asia.

Interestingly, India has also stepped up its engagement with Cambodia and hosted the Cambodian king in May. As part of its strategic outreach, India has given a naval ship to Vietnam and stepped up defence cooperation with the Philippines. Defence minister Rajnath Singh recently visited Malaysia and is expected to visit Indonesia later this year.

On Sunday, Cambodia's defence minister Tea Banh and his son Tea Seiha, who is widely believed to succeed him in the new cabinet, visited the Chinese-funded naval base.

In a set of photos published on his Facebook page, Banh was seen surrounded by Cambodian army officers during the visit.

The project is proceeding "according to plan," the Facebook post said without detailing the time schedule. It "will increase the navy's capacity to a higher level in the future", it said.

In November 2022, the US Department of Defense's 'China Military Power Report' said China "has likely considered Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand," among other places, as locations for PLA military logistics facilities.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-funded-naval-base-in-cambodia-in-indias-extended-neighbourhood-nears-completion/articleshow/102360087.cms>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, 02 Aug 2023

Russia Launches Baltic Naval Drills, Ratcheting up Tensions with European Neighbours

Russia's Ministry of Defence said it began live-fire naval exercises in the Baltic Sea on Wednesday, ratcheting up tensions with nearby European nations that are already high over NATO and Ukraine. Russia last carried out mass military exercises in the Baltic Sea in June, two months after Finland became NATO's newest member. The drills took place at the same time NATO was holding its own Baltic Sea exercises.

The Russian exercises announced Wednesday will involve more personnel and aircraft than the last round and will feature the use of live weapons. The Russian defence ministry said the navy's commander-in-chief, Admiral Nikolai Evmenov, will oversee the drills, which were designed to test "the navy's readiness to protect the national interests of the Russian Federation in an operationally important area."

The Ocean Shield-2023 exercises will involve forces practising how to "protect sea lanes, transport troops and military cargo, as well as defend the coastline," the ministry said. More than 200 combat exercises will involve some 6,000 personnel, 30 warships and boats and 30 aircraft, it added.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has long railed against NATO and has tried to limit the Western military alliance's expansion, especially to countries which used to be part of the Soviet Union. The Baltic nations of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia joined NATO in 2004.

After Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Finland and Sweden both applied to join NATO. Finland, which has a Baltic coast, became the 31st member in April, more than doubling Russia's land border with NATO.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/russia-launches-baltic-naval-drills-ratcheting-up-tensions-with-european-neighbours/articleshow/102362126.cms>



Wed, 02 Aug 2023

Israeli Navy Missile Defence System Passes Sea Trials

A missile defence system designed to protect Israeli Navy ships has completed its sea trials, the Israeli Navy announced on Tuesday morning.

The trials tested the capability of a new maritime electronic warfare system designed to effectively respond to complex missile attack scenarios, including launching decoy rounds and electronic jamming measures.

The DESEAVAR MK-4 counter measure dispensing system, developed by the Haifa-based Elbit Systems, defends ships from simultaneous multiple missile threats from different directions. Algorithms rapidly prioritize targets and select measures against each individual missile.

The DESEAVAR MK-4 is the fourth generation of the ship defense system which is fully integrated into Israeli Navy ships.

“We are proud of our ongoing cooperation with and support of the Israeli Navy. The successful completion of these trials provides further proof of the reliability of our technology and the advanced protection capabilities they provide against new and evolving threats,” said Oren Sabag, Elbit’s general manager for electronic warfare.

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/israeli-navy-missile-defence-system-passes-sea-trials20230802203307/>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 03 Aug 2023

Israel Approves USD 344 Million Sale of 'David's Sling' Defense System to Finland

Israel's Ministry of Defense Wednesday revealed that the US Government approved the sale by Israel of the country's "David's Sling" anti-missile defence system to Finland.

After receiving approval, the Israeli MOD, the Finnish MOD & Rafael Advanced Systems - the Israeli defence contractor that develops the system - will participate in a ceremony to sign a procurement agreement worth approximately 316 million Euros (USD 344 million).

The IDF says David's Sling system is capable of intercepting missiles fired towards Israel by enemy countries such as Iran and Syria.

It can protect any country that uses it against large-calibre rockets, short-range ballistic missiles, and other developing threats. It's scheduled to be operational in two weeks.

Unlike, the mobile Iron Dome, David's Sling is stationary and can protect the entirety of Israel from its permanent location, explains the IDF.

Rafael boasts that David's Sling's "advanced, multi-mission interceptor," also known as the Stunner or the SkyCeptor, a joint endeavour of Rafael & Raytheon, two leaders in advanced weapons system development, offers interceptor as lethal, flexible and affordable hit-to-kill to defeat mass raids of threats.

Israel's Minister of Defense Yoav Gallant commented, "The approval of David's Sling agreement for Finland is a significant milestone within a historic process that will equip our partners with groundbreaking air defence technology. This reflects our powerful ties and defence cooperation with both the U.S. and Finland."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/israel-approves-usd-344-million-sale-of-davids-sling-defense-system-to-finland/articleshow/102368977.cms>



Wed, 02 Aug 2023

Indonesia Buys Drones worth USD 300 Million from Turkiye

The Indonesian government bought 12 drones worth USD 300 million from Turkish Aerospace as part of efforts to strengthen Indonesia's defence system, according to a written statement from the Indonesian Defence Ministry on Wednesday.

The purchase aims to increase the variety, quantity and quality of Indonesia's military defence equipment with the contract signed February 3 with Turkish Aerospace, which is headquartered in the capital, Ankara. The 12 units of ANKA drones are expected to be delivered before November 2025.

In January, Indonesia sealed another deal worth USD 805 million to buy a dozen advanced Mirage 2000-5 fighter jets that were used by the Qatari air force. The purchase, manufactured by French company Dassault Aviation, was criticised for the age of the equipment.

But the Defence Ministry said Indonesia needs fighter aircraft defence equipment that can be delivered quickly to cover its air force's decline in the combat readiness as many of the country's existing aircraft have aged out. Some of them are being upgraded, overhauled or repaired during the long wait for delivery of newly ordered aircraft.

Defence Minister Prabowo Subianto also agreed to purchase 42 units of Dassault Rafale fighter aircraft in February 2022. Indonesia is expected to receive the first three of six twin-engine Rafale fighters in January 2026.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/indonesia-anka-drones-turkiye-defence-military-equipment-101690962227610.html>

Force Posturing: North Korea Threatens Action against US Reconnaissance Flights

For over a decade, North Korean air power has suffered from a decline in capability and availability. However, the isolated country is now touting the importance of its air force amid claims that the US is increasing reconnaissance flights over its maritime territory.

On 10 July Kim Yo-jong, a top North Korean official and influential sister of leader Kim Jong-un, accused US spy aircraft of conducting regular flights over the country's exclusive economic zone (EEZ). "Recently, the US has conducted hostile espionage activities in the Korean peninsula and its vicinity at an unprecedented level by intensively mobilising various air reconnaissance means deployed in the Asia-Pacific operational theatre," Kim Yo-jong said.

A spokesperson for North Korea's Ministry of National Defence (MND) cited by the state-owned Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said US Boeing RC-135, Lockheed Martin U-2S, and Northrop Grumman RQ-4B 'Global Hawk' strategic reconnaissance platforms conducted flights over the Sea of Japan (East Sea) and Yellow Sea (West Sea) of Korea for eight days from 2 to 9 July.

The MND spokesperson added that one US reconnaissance aircraft "illegally intruded into the inviolable airspace of [North Korea] over its [Sea of Japan] East Sea tens of kilometres several times". Kim Yo-jong said US reconnaissance aircraft "habitually intrude" into a 20–40 km section of North Korea's maritime EEZ, beyond the Military Demarcation Line (MDL).

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/force-posturing-north-korea-threatens-action-against-us-reconnaissance-flights>

Science & Technology News

QETCI Appoints Former DRDO Secretary Vijay Kumar Sarawat as Chairman of the Board

Quantum Ecosystems Technology Council of India (QETCI) announced on Wednesday that scientist and defence expert Dr. Vijay Kumar Sarawat has been appointed as the chairman of its governing board.

Sarawat was formerly the Secretary of the Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) and the Chief Scientific Advisor to the Indian Minister of Defence. His areas of

specialisation include defence research in both basic and applied sciences as well as national supercomputing systems.

Sarawat is a member of NITI Aayog as well as co-chair for the Prime Minister's Science Technology and Innovation Advisory Committee (PMSTIAC).

“Harnessing quantum computing, QETCI fosters innovation through collaboration. With strategic partnerships, indigenous research, a skilled quantum workforce, and unwavering support for quantum entrepreneurship, QETCI stands poised to empower India's quantum ecosystem,” Sarawat said about the council.

QETCI works on strategic interventions in the quantum ecosystem with focus on research, innovation, implementation, and impact.

“Stepping into a quantum revolution, India's future shines brighter. Quantum Technologies wield the power to redefine industries, fortify national security, and ignite a new wave of innovation. The Government of India is committed to leading this cutting-edge field,” said Sarawat about his appointment.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/qetci-appoints-former-drdo-secretary-vijay-kumar-sarawat-chairman-of-the-board/article67149651.ece>



Thu, 03 Aug 2023

Chandrayaan 3 Inches Closer to Moon: What is the Role of Vikram Lander, Pragyan Rover?

Chandrayaan-3, the Indian Space Research Organisation's high profile lunar mission completed its orbits around the Earth and moved closer to the Moon on Tuesday. The mission is aimed at achieving a soft landing on the Moon's surface, a follow up 2019 project Chandrayaan-2, which failed to achieve the desired soft landing.

The spacecraft consists of indigenous propulsion module, lander module, and a rover with an objective of “developing and demonstrating new technologies required for interplanetary missions,” the ISRO explained. The propulsion system's objective is to carry the lander module from launch vehicle injection orbit to till the lander's separation. ISRO described its mission as “Carrying Lander Module and Rover upto 100 km lunar orbit. Subsequently, operation of experimental payload for a period of 3 to 6 months.” The propulsion module will remain in the Moon's orbit, acting as a communication point.

Role of Vikram Lander:

The lander and rover's names have been taken from the last mission Chandrayaan-2. The lander is named after Dr Vikram A Sarabhai, the father of the Indian Space Programme. It is designed to function for one lunar day, which is 14 days on the Earth and comes with a number of sensors to ensure a safe touchdown. It weighs about 1,749 kg including the rover. It is built to have side-mounted solar panels, which can generate 738 W power and will be engaged in exploring the lunar south pole.

As per the ISRO, the Vikram lander consists of three payloads for its objectives. RAMBHA-LP – which will measure the near surface plasma (ions and electrons) density and its changes with time; ChaSTE or ‘Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment’ – which will carry out the

measurements of thermal properties of the lunar surface near the polar region; and ILSA or 'Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity' meant to measure seismicity around the landing site and delineating the structure of the lunar crust and mantle.

Role of Pragyan Rover:

The robotic vehicle is named as 'Pragyan', which translates to 'wisdom' in Sanskrit. The six-wheeled vehicle has instruments configured with payloads to provide data related to the Moon's surface. It will gather data on the elemental composition of the atmosphere. It weighs 26 kgs and like the lander, has a mission life of one lunar day.

The two payloads on the rover are APXS or 'Alpha Particle X-Ray Spectrometer', which is meant to derive the elemental composition of the lunar surface; and the LIBS or 'Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscope' will be carry out experiments to determine the elemental composition of chemicals elements such magnesium and aluminum, etc of lunar soil and rocks around the lunar landing site.

Chandrayaan-3 which launched from the Earth on July 14, is expected to land on the moon on August 23.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/chandrayaan-3-latest-update-trans-lunar-injection-isro-moon-mission-vikram-lander-pragyan-rover-features-latest-updates-101691035204827.html>

