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Thu, 07 Nov 2024

Pune-based Nibe Group inks ToT agreements with DRDO, MoU with global arms major

Pune based defence manufacturing entity Nibe Group has signed multiple strategic partnership agreements including Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the global arms major Sig Sauer for the manufacturing of small arms.

The agreements between Nibe Group and other entities were signed when the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan visited the company's campus in Chakan. "Fostering indigenisation, innovation and self-reliance in defence manufacturing, General Anil Chauhan, CDS visited the Nibe Limited plant at Pune housing state-of-the-art missile complex, small arms manufacturing and precision VMC (Vertical Machining Centre) facility. Highlighting continued efforts being made by MoD towards Make in India over the past 10 years, CDS underscored the vital role of private industry in Defence R&D to build niche technical capabilities and achieve Atmanirbharta in Defence, thus enabling the Indian Armed Forces to achieve strategic autonomy." said a post on X by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff.

A press statement from Nibe Group said, "Nibe Group signed various Technology Transfer (TOT) agreements with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to enhance indigenous defence capabilities such as Anti-terrorist Vehicle (ATV), OPX Revelator which is an optronic explosive trace detector, laser photo-acoustic spectroscopy, 70T tank transporter, and shelter." OPX Revelator is a device used to detect and identify pure explosives as well as trace explosives in mixtures, IEDs, contaminants like mud, sand, sugar, salt, diesel oil etc based on the principle of optical image processing.

The press statement further said, "Nibe Group entered into an MOU with Sig Sauer, a world-renowned firearms manufacturing company from the USA to establish a joint venture in India. The JV will focus on the indigenous manufacturing of small arms, aligning with India's growing defence manufacturing capabilities. This partnership aims to enhance local production while reducing dependency on foreign imports."

The statement further read, "NIBE Group also signed an MOU with HBE, a South Korean defence firm, to set up a state-of-the-art forging facility in India. This collaboration will bolster India's manufacturing capacity by leveraging advanced forging technologies, contributing to the production of high-quality components for the defence and aerospace sectors, such as in Ammunition and Aeronautics."

The release quoted chairman and managing director of NIBE Group, Ganesh Nibe, as saying, “Inspired by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj’s leadership, NIBE aims to safeguard India’s interests and transform the country into a global manufacturing and technological powerhouse. Our goal remains fostering self-reliance in defence, aligning with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat of PM Narendra Modi, ensuring India’s defence forces have access to world-class, indigenous technology and solutions.”

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/pune-based-nibe-group-inks-tot-agreements-with-drdo-mou-global-arms-major-9658696/>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 07 Nov 2024

2nd Edition of Indian Military Heritage Festival to kick-start on Nov 8

**Project Shaurya Gatha to conserve and promote India’s military heritage
to be launched**

The 2nd edition of the annual Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF) is all set to kick start in New Delhi on November 8, 2024. The two-day festival aims to engage global and Indian think tanks, corporations, public and private sector undertakings, non-profits, academicians, and research scholars focusing on India’s national security, foreign policy, military history and military heritage. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan will inaugurate the festival this year, along with the three Service Chiefs.

The inauguration of the festival will also witness the launch of Project ‘Shaurya Gatha’. The project is an initiative of the Department of Military Affairs and the USI of India which aims to conserve and promote India’s military heritage through education and tourism.

Prominent publications on military topics will be a key highlight, with book releases including: *Because of This: A History of the Indo-Pak Air War December 1971* by Air Mshl Vikram Singh (Retd), *Valour and Honour* – a joint publication of the Indian Army and USI of India, and *Silent Weapons, Deadly Secrets: Unveiling the Bioweapons Arms Race* by Dr. Mrinmayee Bhushan, edited by Lt Gen Vinod Khandare (Retd), Principal Advisor MOD, among others.

This year, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** will present a photo exhibition highlighting its journey and achievements in contributing to Atmanirbhar Bharat through innovations in defence research.

The participation of NCC Cadets and students from schools and colleges across the Delhi NCR area will help inspire the younger generation to consider careers in the armed forces. Informative stalls from the three Services will showcase their roles and the various opportunities available for aspiring youth.

This year's festival is supported by the Ministry of Defence, Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, DRDO, Department of Tourism Ladakh, Government of Arunachal Pradesh, Ministry of Culture, and the British High Commission. More details can be found on the official website: indianmilitaryheritagefestival.in.

The inaugural IMHF held on October 21-22, 2023, at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, showcased India's military culture through performances by military bands from the three Services and various exhibits highlighting the diverse aspects and initiatives of the Indian armed forces.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2071562>

Defence News

Defence Strategic: National/International

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 07 Nov 2024

Indian official meets Afghan defence minister, offers use of Chabahar Port to enhance trade

In a significant move, an Indian delegation met Afghanistan's acting Defence Minister Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob and offered the use of Chabahar Port in Iran to businesses in his country, and also discussed extending humanitarian assistance to Kabul.

The delegation was led by J P Singh, the Joint Secretary of the PakistanAfghanistan-Iran division in the External Affairs Ministry. During a weekly media briefing here, External Affairs Ministry spokesman Randhir Jaiswal said that apart from Mohammad Yaqoob, the delegation also met with former President Hamid Karzai and other senior ministers, along with the heads of UN agencies.

"They had discussions on India's humanitarian assistance, also how the Chabahar Port can be utilised by the business community in Afghanistan for transactions and for export and import and any other thing that they would like to do," Jaiswal said in response to a question.

India does not recognise the Taliban regime that has been ruling Afghanistan since 2021. India has been providing humanitarian aid, including wheat, medicines and medical supplies, to the Afghan people from time to time.

"I also want to recall here that providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan is an important part of our assistance programme and so far in the last few months, and few years, we have dispatched several shipments of humanitarian assistance. We have longstanding ties with the people of Afghanistan, and these ties will continue to guide our approach towards the country," Jaiswal said.

Earlier this year, India signed a 10-year contract with Iran to develop and operate the Chabahar Port which was built with its assistance.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-official-meets-afghan-defence-minister-offers-use-of-chabahar-port-to-enhance-trade/articleshow/115055736.cms>



Fri, 08 Nov 2024

Assam Rifles conducts Inspector General's Conference 2024 in Shillong

The Assam Rifles conducted its Inspector General's Conference 2024 on November 6 and 7 where they discussed preparing a road map on the acquisition of new generation weapon systems and military equipment for Assam Rifles, a press statement read.

The conference was held at the Directorate General Assam Rifles Headquarters in Laitkor, Shillong and was chaired by Lieutenant General Vikas Lakhera, the Director General of Assam Rifles.

This conference was attended by Formation Commanders, Battalion Commanders, and Staff Officers of Assam Rifles. In the conference, Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera complimented all ranks of the Force for their professional conduct and performance under challenging circumstances.

He emphasised the importance of maintaining security and sanctity of the Indo-Myanmar Border and said that the Assam Rifles should be prepared for all contingencies and security challenges arising in the future.

One of the major highlights of the conference includes discussions on enhancing the capability and combat potential of the Assam Rifles and preparing a road map for the acquisition of new-generation weapon systems and military equipment for Assam Rifles.

To enhance overall efficiency, the paramilitary force put emphasis on the training and skill development of soldiers and the sharing of best practices amongst units. The Director General complimented the Formation and Unit Commanders for ensuring peace and tranquillity in their

respective areas of responsibility. He also exhorted them to be ever-vigilant on the volatile and dynamic environment under which the Force operates.

The Assam Rifles Inspector General's Conference 2024 provides a valuable platform for the Commanders to deliberate on critical issues related to combat potential, operational readiness, administrative issues and human resource management issues, the release stated.

The conference concluded with a renewed commitment from all attendees to uphold the highest standards of operational excellence and to continuously strive for excellence in all spheres.

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/assam-rifles-conducts-inspector-generals-conference-2024-in-shillong20241108081945/>



Thu, 07 Nov 2024

US poses greatest threat to freedom of navigation, overflight in South China Sea, claim Chinese experts

Amid the continuing tensions in the South China Sea, some experts in China claimed that the United States is creating problems in the region by hyping up fake narratives on freedom of navigation and overflight in the region.

According to Chinadaily, experts discussed the South China Sea issue at an event organised by the South China Sea Strategic Situation Probing Initiative (SCSPI).

Wu Shicun, the director of the academic committee of China's National Institute for South China Sea Studies, said, "The US-led militarisation of the South China Sea will intensify, but will be different as the White House changes hands. Unilateral actions by claimant states will become more diverse."

Long-seething territorial disputes in the South China Sea are a fault line in the US-China rivalry in Asia and likely will remain a major foreign policy concern for the next American president Donald Trump.

Yan Yan, director of the Research Center for Oceans Law and Policy, National Institute for South China Sea Studies, has been quoted as saying that it is the United States that poses the greatest threat to the freedom of navigation and overflight in the region.

They noted that the situation in the region is far less tense and volatile than projected by some media outfits. They claimed that the instability in the region was caused by the US picking sides and certain countries who are claimants in the South China Sea dispute trying to enforce their illegal interests.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/defence/2024/11/07/us-poses-greatest-threat-to-freedom-of-navigation-overflight-in-south-china-sea-claim-chinese-experts.html>

How Indian Army conducted its first patrolling since 2020 at Depsang in eastern Ladakh

The Indian Army has recently conducted successful patrolling of one of the patrolling points in the Depsang area of eastern Ladakh—the first such exercise since the aggressive melee in 2020 that led to a four-year standoff.

Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps had in a tweet, said, "Following the consensus reached between the Indian and Chinese sides for disengagement and resumption of patrolling in Depsang and Demchok, the Indian Army patrol to one of the patrolling points in Depsang was successfully conducted today. This is yet another positive step towards maintaining peace and tranquility on the LAC."

According to a report in The Print, a group of about 10 to 12 Indian soldiers, accompanied by ponies, crossed over to the bottleneck area that opens to the Depsang Plains and patrolled up to Patrolling Point 10. They covered a distance of about five kilometres.

India can carry out patrols up to points 10, 11, 11A, 12, and 13 in the area.

However, according to the report, it was decided that the Indian Army would patrol only one or two points in an attempt to take it slow and build trust with each other. The areas and patrolling status are expected to be gradually moved back to pre-April 2020 level.

Ministry of external affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had earlier said that following the disengagement agreement with China, the verification patrolling began on mutually agreed terms in both Demchok and Depsang.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/defence/2024/11/07/how-indian-army-conducted-its-first-patrolling-since-2020-at-depsang-in-eastern-ladakh.html>

China's J-15T unveiled; the advanced fighter jet set to redefine carrier warfare with heavy payloads, new tech

China has publicly unveiled J-15T—an upgraded variant of its Shenyang J-15 carrier-borne fighter jet designed for electromagnetic catapult launches—to be showcased at the China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition or Airshow China 2024 to be held from November 12 to 17. The

appearance follows the recent public debut of the land-based medium-weight stealth fighter Shenyang J-35A of the PLA Air Force.

J-15T is to be deployed on Fujian aircraft carrier of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN). Apart from electromagnetic catapult-assisted takeoff, the J-15T, which is equipped with domestically produced WS-10 engines instead of the Russian-made AL-31F engines found in J-15s, also has Short Take-Off, Barrier Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) and Catapult Assisted Take-Off Barrier Arrested Recovery (CATOBAR) capabilities.

The fighter jet can withstand the stresses of catapult launches as it has a launch bar, reinforced front landing gear, and a tail hook. The electromagnetic catapult-assisted takeoff capability of the fighter jet enables it to carry heavier payloads of fuel and weapons during missions.

J-15T reportedly incorporates advanced avionics, potentially including an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, which improves target acquisition and tracking capabilities.

The cockpit of J-15T includes a new wide-angle holographic head-up display (HUD) and a bar to ensure the safety of the pilot during catapult launches. According to reports, the fighter jet can support suppression of enemy air defenses (SEAD) missions with its long-range air-to-air missiles.

The first prototype flight of J-15T took place in July 2016. Since then, the variant has undergone extensive testing. This new variant is expected to significantly boost PLAN's powers as they can operate alongside stealth drones and other carrier-capable aircraft.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/defence/2024/11/07/chinas-j-15t-unveiled-the-advanced-fighter-jet-set-to-redefine-carrier-warfare-with-heavy-payloads-new-tech.html>



Thu, 07 Nov 2024

What Donald Trump 2.0 may bring India in defence, geostrategic synergy with United States

Trump's previous tenure as US president brought a blend of unconventional diplomacy and a clear focus on 'America First', often upending traditional alliances and resetting the global power matrix. Now, as he takes over the reins again, the question in the power corridors and think-tank circles is how his policies will shape US-India relations, particularly given the growing tensions in Asia, an expansionist China and the turbulence in the world economy.

When it comes to strategic alliances, Trump has been vocal about strengthening ties with India. Observers point out that during his earlier term, the Indo-US strategic relationship had attained important milestones, including the signing of foundational defence agreements such as the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA), Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) and Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA). These

pacts bolstered intelligence sharing, logistics support and security cooperation between New Delhi and Washington.

“If Donald Trump follows through on his commitment to counter China’s growing influence, we can expect an even-tighter security alignment with India,” said a New Delhi-based geopolitical expert, adding that both nations share a vision for a “free and open Indo-Pacific”, which could fructify into India playing a more prominent role as a US ally.

According to another expert, Trump, in his last tenure, had taken a tough stance on China, calling out Beijing’s ambitions in the South China Sea and beyond, and sparking a US-China trade war.

This confrontational approach, if revived, could benefit India in the backdrop of the Chinese aggression along its Himalayan borders. Though New Delhi and Beijing have recently reworked their ties by adopting a disengagement agreement on the border friction points in eastern Ladakh, it’s still too early to interpret how relations between the two neighbours will evolve hereon.

Trump, in his last stint, had signed some big defence agreements with India and helped revive groupings like the Quad. Under his presidency, the US might now deepen its engagement with this strategic alliance, which has India, Japan and Australia as the three other partners, to counterbalance China’s influence in the Indo-Pacific. For India, this means more support for its own efforts to counter China, though this could also invite a pushback from Beijing on multiple fronts.

In 2020-21, the US made an abrupt pullout from war-torn Afghanistan, which led to a resurgence of terrorism from the region, directly impacting India, particularly in Kashmir. To strengthen counterterrorism, the new US administration under Trump is expected to assist India.

At the same time, India’s neutral stance on the Russia-Ukraine war has created some tension between New Delhi and the West. However, Trump’s perceived good equation with Russian president Vladimir Putin could help India navigate its autonomy in diplomacy.

Besides strategic, expect more bilateral cooperation between Washington and New Delhi. The upward trend in Indo-US defence trade is likely to continue, driven by shared strategic interests and the need to counterbalance the growing Chinese military presence in Asia.

Defence trade is a critical pillar of the Indo-US relationship, and Trump has shown keen interest in selling US military equipment to India. Defence trade between India and the US shot up from \$1 billion in 2008 to over \$20 billion by 2023. This highlights India’s gradual shift from Russian dependency to diversifying its defence portfolio with US militaryware.

During the previous Trump administration, India had signed deals for Apache helicopters, Chinook heavy-lift helicopters, and MH-60 Romeo multi-role helicopters. If the Trump administration looks to strengthen this area further now, it may expedite advanced technology transfers and streamline defence exports to India, which could significantly enhance New Delhi’s defence capabilities.

However, this might come at the cost of increased pressure on India to choose sides, especially as the US expects its ally to curtail defence procurements from Russia. The Defense Technology and Trade Initiative, a collaborative effort between the US and India, has also encouraged production and co-development of critical defence technologies.

Some observers feel Trump's reelection brings an exciting new phase for India and Indian businesses aiming to expand their reach in the US. For India, the benefits could include advancements in border security, infrastructure projects and the opportunity to position itself as a global hub for expertise and innovation. On the other hand, the US stands to gain from India's expertise in medicine, technology and finance, all of which should foster shared growth and economic strength.

"The Trump administration will open the doors to a stronger and more resilient partnership between the two nations, promising enhanced collaboration across diverse industries. We can expect a new era of global advancement, with both India and the US setting a progressive tone for international cooperation," said Deepak Ohri, an Indian-origin entrepreneur based in the US.

Ohri added that a stronger bilateral relationship could lead to more trade and strategic investment, and mutual support for one another's ambitions in areas like technology, infrastructure and security. He said that while visa policies such as H1B present some challenges, there is hope for reforms, potentially through the expansion of categories like EB1 and EB7, that could facilitate smoother pathways for talent exchange and collaboration. What is significant is that both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and president-elect Trump enjoy a good rapport, with Trump showering praise on Modi in the past and Modi describing Trump as India's 'friend'.

India has several pending defence deals with the US, spanning a range of high-tech military equipment and collaborations aimed at modernising the armed forces and strengthening defence ties. With Trump returning to power, New Delhi could see these moving in the right direction.

India is looking to acquire 31 MQ-9B drones, also known as Predator B drones, from US manufacturer General Atomics to enhance its surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, particularly in the Indian Ocean Region, which has seen increased Chinese activity. While the contract was signed last month, India would like to have the deliveries at the earliest. Notably, it was during Trump's previous presidential tenure that the US administration had approved the sale of Predator drones to India, the first country outside the NATO to get such a sophisticated military platform.

Similarly, the agreement to coproduce F-414 jet engines for the indigenous Tejas Mark-2 aircraft will also require US attention. India would also like to see the deal going through to be able to address the depleting combat capabilities of the Indian Air Force. Similarly, India proposes to purchase the Integrated Air Defense Weapon System, a cutting-edge platform developed by Raytheon and Lockheed Martin. The US has approved the sale, but further negotiations are required to finalise the acquisition and deployment. Also on the cards is the follow-on orders for six AH-64 Apache helicopters for the Indian Army.

"These pending deals reflect an expanding Indo-US defence partnership amid shared concerns about regional security, particularly in light of China's growing military influence," said an Indian official. Issues like cost-sharing, technology transfer and operational requirements are still being discussed before finalising the deals.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india-today-insight/story/what-donald-trump-20-may-bring-india-in-defence-geostrategic-synergy-with-united-states-2629786-2024-11-07>

India to launch tri-services military exercise in eastern sector from November 8

After the disengagement between the Indian and Chinese soldiers in eastern Ladakh, India is set to launch a major tri-services military exercise named 'Poorvi Prahaar' on November 8. The 10-day-long exercise will bring together the assets of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, showcasing a synergy among the three forces and their combat readiness.

According to sources, the Army will deploy its units, artillery Guns, Light Combat Helicopters (LCH), and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). The Air Force will deploy its fleet of Su-30 MKI and Rafale fighters, C-130J Super Hercules transport aircraft and different helicopters, it said. Air Force's air bases in Kolkata, Hashimara, Paanagarh, and Kalaikunda will be activated during the exercise. The Indian Navy's elite MARCOS commandos will also actively participate in the exercise.

"The exercise is aimed at testing the synergy among the Army, Navy, and Air Force, strengthening our operational preparedness and defence posture in the eastern sector," a senior defence official said to India Today TV.

The tri-services exercise came days after the Indian and Chinese troops completed the disengagement at Depsang and Demchok, the two friction points in eastern Ladakh.

After the completion of the disengagement process, officials of both India and China are still negotiating for de-escalation of troops in the eastern sector. Talks are underway to secure a potential agreement with China, specifically concerning the restoration of patrolling rights in the Yangtse region of the Tawang sector, an area where India had restricted People's Liberation Army (PLA) access following a clash in December 2022, sources said

"Along with ongoing dialogue with China, India is upscaling its joint combat capabilities along the LAC," a source, aware of the matter, said.

"This dual approach strengthens India's leverage in pursuing a peaceful resolution, showing that we are prepared to defend our sovereignty," he added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is expected to visit the Tawang sector during Diwali, highlighting the government's commitment to bolstering defences in the region. His visit will coincide with preparations for Poorvi Prahaar, symbolising India's determination to protect its borders and maintain readiness for any contingencies along the LAC. The exercise marks a significant shift toward a more proactive defence strategy as India works to ensure stability and security along its borders with China.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/poorvi-prahaar-military-exercise-eastern-ladakh-army-indian-air-force-navy-india-china-disengagement-2629728-2024-11-07>

Navy might crucial as world in flux: Prez aboard Vikrant

President Droupadi Murmu said that the current flux in the geopolitical and security environment, especially in the maritime domain, demands that the country continue to strengthen its naval power. She was speaking on Thursday in Goa, where she spent the day aboard the INS Vikrant, witnessing an operational demonstration by the Navy.

President Murmu said that India's maritime might has received a significant boost with the induction and operationalisation of the INS Vikrant. She also cited the commissioning of India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine INS Arighaat, and the addition of advanced frontline warships and cutting-edge naval infrastructure.

She said that the Bulgarian president had called her to express his gratitude for the Indian Navy's rescue of a Bulgarian crew from a hijacked vessel earlier this year. The call shows that cooperation will further strengthen India's strong bonds with the people and govt of Bulgaria, she said. She described the exchange with the Bulgarian president a "special moment".

President Murmu acknowledged the steps taken to induct women across all ranks and roles and the proactive measures taken by the Indian Navy to leverage the complete combat potential of women sea warriors. The Indian Navy has appointed its first woman commanding officer onboard a warship. It has also decided that women will pilot naval aircraft.

Recently, the Indian Navy got its first woman helicopter pilot. The President said these achievements are significant in the Indian Navy's efforts to promote gender inclusivity. It is through the readiness and steadfast commitment of the Navy that India has ensured a safe and peaceful environment in the Indian Ocean Region, she said.

The President arrived at INS Hansa at Dabolim and was received by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, and Vice Admiral Sanjay J Singh, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.

A 150-member ceremonial guard of honour was presented to her. She thereafter embarked on the indigenous aircraft carrier, which was operating in the company of 15 frontline warships and submarines of the Indian Navy.

This was her maiden visit to Indian Navy ships at sea. The President witnessed several naval operations, including deck-based fighter take-offs and landings, missile firing drills from a warship, submarine operations, flypasts of over 30 aircraft, and the traditional steam-past of warships.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/navy-might-crucial-as-world-in-flux-prez-aboard-vikrant/articleshow/115062685.cms>

Business Standard

Thu, 07 Nov 2024

Coast Guard chief calls on Army chief, discusses ICG's capacity building

Indian Coast Guard chief Director General S Paramesh has called on Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and discussed key aspects of national security, ICG preparedness and capacity building.

Indian Coast Guard said in a post on X that the meeting held on Wednesday focused on various contemporary challenges, cooperation between security agencies, the need for modernisation and technological advancements to counter asymmetric threats:

"DG S Paramesh, PTM, TM, DGICG called on General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, ADC Chief of Army Staff and discussed key aspects of national security, ICG preparedness and capacity building. The meeting was focused over various contemporary challenges, cooperation between security agencies, need for modernisation and technological advancements to counter asymmetric threats," Indian Coast Guard said on X.

Later in the day, the Coast Guard chief called on President Droupadi Murmu and apprised her of the ICG's steadfast dedication to maritime law enforcement and national security. Coast Guard chief was accompanied by Priya Paramesh, president Tatrakshika.

"DG S Paramesh, PTM, TM, DGICG called on Smt Droupadi Murmu, Hon'ble President of India and apprised about the steadfast dedication of ICG for Maritime law enforcement and national security. The meeting also reflected on major ongoing projects, indigenisation efforts, operational readiness and tasking of ICG ships and aircrafts. Mrs. Priya Paramesh, president Tatrakshika accompanied DGICG and discussed Tatrakshika initiatives for welfare of the troops and families," Indian Coast Guard said on X.

On Monday, Indian Coast Guard Chief Director General S Paramesh called on Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and deliberated on the Indian Coast Guard's operational readiness and commitment towards coastal security, pollution response, search and rescue and capacity building.

ICG said in a post on X that the Monday meeting also discussed avenues for bolstering cooperation between the two services to address contemporary maritime challenges.

Coast Guard Chief Director General S Paramesh also met with Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and deliberated on Indian Coast Guard's operational readiness and its commitment to coastal security, pollution response, search and rescue operations, and capacity building.

The Indian Coast Guard mentioned in a post on X that the meeting also focused on ways to enhance cooperation between the two services to tackle contemporary maritime challenges. On October 15, after assuming charge as the Indian Coast Guard Chief, Paramesh said that he intends to follow an inclusive approach for the overall growth and progression of the maritime force.

"I am honoured to take over as the Director General of the Indian Coast Guard. It is an honourous responsibility that I intend to discharge to the best of my abilities. I intend to follow an inclusive approach for the overall growth and progression of the ICG," Paramesh had told reporters.

In another big development, VD Chafekar, a retired Additional Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, has been appointed as the seventh Executive Director of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) in Singapore. His term will last from April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2028.

"Additional Director General (Retd) VD Chafekar, formerly of the Indian Coast Guard, has been appointed as the seventh Executive Director of Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Centre (ReCAAP ISC) in Singapore. He was appointed as the Executive Director by the Governing Council of ReCAAP ISC for the period from April 01, 2025 till March 31, 2028. His selection underscores India's steadfast commitment to fostering regional maritime security and cooperation, aligning with the vision for a safer & more secure Indo-Pacific region," a Ministry of Defence release read.

Established in 2006, the ReCAAP ISC is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia. It has been instrumental in facilitating information sharing, capacity building, and collaborative efforts to address maritime security challenges across the region. As a key contracting party to ReCAAP ISC, India has continually supported and contributed to the organisation's mission, leveraging its maritime experience and resources to reinforce safety & security in Asian waters, as per the release.

https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/coast-guard-chief-calls-on-army-chief-discusses-icg-s-capacity-building-124110700107_1.html

R. REPUBLICWORLD.COM

Thu, 07 Nov 2024

No Roadblocks in India-China Disengagement, Patrolling Restored in Depsang and Demchok

Certain Media articles published on November 6 and 7, 2024, have speculated about roadblocks or objections in the disengagement process following the consensus reached between India and China on October 21, 2024. The Indian Army has firmly stated that the disengagement process in the Depsang and Demchok regions has been completed successfully, with no obstacles encountered during its implementation.

The Indian Army emphasized that the process, which includes the resumption of patrolling in traditional areas, is proceeding in a planned and organized manner as agreed. The claims published by certain media outlets regarding issues in the disengagement process are speculative and not

grounded in fact. The government has called on the concerned media houses to verify the information and exercise editorial discretion when publishing sensitive matters such as these.

Verification Patrolling Begins in Depsang and Demchok

On Saturday, November 9, 2024, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs confirmed that “verification patrolling” has commenced in the Depsang and Demchok areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. This is part of the ongoing disengagement agreement between India and China, which was finalized on October 21, 2024, to reduce tensions in the region and initiate the repair of bilateral ties. The resumption of patrolling marks a significant development in India’s ability to access key areas in the Depsang Plains, particularly close to the strategically important Daulat Beg Oldie post near the Karakoram Pass, and in the Demchok sector, located in the southeastern part of Ladakh. The Indian Army has confirmed that coordination for patrolling in these areas, previously obstructed by the Chinese, has now been established.

The Depsang Plains had been a contentious area, where the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) had restricted Indian access to five patrolling points: PP 10, PP 11, PP 11A, PP 12, and PP 13. Indian sources confirmed that these restrictions have been lifted, and patrolling has now resumed under the mutually agreed terms. This resumption of access to vital patrolling points is crucial for maintaining Indian security and operational readiness in the region. Indian Army officials highlighted the importance of these areas for ensuring the country's defence posture along the LAC.

Government's Response to Media Speculation

Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs, reiterated that the disengagement process has been carried out as per the mutual understanding reached between both countries. “As you are aware, the last phase of disengagement was agreed upon on October 21, 2024. As a result, verification patrolling has commenced in Demchok and Depsang,” Jaiswal said during a press briefing.

The agreement, which was reached after months of tense negotiations, signals a return to normalcy in these key areas. The resumption of patrolling in Depsang and Demchok represents a significant step toward restoring Indian control over its traditional patrol points, following years of disruption.

A Key Step in Rebuilding Bilateral Relations

This agreement is of immense importance, as it marks a shift in China’s stance toward the Depsang Plains and Demchok, areas which, until recently, were not included in the disengagement talks. Earlier, the Chinese had shown reluctance to discuss these regions while agreeing to disengage at other friction points such as Galwan (PP 14), Hot Springs (PP 15), and Gogra (PP 17A), as well as the north and south banks of Pangong Tso. The current breakthrough in Depsang and Demchok reflects both countries’ desire to reduce tensions and enhance mutual trust.

The Chinese side had long refused to discuss these regions, but following the breakthrough agreement on October 21, the special representatives of India and China will meet soon to discuss the long-standing boundary issue in more depth.

This agreement is viewed as a positive development for regional security, particularly as both countries look to manage their relationship more effectively after the border clashes of 2020. The shift toward normalizing patrolling rights in these sensitive areas is expected to bring more stability to the region, which has been fraught with tensions since the Chinese incursions in Eastern Ladakh were first detected in May 2020.

<https://www.republicworld.com/defence/indian-armed-forces/no-roadblocks-in-india-china-disengagement-patrolling-restored-in-depsang-and-demchok>



Fri, 08 Nov 2024

“Faster, Cheaper & More Effective” Than U.S. Patriots, Russia Pitches S-350 ‘Vityaz’ AD Systems In China

Amid a dramatic fall in Russian arms exports, Moscow will display the three pillars of its air defense—the S-400 Triumf, the S-350 Vityaz, and the Buk-M3 (Viking)—at the 15th edition of China’s Zhuhai Air Show, which takes place from November 12 to 17.

The announcement was made by the press office of state-owned Almaz-Antey Air and Space Defense Corporation on November 7. It comes after the Russian Su-57 fifth-generation stealth aircraft touched down in China to participate in the air show for the first time. Russia is also displaying a host of advanced radars and MANPADS at the air show.

“During the exhibition, models of the long-range anti-aircraft missile system S-400 ‘Triumph,’ the S-350E ‘Vityaz’ air defense system, and the medium-range anti-aircraft missile system ‘Viking,’ short-range air defense systems of the ‘Tor’ family and the anti-aircraft gun and missile system ‘Tunguska-M1,’ as well as the anti-aircraft gunners of the ‘Typhoon-Air Defense(E),’ will be displayed,” the message from the company stated.

Further, the company’s representatives will discuss with partners and prospective clients the modernization of air defense systems, maintenance and repair of the previously delivered equipment, and operational training and product use.

As China’s biggest biennial air show, the Zhuhai Air Show draws massive crowds of spectators. Some pro-Russian military watchers said this would be an excellent opportunity for Russia to market some of its arsenal’s best air defense systems. The S-400 and S-350 Vityaz were also displayed at the 14th edition of the Chinese air show held in 2022, as reported by EurAsian Times at the time.

Over the last few years, Russia has sold the S-400 Triumf to multiple countries, including India, China, Belarus, Algeria, and Turkey. However, it has been looking for foreign customers for the cutting-edge S-350, the Buk-M3, and the Viking systems.

Notably, these systems' upcoming participation in the Zhuhai Air Show comes at a time when Russia is struggling to fulfill scheduled export orders as it remains saddled with the ongoing Ukraine War. With the burgeoning demand for arms domestically, Russian arms exports have taken a hit. For instance, the delivery of the S-400 ordered by India has been delayed.

Several states that have traditionally bought Russian weapons are now looking for alternatives due to Russia's production woes due to Western sanctions and delays in deliveries. Russia's inability to fulfill orders in a timely manner has led to discontent among allies. Against this backdrop, Russia's promotion of its military equipment for export is intriguing. Analysts surmise that Russia may be positioning its air defense systems to potential buyers based on the combat experience they have accrued in the Ukraine war.

Russian air defenses have been praised throughout the war for their incredible resilience despite their relatively inconsistent combat effectiveness. There is speculation that Russia is likely banking on the fact that Russian air defense systems have seen more combat than their analogs in the international arms export market.

Inconsistent Performance Has Not Dented Appeal

Russia touts the S-400 as the world's best air defense system. However, the ongoing Russian invasion has yielded mixed results regarding the efficacy of S-400s. In November 2023, the UK Ministry of Defense claimed that Ukraine had likely destroyed three S-400s in October 2023. More such claims about the S-400s' destruction were made in June, August, and September this year.

Despite these losses, the appeal of the S-400 has not waned. This is due to its advanced and unparalleled capabilities. For instance, despite their low-altitude flight paths, the S-400 can intercept cruise missiles at a range of about 40 kilometers. The missiles use semi-active or active radar homing. A full unit can engage 36 targets simultaneously, and two missiles can engage a single target. Even though the West often takes Russian claims with a pinch of salt, analysts in the West have acknowledged the system's efficacy.

The Buk-M3 Viking

Another system that is set to be displayed at Zhuhai is the Buk-M3, whose export version is popularly known as Viking. It is a medium-range combat air defense system designed to take on maneuverable aerodynamic targets, engage radio-contrast ground targets, and hit naval targets under intensive enemy fire and jamming. The system has been operational in the so-called 'special military operation' zone since March 2022.

While it has been credited with shooting down an array of aerial threats throughout the conflict, several Buk-M3s have been struck by Ukraine, much like other air defense systems deployed at the frontline. For instance, last month, Ukraine claimed the destruction of at least two Buk-M3. It may be pertinent to note that most Russian air defense systems have proven to be vulnerable to Ukrainian First Person View (FPVs) or kamikaze drones.

However, analysts have observed that the vulnerability is not unique to Russia, and the emergence of the swarm of drones poses a threat to all advanced air defense systems worldwide. For instance, in October, Russia claimed to have hit two Ukrainian Patriot Air Defense Systems; however, Kyiv denied the claim. On its part, previous Russian media reports have claimed that the Buk-M3 is

unrivaled globally and virtually twice as effective as its previous iterations, thanks to its new missile. Almaz-Antey exhibited the Viking surface-to-air missile system at IDEX 2023. The third major system appearing at the Zhuhai Air Show has also gained the most traction in Russian media for quite some time: the S-350 Vityaz.

Russia Looking For Buyers For S-350

Russia has extensively deployed the S-350 against Ukraine. As previously reported by EurAsian Times, the system was deployed at an airbase over 40 miles away from Ukraine in August 2022 in what was touted to be its first operational combat deployment. The system has been credited with several significant kills, much to the chagrin of Ukrainian forces.

According to reliable sources, the S-350 Vityaz complex exhibits impressive operational capabilities. It can engage aerodynamic air targets, such as aircraft, drones, cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, and similar devices, at an impressive range of 120 to 150 kilometers, and it can efficiently engage ballistic targets at a maximum range of 25 kilometers. With the ability to intercept targets moving up to two kilometers per second, the Vityaz missiles provide quick and effective protection against threats in the air. A wheeled system with remarkable mobility, the S-350 can be quickly deployed into combat zones within minutes.

Head of the Military-Political Analysis Bureau Alexander Mikhailov said at Aero India 2023 that the S-350 Vityaz surface-to-air missile system can hit targets more precisely and would be less expensive than the US-made Patriot. He noted that while the Vityaz anti-aircraft missile system is comparable to the Patriot, the Russian missiles were faster and could hit low-flying targets. “The Patriot does not shoot down targets flying at an altitude of lower than 100 meters, whereas the Vityaz knocks out targets at an altitude of 10 meters and higher.”

As of now, only Algeria is believed to have acquired the system. The S-350 proved its mettle in May 2023 by autonomously detecting, tracking, and destroying Ukrainian air targets without operator intervention. This remarkable achievement marked the first instance where a system operated fully automatically using artificial intelligence in combat conditions.

At the time, the Vityaz system could simultaneously function in active and passive radar modes. This dual-mode technique greatly improved the complex’s detection and classification capabilities and also increased its noise immunity—or resistance to outside interference. The system’s appeal has only been on the rise. As observers stated on social media, Russia is potentially using the exhibition at China’s most-awaited and keenly followed air show to regain its dominant position as one of the world’s biggest arms exporters.

<https://www.eurasiantimes.com/russian-s-400-s-350-buk-m3-ads-to-be-displayed-at-china-air-show/>



Thu, 07 Nov 2024

Artificial livers to grow in the International Space Station

Liver tissue experiments planned for the International Space Station may ultimately provide alternatives to livers for transplantation, researchers reported at the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in San Francisco.

Experiments completed thus far indicate that the unique conditions of low Earth orbit, within 1,200 miles from Earth, will help the liver tissues to self-assemble with enhanced functionality, compared to Earth-based methods, they said.

“This represents a critical step toward creating viable liver tissue implants that could serve as an alternative or adjunct to traditional liver transplants,” study leader Dr. Tammy Chang of the University of California, San Francisco said in a statement.

The cells in the experiments are created from normal human cells reprogrammed to act like embryonic stem cells, which means they can change into many different types of cells. Unlike Earth-bound tissue engineering methods, microgravity allows the cells to float freely and organize naturally, resulting in more physiologically accurate tissues, the researchers explained.

They have developed a customized bioreactor, dubbed the "Tissue Orb," to house their experimental tissues, which simulates the natural blood flow process of human tissues. The researchers are also working on advanced cooling techniques to allow for safe transport of engineered tissues from space to Earth, maintaining them below freezing without damaging them.

This technology could extend the shelf life of engineered tissues and potentially be applied to whole organs, they said. The spaceflight experiment is scheduled for launch in February 2025.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/science/artificial-livers-to-grow-in-the-international-space-station-3266306>

