

जुलाई
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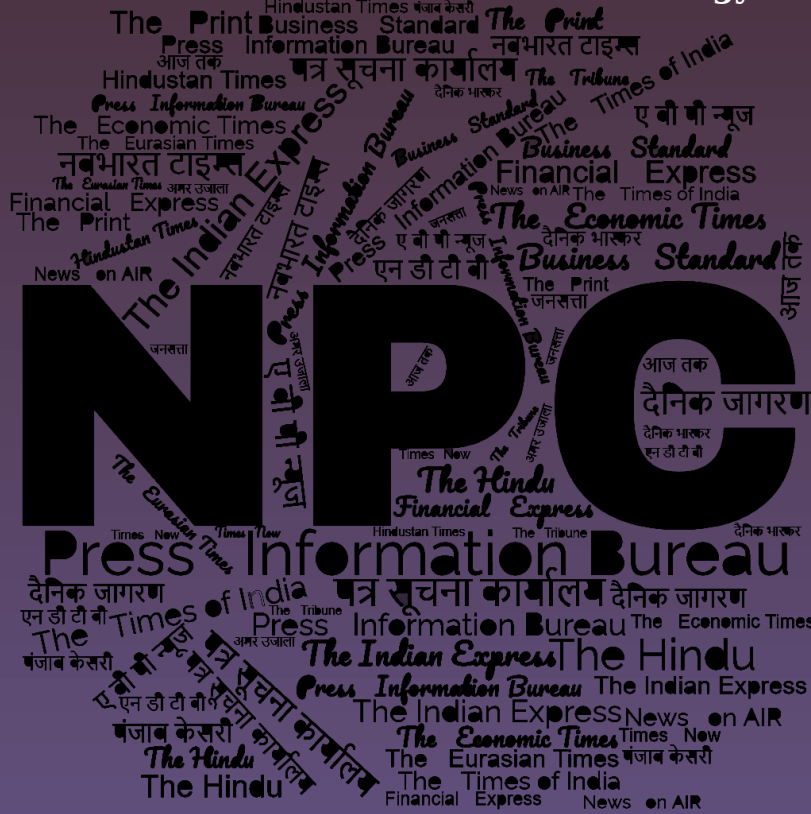
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Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 06 Jul 2023

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh Chairs Day-long MoD 'Chintan Shivir' in New Delhi

Several innovative proposals emerge to boost domestic defence manufacturing, ex-servicemen welfare, more reforms in Armed Forces & greater collaboration of DRDO with other research bodies

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh chaired a 'Chintan Shivir' of Ministry of Defence in New Delhi on July 06, 2023, where several innovative proposals emerged to enhance indigenisation content in domestic defence manufacturing; provide better health & pension services & re-settlement to the ex-servicemen; more collaboration of DRDO with other research bodies; performance audit; bringing more efficiency in the functioning Ministry of Defence and future roadmap of different organisations.

The Raksha Mantri sat through the day-long deliberations, which were spread over six sessions, covering important issues pertaining to Department of Defence (DoD), Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD (Finance), Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane, Secretary (Ex Servicemen Welfare) Shri Vijoy Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat and other civil & military officials of MoD from all ranks attended the meeting.

Presentations were made by each department which were followed by frank and free exchange of ideas.

Tweeting after the meeting, the Raksha Mantri said: "Had extensive discussions during the day-long 'MoD Chintan Shivir' today. Several important issues pertaining to strengthening India's Defence capabilities and the welfare of our Ex-Servicemen were discussed. I have directed all the concerned departments to prepare a time bound action plan and make a presentation on the Action Taken Report within 15 days."

The Raksha Mantri directed that a detailed action taken report on various issues be submitted to him within a fortnight to take forward these discussions.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1937809>

Thu, 06 Jul 2023

Greater Collaboration is Needed between DRDO and Research Bodies, Says Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a ‘Chintan Shivir’ of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in New Delhi on Thursday. During the course of the discussion, several innovative proposals emerged to enhance indigenisation content in domestic defence manufacturing.

The defence minister also outlined the provisions for better health & pension services & re-settlement to the ex-servicemen. Chintan Shivir focused on the collaboration of DRDO with other research bodies with performance audits. Rajnath Singh calls for bringing more efficiency to the functioning Ministry of Defence and the future roadmap of different organisations.

The defence minister sat through the day-long deliberations, which were spread over six sessions, covering important issues pertaining to the Department of Defence (DoD), Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD (Finance), Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO).

Tweeting after the meeting, the defence minister said: “Had extensive discussions during the day-long ‘MoD Chintan Shivir’ today. Several important issues pertaining to strengthening India’s Defence capabilities and the welfare of our Ex-Servicemen were discussed. I have directed all the concerned departments to prepare a time-bound action plan and make a presentation on the Action Taken Report within 15 days.” During the meeting, Rajnath Singh directed that a detailed action taken report on various issues be submitted to him within a fortnight to take forward these discussions.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-greater-collaboration-is-needed-between-drdo-and-research-bodies-says-rajnath-singh-3159571/>

Defence News

Defence Strategic: National/International



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 06 Jul 2023

IN-USN Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise - SALVEX

The Seventh edition of Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX was conducted from 26 Jun – 06 Jul 23 at Kochi. IN and USN

have been participating in joint Salvage and EOD exercises since 2005. The exercise saw participation from both the navies which included the ships – INS Nireekshak and USNS Salvor in addition to Specialist Diving and EOD teams.

Spanning over 10 days, the Diving teams of both the countries shared experiences on Maritime Salvage and trained together in various facets of EOD Operations on land as well at sea. SALVEX also saw conduct of joint training exercises towards enhancing interoperability, cohesiveness and gaining from best practices mutually in Maritime Salvage and EOD operations.

The constructive engagements on operational terms enhanced the skill-sets of the Diving teams in a number of diverse disciplines such as mine detection and neutralisation, wreck location and salvage.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1937685>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 06 Jul 2023

Indian Tri-Services Contingent Leaves for French Bastille Day Parade

14 July is celebrated as the Fête Nationale Française, or the National Day in France. It is also known as the Bastille Day as this day is the anniversary of Storming of the Bastille in 1789 during the French Revolution. This year, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi has been invited as the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in France. The parade will witness a 269 member tri-services contingent of the Indian Armed Forces marching alongside their French counterparts. The contingent has left for France today.

The association of the Indian and the French Armies dates back to World War 1. Over 1.3 million Indian soldiers participated in the war and almost 74,000 of them fought in the muddy trenches to never return again, while another 67,000 were wounded. Indian troops valiantly fought on French soil also. Their courage, valour and supreme sacrifice not only thwarted the enemy but also significantly contributed towards winning the war. Later World War 2 witnessed a whopping 2.5 million Indian soldiers making significant contribution in various theatres of the war from Asia to Africa and Europe. This also included the battlefields of France. The Indian troops established their valour in these wars which was well recognised in the form of several gallantry awards being bestowed on the Indian soldiers.

This year, both countries are celebrating 25 years of Strategic Partnership. The armies of both the countries have been participating in joint exercises and sharing their experiences. Over the years, India and France have become reliable defence partners.

The Indian Army contingent comprising of 77 marching personnel and 38 members of the Band is being led by Captain Aman Jagtap. Indian Navy contingent is being led by Commander Vrat Baghel and the Indian Air Force contingent by Squadron Leader Sindhu Reddy. The Rafale fighter jets of the Indian Air Force will also form part of the fly past during the parade.

The Army contingent is being represented by Punjab Regiment which is one of the oldest Regiments of the Indian Army. The troops of the Regiment have participated in both the World

Wars as well as the post-independence operations. In World War-I, they were awarded 18 Battle and Theatre Honours. The gallant soldiers fought in Mesopotamia, Gallipoli, Palestine, Egypt, China, Hongkong, Damascus and France. In France, they took part in an offensive near Neuve Chapelle in September 1915 earning the Battle Honours 'Loos' and 'France and Flanders'. In World War-II, they earned 16 Battle Honours and 14 Theatre Honours.

The Rajputana Rifles Regiment Band is accompanying the contingent. The Regiment is the senior most rifle regiment of the Indian Army. Most of its battalions have a long and glorious history. They have taken part in some of the bloodiest battles in many theatres of the world. They have demonstrated exemplary contribution in both World Wars. During the World War-II, the battalions of the Regiment fought in every theatre where the Indian Army was involved. They are the recipient of six Victoria Cross prior to independence. The band of the Regiment was raised in 1920 at Nasirabad (Rajasthan).

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1937723>



Thu, 06 Jul 2023

Woman Officer to Lead IAF Contingent at Bastille Day Parade

A woman officer of the Indian Air Force will lead the IAF's marching contingent at the Bastille Day parade in France on July 14, which will be attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the guest of honour, officials aware of the matter said on Thursday.

The marching contingents of the army and the navy along with an army band are also taking part in France's National Day parade alongside their French counterparts, the officials said.

The 269-member tri-services marching contingent on Thursday left for France in two C-17 heavy-lifters from a frontline air base in Gujarat. Three Rafale fighter jets of the IAF will also take part in the fly past during the parade, an official statement said. The Rafale jets, a C-17 heavy-lifter and an Il-78 refueller will leave for France on Friday.

The 68-member IAF contingent taking part in the parade will be led by Squadron Leader Sindhu Reddy, who is a Mi-17 pilot, said one of the officials cited above. Reddy had led the 144-member IAF contingent at this year's Republic Day parade in Delhi.

The army contingent will be led by Captain Aman Jagtap, while the naval contingent will be headed by Commander Vrat Baghel, the statement said.

"This year, both countries are celebrating 25 years of strategic partnership. The armies of both the countries have been participating in joint exercises and sharing their experiences. Over the years, India and France have become reliable defence partners," the army statement said.

A French army contingent took part in the Republic Day parade for the first time in 2016 when then President Francois Hollande was the chief guest at India's biggest ceremonial event in Delhi.

National security adviser Ajit Doval on Thursday held talks in Delhi with Emmanuel Bonne, diplomatic advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron to firm up the agenda of Modi's visit to France. "E. Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to Prez @EmmanuelMacron held in-depth talks with NSA Ajit Doval to prepare for PM @NarendraModi's visit to France next week. Defence, energy, space,

new technologies & more: we're working on an ambitious agenda for the strategic partnership," the French embassy in India tweeted.

The Macron government has given its go-ahead to defence major Safran to jointly design, develop, test, manufacture and finally certify an engine that is expected to power India's twin engine advanced multi-role combat aircraft and the twin engine deck-based fighter for the navy, as previously reported by HT.

The army contingent taking part in the parade is from the Punjab Regiment, which is one of the oldest regiments. "The troops of the regiment have participated in both the World Wars as well as the post-independence operations. In World War I, they were awarded 18 Battle and Theatre Honours. The gallant soldiers fought in Mesopotamia, Gallipoli, Palestine, Egypt, China, Hongkong, Damascus and France. In France, they took part in an offensive near Neuve Chapelle in September 1915 earning the Battle Honours 'Loos' and 'France and Flanders'. In World War II, they earned 16 Battle Honours and 14 Theatre Honours," the army statement said.

The French air force is expected to take part in a mega exercise to be hosted by the IAF later this year. The exercise, named Tarang Shakti, will be the biggest multi-nation air exercise (12 global air forces are expected to participate) to be conducted on Indian soil and will involve fighter jets, military transport aircraft, mid-air refuellers and airborne warning and control system (AWACS) aircraft.

The IAF's Rafale fighter jets debuted in an overseas exercise in April. Exercise Orion was held at the Mont-de-Marsan airbase in France from April 17 to May 5, and involved the air forces of the host nation, the US, the UK, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, and Spain. Four Indian Rafales, two C-17 heavy lifters, two Il-78 refuellers and 165 air warriors took part in the exercise.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indian-air-force-officer-to-lead-iaf-s-marching-contingent-at-bastille-day-parade-in-france-101688654086136.html>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 06 Jul 2023

Predator Drones, P-8I Surveillance Aircraft have Proved to be Useful in Operations over Ladakh: Navy Chief

Amid the ongoing standoff with China in Eastern Ladakh, Navy chief Admiral R Hari Kumar on Thursday said the P-8I surveillance planes along with the two leased Predator drones have proved useful in Ladakh since 2020 and will further improve the capabilities when they start arriving in the country.

"The sensors they (Predators) have are quite a state of the art and they provide good recognizance and intelligence effort. So I would say no asset belongs to just any one service. It's a national asset and we need to use it wherever it can give the best results and optimal results so that the nation benefits," he added.

Asked about the induction of the proposed 31 Predator drones and their surveillance capability, the Admiral said that the surveillance capabilities will definitely increase.

"Out of the 31, about 16 of them will be primarily for the border areas, for the land region. The only difference between the sky guardian and the sea guardian for the surveillance is mainly the sensors," he told ANI.

"So the sensor will be state of the art and they will be able to provide near real-time and almost 24/7 surveillance. So that definitely augments the effort and brings transparency in battlespace awareness," he added.

"The P8I have been used here along with the army and the Air Force teams and we found it quite beneficial. And similarly, we found that the two sea guardians which we have on lease are being operated since number 2020. They've also been quite useful," he added.

The Indian Navy is extending the lease of the two Predator drones which have flown more than 12,000 hours for surveillance across the country including the boundary with China.

The two drones were inducted by the Indian Navy under the emergency powers on lease in November 2020 during the initial phase of the military standoff with China and have been used extensively by the force.

The two drones of the older version of the Predators were taken on lease along with the ground control stations and other equipment.

After extensive flying operations and use of these drones for surveillance requirements of the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, it has now been decided that the defence forces would get a total of 31 of the latest Predator MQ-9B drones which will be used for surveillance.

The drone deal was announced by India and the US during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the US.

The deal has been approved by the Defence Acquisition Council and will now be negotiated with the US government for the final price and other contractual requirements.

Fifteen of these drones would be used for surveillance in the maritime zone while the remaining 16 would be used for aerial and ground surveillance along the northern and northeastern sectors.

The drones are located at the INS Rajali air base of the Navy in Tamil Nadu which is also planned to be one of the three hubs of the high-altitude long endurance unmanned aerial vehicles.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/predator-drones-p-8i-surveillance-aircraft-have-proved-to-be-useful-in-operations-over-ladakh-navy-chief/articleshow/101552609.cms>



Thu, 06 Jul 2023

PM Modi's Visit to France: President Macron's Diplomatic Advisor and NSA Doval Hold Talks on Fighter Jet, Engine

Emmanuel Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron, on Thursday, held in-depth talks with National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval to prepare for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France scheduled to take place next week.

At the invitation of France President Emmanuel Macron, PM Modi will be the Guest of Honour on France's National Day on July 14. PM Modi's visit to France will coincide with the 25th anniversary of the "strategic partnership" between France and India.

Sharing details regarding the meeting between Bonne and Doval, French Embassy in India in a tweet stated, "E. Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to Prez @EmmanuelMacron, held in-depth talks with NSA Ajit Doval to prepare for PM @NarendraModi's visit to France next week."

Further elaborating on the agenda, the Embassy tweets: “Defence, energy, space, new technologies & more: we’re working on an ambitious agenda for the India-France strategic partnership!”

Ahead of PM Modi’s visit to France on its National Day, French Ambassador to India Emmanuel Lenain expressed the desire to have Indian troops participate in the parade and Indian Rafales in the sky to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between the two nations.

Speaking to ANI, Ambassador of France to India, Emmanuel Lenain said, “Well, it’s going to be a very important visit. India is the guest of honour on our Bastille Day...our National Day. Every year we have a guest of honour but this year, it is very special that’s the 25th anniversary of the strategic partnership between France and India and we wanted to have Indian troops in the parade and also Indian Rafales in the sky.”

Jet engine, marine fighter jet on agenda

Building on the momentum, the Emmanuel Macron government has also approved French engine maker Safran to jointly design, develop, test, manufacture and finally certify an engine for India’s advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA) and the twin-engine deck-based fighter for Indian armed forces.

In fact, during the Paris Air Show which concluded last month, DRDO’s Chairman Samir V Kamat held crucial talks with the Safran. Talks greatly focused on the co-development of the jet engine and the R&D as it was learnt from the sources who were privy to the discussion.

The French government has offered 100% transfer of technology for the proposed 110-kilo newton engine. The tech- transfer will involve a blueprint and open code for the design and components of jet engines as it is learnt. It is crucial to note that such tech- collaboration will enable India to design, develop and manufacture a jet engine on its own for futuristic fighter jet projects within India.

The offer also includes Safran setting up a centre of excellence in gas turbine technology in India with full design and metallurgical precision software tools.

The engine proposal has been under discussion with the defence minister, NSA and DRDO.

Ambassador Lenain also outlined the key highlights of PM Modi’s upcoming visit to France, said, “There will be a lot. Each time, there are important meetings at that level. There will be some new momentum for cooperation. That being the 25th anniversary this year, we are going to draft a roadmap to open for new cooperation in the future, especially in the field of technology, the fight against climate change, global issues, and people-to-people exchanges. There would be a lot of news.”

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-pm-modis-visit-to-france-president-macrons-diplomatic-advisor-and-nsa-doval-hold-talks-on-fighter-jet-engine-3159330/>



Thu, 06 Jul 2023

Co-development rather than Co-production will be Focus of India-France Ties, Sources Say

Co-development, rather than co-production, will be the focus of India-France ties, as the two countries prepare to mark 25 years of their strategic partnership next week, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi travels to Paris to attend France’s National day parade.

On July 6, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval received his French counterpart Emmanuel Bonne, diplomatic advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron, with the “main agenda” of making preparations for the visit, government sources said.

“Defence, energy, space, new technologies and more: We are working on an ambitious agenda for the strategic partnership,” said a tweet from the French Embassy in Delhi.

Defence deals

According to sources aware of the plans, France hopes to see a number of contracts and agreements announced during Mr. Modi’s visit. Deals for Rafale-M (marine) planes for the navy and the joint development of jet engines for fighter aircraft are on the table for the talks.

The discussion on jet engines — for an agreement between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and French defence major Safran — is significant, as it comes on the heels of the GE-HAL MoU announced during Mr. Modi’s visit to Washington last month. The sources pointed out that the Indo-French deal would not be simply to “transfer production” to India, but a partnership between engineers of both countries to research and develop technology for a new engine together. The deal with Safran has been speculated about especially after the Prime Minister met with Safran group chairman Ross McInnes in Delhi in April this year to discuss possibilities in the Indian aviation market, defence and space.

E. Bonne, Diplomatic Advisor to Prez @EmmanuelMacron, called on PM @NarendraModi ahead of his visit to Paris on July 14.

Preparations are in full swing to welcome India as guest of honour of France's National Day, and chart a new roadmap for our strategic partnership. <https://t.co/se6pT8xVzz>

— French Embassy in India (@FranceinIndia) July 6, 2023

In 2015, Mr. Modi had made a break from the tradition of not signing defence deals during Prime Ministerial trips, when he announced the purchase of 36 “ready to fly” Rafale fighter jets while he was in Paris. Officials said they hoped to see similar announcements during the upcoming visit.

Space, nuclear collaboration

India and France are also hoping to strengthen ties over collaboration in space that dates back to the 1960s, when the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and its French counterpart Centre National de Etudes Spatiales (CNES) worked on setting up rocket launching facilities in India. Apart from collaborations in launching satellites, the two sides are looking at training astronauts and partnerships in space industrial engineering, it is learnt.

In addition, the two sides hope to make some progress on the long-stuck nuclear deal for reactors in India, and on education opportunities and visas for students.

However, the major spotlight will be on charting the future course for the India-France strategic partnership for the next 25 years, they said. Originally signed in 1998, this was India’s first strategic partnership agreement with any country.

Strategic partnership

In particular, India and France share a commitment to “strategic autonomy” in their foreign policy. In April this year, Mr. Macron had ruffled feathers around the world after a visit to China, where he said that European countries should not become “vassals” to the U.S.’s policies, referring to China. While both countries see China as a strategic threat, including at the Line of Actual Control with India and in the Taiwan straits, they also have interlinked economies. Despite tensions at the border and virtually no political dialogue between Delhi and Beijing, bilateral trade has been climbing year on year, and the trade deficit crossed \$100 billion for the first time last year.

Similarly, French officials have made the point that French ties with China are more “complex” than any one issue, and Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron are expected to discuss the issues with handling China at some length. France has launched its own independent “Indo-Pacific” strategy, and hopes to discuss more naval exchanges, including exercises, joint patrol, reconnaissance operations and port calls to the French Indo-Pacific island of Reunion. It would also like to see the Andaman Islands base becoming a promising new area of strategic cooperation.

Mr. Modi will be the chief guest at the Bastille Day parade on July 14, the second Indian Prime Minister to be accorded the honour after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in 2009. Mr. Modi and Mr. Macron will inspect the march past including Indian soldiers, and a flypast that will include Indian Air Force pilots in Rafale jets in the sky.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/co-development-rather-than-co-production-will-be-focus-of-india-france-ties-sources-say/article67049634.ece>



Fri, 07 Jul 2023

As Envoy Says G-20 Summit is Key Event for Russia, Putin Visit now a Possibility

The G20 summit in India is one of the “most important” events for Moscow, said a senior Russian diplomat, indicating the possibility that Russian President Vladimir Putin could attend the summit, which would be the first time he would come face to face with western leaders since the war in Ukraine began.

Answering questions at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) weekly briefing, the MEA spokesperson too said that the government “looks forward to welcoming Mr. Putin” at the G20 summit in Delhi on September 9-10.

“As far as the G20 Summit is concerned, we take it as one of the most important events this year, and all preparations are going on. Usually, plans of the President are announced in due course,” said Russian Deputy Chief of Mission Roman Babushkin, who is acting Ambassador at present, in a written interview with The Hindu.

In 2022, Mr. Putin had skipped the G20 summit in Bali, Indonesia, given the war in Ukraine and threats from Western leaders to boycott his appearance, and sent Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in his place.

While Mr. Babushkin said that Russia was “determined to support the Indian Presidency to ensure the success of the G20 Summit”, the diplomat did not hold out hope that Russia and China would agree to the draft statement — which could result in a failure to issue a joint communique, a first in the G20 grouping’s history.

Ahead of next week’s G-20 Sherpa meeting in Hampi, where top negotiators led by India’s G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant will try to hammer out a consensus on a joint statement ahead of the Summit in September, Mr. Babushkin said that unless “all countries are on board” there can be no consensus. He claimed that Russia and China’s stand against including the Ukraine war in the text, was understood by the other members of the G-20.

When asked why Russia and China were holding up the consensus on the Delhi statement, given that they had signed on to similar paragraphs about Ukraine in last year’s G-20 Bali summit

statement, the envoy said that that it was the Western States that were “undermining” India’s presidency by “politicising” the G20 that is meant to discuss economic issues.

“The Western choice for upscaling geopolitical tensions makes the so-called ‘Bali consensus’, which was a huge compromise from the Russian Side last year, even more irrelevant,” Mr. Babushkin replied. “This understanding is shared by all non-G7 members, although most of them prefer to keep quiet publicly....If [Western countries] want Ukraine to be part of the G20 agenda, then why not mention their infamous Yugoslavia, Iraq, Libya, Syria and other campaigns [as well],” he asked.

Last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had telephoned Russian President Vladimir Putin and briefed him about his visit to Washington, where a major GE-HAL MoU on jet engine technology had been announced, paving the way for technology transfers from the U.S. to India. Mr. Babushkin said that as a “global power pursuing diversified foreign policy according to its national interests”, India’s partnership with the U.S. is natural, and Russia would not comment on another bilateral relationship.

“Unfortunately, the U.S. is preoccupied with this very purpose to get Russia out of India, weaken our cooperation and involve India in its geopolitical games,” he added, however, referring to U.S. sanctions against Russia, despite which India’s oil imports have taken two-way trade to \$44.4 billion.

“Whatever the U.S. is offering to India in the defence area, it cannot match the level and depth of the Russian-Indian cooperation,” Mr. Babushkin wrote in replies to The Hindu.

When asked if delays in the S-400 Triumf missile system deliveries to India indicated India-Russia defence ties would be affected by the Ukraine war, the envoy said all difficulties would be resolved to “mutual satisfaction”. “We are committed to implementing all agreements including the contract for the supply of advanced S-400 “Triumf” air defence systems according to our obligations,” he added.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/g20-summit-in-india-most-important-event-for-russia-says-diplomat-raising-speculation-putin-may-attend/article67049069.ece>



Fri, 07 Jul 2023

Free and Open Indo-Pacific Region Need of the Hour, Says Japanese Navy Commander

The current global strategic environment is characterised by an accelerating and increasingly complex shift in the balance of power, and intensifying competition among nations in numerous fields. On the other hand, global cooperation is required as never before in order to address security challenges, says Rear Admiral Nishiyama Takahiro, Commander Escort Flotilla One of Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF).

Rear Admiral Nishiyama Takahiro was addressing a joint press conference with Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, here on July 6 (Thursday), a day after the commencement of the seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise-2023 (JIMEX-23) being hosted by the Indian Navy off the Visakhapatnam coast up to July 10.

The Japanese officer said that having a free and open Indo-Pacific region was the need of the hour, and it required the cooperation between the friendly navies.

“Both Japan and India are maritime nations with vast oceans, and depend on the security of ‘Sea lines of communication’. For both the countries, securing the security environment in the Indo-Pacific is a lifeline that is vital for our own survival and prosperity,” he observed.

“Both the countries are in ‘Japan-India Special Strategic and Global Partnership’, and our bilateral security and defence cooperation is the key to peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region,” he said.

Rear Admiral Gurucharan Singh said this edition marked the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.

JIMEX-23 will witness the participation of INS Delhi, India’s first indigenously built guided missile destroyer, INS Kamorta, an indigenously designed and built anti-submarine warfare corvette, fleet tanker INS Shakti, a submarine, maritime patrol aircraft P8I and Dornier, ship-borne helicopters, and fighter aircraft.

JMSDF will be represented by the guided missile destroyer JS Samidare and its integral helicopters.

The exercise will be conducted for six days in two phases - a Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam, comprising professional, sports and social interactions, after which, the two navies will jointly hone their war fighting skills at sea and enhance their interoperability through complex multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh-free-and-open-indo-pacific-region-need-of-the-hour-says-japanese-navy-commander/article67049777.ece>



Fri, 07 Jul 2023

Battlefield Eye

By Atul Chandra

The Indian armed forces have large requirements for a wide range of battlefield surveillance radars and weapon locating radars. The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has been able to successfully develop a series of radars in this category, which are now in production with state-owned defence Public Sector Undertaking (PSU), the Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Today, there is a need for mobile, modular and interconnected sensor networks to provide soldiers on the battlefield with the required situational awareness. New generation advanced battlefield radars with detection ranges are lighter and more portable, require less power, and are far more maintenance friendly.

The next-generation of mobile lightweight Indian military radars will require greater participation from the Indian private sector in terms of design and development, production and life-cycle support and upgrades. Leveraging the capabilities of the Indian private sector will allow the DRDO and the BEL to focus on larger and more expensive strategic systems for the Indian armed forces.

At present, the Indian Army has a growing requirement for Low Level Light Weight Radars (LLLWR), which are mobile radars with a range of 50 km that can be transported by animal carts/trucks/helicopters for deployment in difficult terrain. The large requirement by the Indian

armed and paramilitary forces for mobile lightweight radars also means that there are sufficient volumes available to make a business case for Indian private sector firms.

The Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) was awarded a Buy & Make (India) contract in 2017 by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the supply of 31 Surface Surveillance Radars (SSR) for the Indian Navy. In March 2019, the company bagged another order from the navy for 23 ship borne 3D C/D Air Surveillance Radars (ASR) and related spares under the Buy & Make (India).

The TASL is now manufacturing a complete military radar at its Noida facility, India's first such assembly in the private sector. It has also successfully absorbed the manufacturing Transfer of Technology (ToT) for the SSRs from Terma A/S, Denmark, its foreign technology partner, and localised majority of the parts for the radar system. The TASL is supplying these radars for coastal surveillance and will provide maintenance, long term obsolescence management to the Indian Navy for these radars.

Emerging Requirement

In December 2022, the Army Air Defence (AAD) issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to acquire 40 units of a new Low Level Light Radar (Improved)–LLTR I–out of its authorisation of 54 such systems. The requirement for the LLTR I has arisen due to the rapid infrastructure improvements undertaken by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) along with People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) to enhance its capability to operate in India's northern borders, thereby creating a need for greater low-level aerial surveillance.

The AAD is eyeing an Active Electronically Scanned Artillery (AESA) 3D radar, which can provide low level surveillance of over 50 km and provide tactical control for AAD weapons. The light weight, easily portable and technologically advanced radar system will be used for protection of vital assets in the Tactical Battle Area (TBA) in mountainous terrain and in support of mobile and mechanised operations. The LLTR I system must have weight not exceeding 175 kg (excluding the weight of power supply unit and packaging). It must be capable of being deployed at altitudes up to 5000m MSL and be able to be mounted on vehicles for operation with mechanised/mobile formation.

The Army has not opted for the DRDO developed Aslesha Mk1 LLLWR, which is in service with the Indian Air Force (IAF). The S-Band, 3D, light weight, battery powered radar provides detection and tracking of all kinds of hostile aerial targets like fighter aircrafts, UAVs and helicopters. The Aslesha LLWR has been designed for deployment in diverse terrains like plains, deserts, mountain tops and high altitude regions. It can be easily transported by men, light vehicles and slung under a helicopter and is fast and easy to install and decamp. It can track while scanning up to 100 targets and has full 3D capability using multibeam technology and is enabled for networking with an Integrated Asterix protocol. It can detect targets from 30 m to 4,500 m (AGL).

The Aslesha Mk1 radar was developed based on a 2004 Indian Air Force (IAF) requirement for 36 LLLWRs. The development of the radar commenced in December 2004 and a production contract was concluded with the BEL in March 2012 for the supply of 21 Aslesha radars from June 2013 onwards.

Battlefield Surveillance

Another success when it comes to light-weight portable radars in the Indian context is the Battlefield Surveillance Radar-Short Range (BFSR-SR) developed by the DRDO. Over 1,100 of these lightweight, man-portable battery-powered surveillance radars are thought to be in service.

The BFSR-SR is capable of searching a specified sector and track by scanning for multiple targets and can detect, track and aid in the classification of moving targets. The entire radar system can be carried by two soldiers and operated on a tripod. The compact BFSR-SR weighs about 27 kg

(packed in two modules; each weighing not more than 15 kg) and can be set-up within six minutes. Foreign countries have also placed orders for the BFSR. As part of a modernisation effort undertaken in 2019, the existing control and display unit (CDU) was replaced by 15-inch military notebooks from Logic Instrument.

A newer variant is the Battlefield Surveillance Radar–Extended Range (BFSR-XR). The J-band Pulse Doppler radar is man-portable and battery powered and is capable of automatically detecting and displaying a range of moving targets such as pedestrians, group of men, vehicles, tanks, etc. It can track 99 targets simultaneously. The light-weight radar has built in test equipment (BITE) and built-in digital magnetic compass for North alignment. It can be used for border surveillance, battlefield surveillance, intelligence gathering, protection of sensitive sites and prevention of infiltration and illegal migration.

Passive Radar

The BEL also has a joint venture with Thales, incorporated in August 2014 as BEL-Thales Systems Limited (BTSL). This JV is dedicated to civilian and select ground-based military radars. The IAF ordered 19 Thales GS100 Low Level Transportable Radars (LLTR) in 2009. Six were delivered directly by Thales, followed by licence assembly of the remaining 13 radars by the BEL at its Ghaziabad facility.

The BTSL has also developed a variant of the Ground Alerter 100 for the IAF which suits Indian requirements. This passive radar does not emit any electromagnetic transmission making it completely undetectable. A demonstrator set-up was made in India for evaluation of the system in 2017. It has been deployed on a French MoD site for area sanitisation since 2015. The field proven system can be used for air surveillance and site protection missions and offers instant 360 degree detection capacity with 60 degree elevation coverage. It is particularly efficient for detection of small targets moving at low altitudes and low speed and provides alerts in case of a drone/UAV intrusion in a protected area. It can be deployed in standalone mode or integrated in a wide system, fixed or transportable solution.

Weapon Locating Radar

The Swathi WLR is now being inducted in greater numbers with the Indian armed forces. In March, the MoD contracted the BEL for procuring 12 Swathi Weapon Locating Radars (WLR) (Plains) for the Indian Army at an overall cost of nearly Rs 991 crore. The induction of all 12 WLRs in the Indian Army is planned to be completed by March 2025. The BEL has earlier received orders in 2022 for six more Swathi WLRs adapted for use in mountainous regions. At present it is thought that the army has at least 30 Swathi WLRs in operation.

The Swathi WLR was jointly developed by the DRDO lab, the Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE) and BEL. It was handed over to the Indian Army in March 2017 following extensive testing, which was undertaken in 2016. The Swathi WLR has a range of 50 km and is primarily designed to locate hostile shells, mortars and rockets. In its secondary role it can track and observe the fall of a shot from its own weapons and provide corrections if required. It can detect 81mm or higher calibre mortars from ranges of 4 to 20 km, 105 mm or higher calibre shells from 6 to 30 km, and 120mm or higher calibre free flying rockets from 6 to 40 km. The radar can track seven targets simultaneously.

According to a BEL spokesperson, ‘detection, location and tracking of the requisite targets is handled by the advanced algorithms and state-of-the-art hardware. The ability to locate enemy weapons from its first round and transmit the data of the required target to the counter fire elements for retaliatory strike before the target is redeployed is the key feature of the Swathi WLR.’ The system can perform weapon location of enemy artillery and direction of own artillery fire for friendly forces.

The Swathi WLR makes use of an electronically scanned phased array radar and uses advanced signal processing techniques for detection and tracking projectiles in the presence of ground, weather clutter and other forms of interference from Electronic Warfare (EW) systems. The truck mounted radar is designed for high mobility and quick deployment and consists of radar shelter, antenna and cooling mechanisms.

<https://forceindia.net/feature-report/battlefield-eye/>

Science & Technology News



Thu, 06 Jul 2023

ISRO to Launch Moon Mission Chandrayaan-3 on July 14. Check Details

Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) on Thursday announced that the moon mission Chandrayaan-3 will be launched on July 14. Isro's new heavylift launch vehicle LVM-3 carrying an integrated module will lift off at 2:35 pm from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

ISRO took to Twitter to announce the launch date. "Announcing the launch of Chandrayaan-3: LVM3-M4/Chandrayaan-3 Mission: The launch is now scheduled for July 14, 2023, at 2:35 pm IST from SDSC, Sriharikota," the space agency tweeted.

During G20 Space economy leaders meeting on launch of Chandrayaan-3, Isro chairman S Somnath said that Chandrayaan-3 will lift off on July 14 and if everything goes well, it will land on August 23.

"On July 14 at 2:35 pm, Chandrayaan-3 will lift off and if everything goes well it will land on August 23. The date is decided based on when is the sunrise on the moon, it will depend on the calculations, but if it gets delayed then we will have to keep the landing for the next month in September," he said.

On Wednesday, Isro integrated the encapsulated assembly containing Chandrayaan-3 with the launch vehicle LVM3 at SDSC.

Isro chairman S Somnath had last month announced that they are planning for the launch day of its third lunar mission between July 13-19.

"Chandrayaan-3 is almost ready. Final integration and testing are almost complete. Still, some more tests are pending, so we want to do it a little later. There were two slots available one in February and another in June. We would like to take June (2023) slot for the launch," he had said.

Chandrayaan-3 is a follow-on mission to Chandrayaan-2 to demonstrate end-to-end capability in safe landing and roving on the lunar surface.

According to the officials, the mission carries scientific instruments to study the thermophysical properties of the lunar regolith, lunar seismicity, lunar surface plasma environment and elemental composition in the vicinity of the landing site. In March this year, the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft successfully completed the essential tests that validated its capability to withstand the harsh vibration and acoustic environment that the spacecraft would face during its launch.

Chandrayaan-2, India's second mission to the moon, was launched on July 22, 2019, from Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota. But the mission failed after the Vikram lunar lander crashed on the Moon during the early hours of September 6.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/chandrayaan3-to-be-launched-on-july-14-announces-isro-101688644208853.html>



Fri, 07 Jul 2023

US Training for Astronauts will Help in Gaganyaan Preparation: ISRO Head

The training Indian astronauts receive in the US for a proposed flight to the International Space Station, as per a recently signed US-India agreement, will help in preparations for the Gaganyaan manned mission, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman S Somanath said Thursday.

The agreement was signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the US. "There was a statement on human spaceflight which was about India and the US working together for a combined human spaceflight to the ISS. This particular activity is something that the US wants and India also finds it beneficial for the Indian space program because once an Indian prepares to go to the ISS they will undergo a training program in the US and they are going to come back and discuss how the training and skills were imparted and this will help design our Gaganyaan better," Somanath said.

ISRO, which had earlier set a target of 2022 for carrying out the Gaganyaan mission, has now pushed the timeline for the mission to late 2024 or early 2025 to ensure the safety of the astronauts.

The ISRO chairman, who spoke to the media on the sidelines of a G20 meeting of space economy leaders in Bengaluru on Thursday, indicated that the Gaganyaan programme was trying to gather more expertise to ensure that the spacecraft is adequately designed and safe for flying astronauts. Somanath however refuted suggestions that Indian astronauts will first fly to the ISS on a US mission before a Gaganyaan mission is attempted.

"We have not signed any agreement or MoU on this. There has been a discussion at the highest level on having an Indian fly to the International Space Station with training in US facilities. This much is decided at the highest level and we have to work out the details of it in the coming days. An agreement will be signed by NASA and ISRO on this account," the ISRO chairman said.

"What I hope is that the agreement will define how many people are going to be trained, how many people are actually going to fly to ISS, what type of technical and scientific engagement will happen as part of this understanding. We are in the process of working these things out and we are connected to NASA and we are discussing it in different layers," Somanath said.

Earlier in June the ISRO chairman had stated that 'safety-first' had become the priority of the plans for the first Indian manned mission to space and that time frames for the mission would be decided on the basis of ISRO's confidence in sending astronauts into space and bringing them back safely.

"Today we have designed the Gaganyaan only on the basis of our one experienced Indian astronaut — Rakesh Sharma. Every now and then I have to call up Rakesh Sharma and find out 'Sir, how is the handle on the spacecraft' because he is the only person who can tell us," the ISRO chairman said. "If you call someone else no one is going to speak to you. We have four astronauts who have undergone training and they know some of the design. The Gaganyaan craft is currently designed from the information provided by these people," he said.

Somanath said that by training in the US for a flight to the ISS the Indian astronauts from the Indian Air Force who have been training for India's first manned mission will be able to provide inputs for the better design of the Gaganyaan spacecraft for India's maiden manned mission.

"We have to discuss (with the Indian astronauts) and find out the various features – how they sit, how they handle, how they dress, how they control emergencies, how they handle oxygen deficiencies, how they handle replacements. There are so many issues in a cockpit like environment and if we have more and more experienced people our designs will be better. We see it as a possibility," the ISRO chairman said about the collaboration with the US. Four Indian astronauts selected for the Gaganyaan mission have been trained so far at facilities in Russia.

Somanath said on Thursday that the manned ISRO mission is over a year down the line. "The current schedule is that there will be an unmanned mission in the beginning of next year. This year we will have the abort missions. The manned mission is being talked about for the end of 2024 or early 2025. It depends on various other scenarios," the ISRO chairman said.

Last month the ISRO chief had indicated that it has decided to adopt a cautious approach to India's human spaceflight program by putting the safety of the astronauts who will fly on the mission at the core of the project rather than target dates for achieving the mission.

"We have a different way of thinking now. The thinking is that we do not want to rush the decision. The primary objective of human space flight is a sure shot, safe mission. We have redefined it in such a way that we will achieve success in the very first attempt," Somnath said last month about the proposed Gaganyaan mission on the sidelines of an international conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations. The first human spaceflight mission had initially been given a 2022 target by the centre in order to coincide with 75 years of Indian independence but the program was thrown out of gear by the Covid pandemic which engulfed the country between 2020 and 2021, he said.

"Due to the pandemic we had a huge delay in what we wanted to achieve because it was not a production launch. We have to engineer it and work with industry so it was not possible for one and a half years. So we missed the schedule. We could not align the program with the Amrith Mahotsav (75 years of Independence)," the ISRO chairman said.

In order to achieve the redefined mission objective of safety and a sure shot mission ISRO has "enhanced the testing and demonstration missions substantially in the recent time and that involves additional abort missions," Somnath said.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/us-training-for-astronauts-will-help-in-gaganyaan-preparation-isro-head-8800327/>



Fri, 07 Jul 2023

National Research Foundation's Vision: A Chance at Genuine Innovation

By Deepak Pental

An eight-member committee was formed in 2017 to draft a national education policy with K Kasturirangan, a distinguished space scientist, as chairman. The committee's recommendations were published as National Education Policy 2020 (NEP-2020). The report highlighted the lacunae in the higher education system, the most prominent being the rigid boundaries of disciplines and

fields, thousands of stand-alone institutions, absence of research at most universities and colleges, and the lack of a transparent and competitive peer-reviewed research funding system. One of the major recommendations of NEP-2020 was the establishment of a National Research Foundation (NRF) to manage a competitive grant system for R&D in universities and institutes involved with higher education.

The Central government has finally given clearance to the establishment of NRF. A budget of Rs 50,000 crore for research has been envisaged for the next five years. The contribution of the Central government has been pegged at Rs 14,000 crore while the remaining 36,000 crore will be garnered from public sector enterprises, industry, foundations, and international research organisations. It has been proposed to convert the Science Engineering Research Board (SERB) attached to DST into NRF. SERB deals with extramural support through a system that is akin to a competitive grant system. The current annual budget of SERB is around Rs 1,000 crore, therefore the additional funds committed by the government will be around Rs 2,000 crore in a year.

The statement issued on the Cabinet decision has mentioned the many avowed goals of the proposed NRF. NRF will “seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of innovation throughout Indian universities, colleges, institutions, and R&D laboratories”, and “will bring focus on need-based research and help support research in the fields of natural sciences, engineering and technology, environmental and earth sciences and social sciences” (agriculture was probably left out inadvertently).

Is setting up NRF a momentous step or is it just the beginning of course correction? Before this question is answered, a reality check of the present state of funding is required. Currently, government funding for R&D is being spent in two modes — core grants and extramural grants. Most of the expenditure is through core grants. In the financial year 2016-17 — for which complete information is available from “Research and Development Statistics 2019-20 by DST” — Rs 42,074 crore was spent by the Central government on R&D. The three major recipients of the funding — DRDO (31.8 per cent), DoS (19.1 per cent), and DAE (11.3 per cent) almost completely work with core grants. The next five — ICAR (10.4 per cent), CSIR (9.5 per cent), DST (8.4 per cent), DBT (3.4 per cent), and ICMR (2.5 per cent) carry out open research, mostly in their own institutions: ICAR has 102, CSIR 38, DST 20 and DBT 15 institutions, all of which mainly funded by core grants.

Only the DST through SERB and DBT spend some part of their allocation on extramural support. In 2016-17, around Rs 2,454 crore (5.8 per cent of the total expenditure on R&D) was spent on extramural grants to fund around 4,711 projects. This small amount served the R&D aspirations of the central universities, state universities including agricultural universities, colleges, deemed universities, institutions of national importance like IISc and IITs, and even the national laboratories. The extramural grants from DST-SERB and DBT have been the lifeline for R&D in the universities and institutions of higher learning in the country.

Yes, India needs a strong competitive grant system as has been proposed by NEP-2020. The number of institutes/universities/medical schools has increased significantly. The number of doctoral students has also increased significantly — doctoral degrees awarded in 2018 were three times more than the number awarded in 2010. However, the overall funding under extramural grants has remained static. This has led to poor doctoral-level training which has very grim consequences for the country.

A competitive grant system provides the necessary leeway to accelerate research in new and emerging areas where interdisciplinarity is critical and can be used for collaborative work among institutions, between institutions and industry, and collaborations across the countries. Almost all the developed countries and newly emerged economies of East Asia have a very strong competitive grant system.

If funding through a competitive grant system is so prevalent worldwide, why does this type of funding constitute such a low percentage of public funding on R&D in India? Why are there so many hurdles and delays in the distribution of funds to investigators? Dealing with R&D through a competitive grant system requires an ability to handle a large number of projects, running into thousands, in a timely and fair manner. The timely release of funding from the government to the implementing agency, and onward to the investigators, is extremely critical.

What has recently bedevilled the extramural system run by DST-SERB and DBT needs to be mentioned. The decline in expenditure by various S&T departments in the Covid year — 2020-21 — was understandable, but the underutilisation of funds in 2021-22 has been a self-inflicted tragedy. A major reason for this dislocation was the insistence of the Ministry of Finance for an immediate switch to single treasury accounts when the S&T organisations or the universities/institutions were clueless about how it would operate.

As for the big picture, we are spending too little on R&D — only 0.65 per cent of our GDP (0.41 per cent by the public and 0.24 per cent by private funding). These investments are much lower than those being made by the developed and newly emerged economies of East Asia (more than 2 per cent of the GDP). Our academies dealing with science, technology, engineering, medicine, and agriculture submitted a report to the Central government in 2022 which contained some pertinent suggestions to improve our R&D ecosystem. These suggestions need to be discussed more widely within the scientific community along with a discussion on the procedural changes that will make the NRF-run competitive grant system a grand success.

A clear positive I see is the Prime Minister chairing the governing board of NRF. The first task of NRF administration should be to implement a time-bound, ICT-based system for managing the projects and disbursing a grant of Rs 3,000 crore in the launch year of NRF, hopefully 2023-24. As for garnering Rs 36,000 crore from non-government sources, it will indeed be an astounding development for R&D in the country if it can be managed.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/national-research-foundations-vision-a-chance-at-genuine-innovation-if-funding-through-a-competitive-grant-system-is-so-prevalent-worldwide-why-does-it-constitute-such-a-low-percentage-of-pu-8798926/>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Fri, 07 Jul 2023

Industry Needs to Work Closely with Govt on New Data Protection Bill: Experts

The approval of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill by the Cabinet presents a positive step towards instituting a data protection regime in the country and industry will need to work closely with the government so that the rules are simple and implementable, especially for the startup ecosystem, experts said on Thursday.

The clearance paves the way for the DPDP Bill to be introduced in Parliament in the upcoming Monsoon session, scheduled to begin on July 20."Parliamentary approval will likely be sought during the Monsoon session, and could further invite dialogue/resistance during discussions with stakeholders, which may render this exercise moot," Abhishek Malhotra, Managing Partner, TMT Law Practice, told IANS.

The Cabinet had earlier approved a version of the Data protection Bill as well, which met with similar resistance. "However, primarily, the DPDP Bill has received considerable endorsement from academicians, policymakers and industry players, and will enable India to safeguard citizen data with a light touch approach," Malhotra added.

The data protection bill specifies norms on management of personal data of residents in India and requires explicit consent from people whose data is collected and used. According to Malhotra, the penalty provisions will ensure that security considerations, data safety are paramount considerations for entities that have been at the receiving end of several data breaches during the post pandemic years.

"However, the government's role during enforcement, the institution of the Data Protection Board and formulation of delegated guidelines will provide practical direction, and must follow swiftly on the heels of the impending enactment of the Bill," he noted.

Gowree Gokhale, leader of the IP, technology, media and telecom practice at Nishith Desai Associates said that the bill is a much-awaited legislation. "The last version of the Bill was much simpler than the earlier versions. Various industries had given feedback on several aspects e.g. cross border transfer, handling of children's data, deemed consent provisions, the powers of the board in levying penalties. Hopefully, the government has addressed industry concerns in the next version," said Gokhale.

The industry will need to work closely with the government so that the rules are simple and implementable, especially for the start-up ecosystem, Gokhale added. The Bill also outlines practices for entities that collect personal data, how that data should be stored and processed to ensure there is no breach.--IANS

<https://ciso.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/grc/industry-needs-to-work-closely-with-govt-on-new-data-protection-bill-experts/101562072>

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