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June
2023

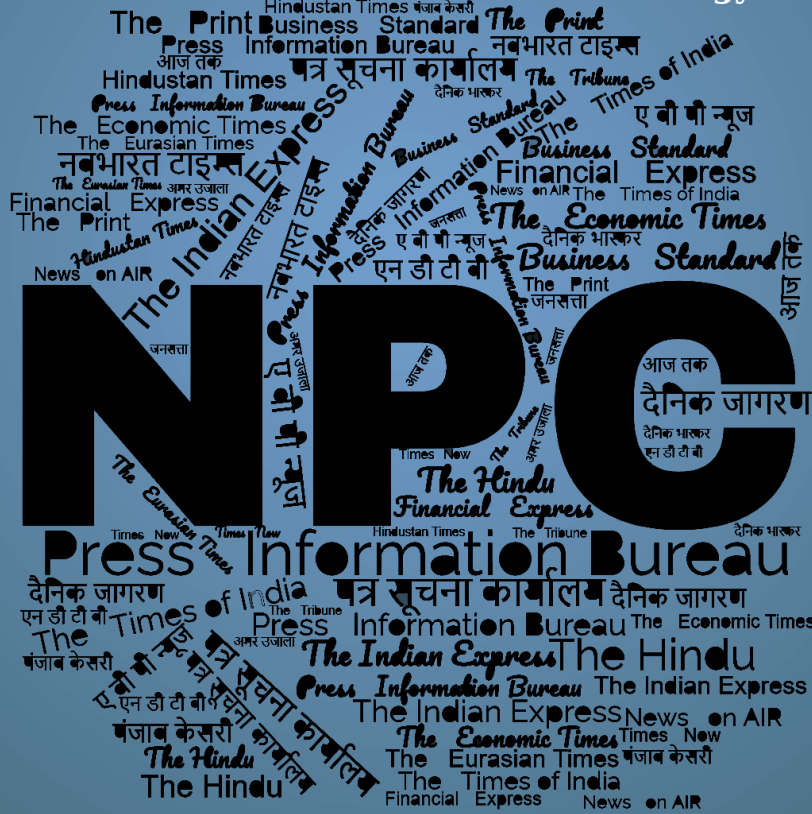
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

डीआरडीओ समुदाय को डीआरडीओ प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा नीतियों, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों और विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी की नूतन जानकारी से अवगत कराने हेतु दैनिक सेवा

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नवभारत टाइम्स

Thu, 08 Jun 2023

DRDO ने अग्नि प्राइम बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल का किया सफल परीक्षण, जानें क्यों है खास

रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) ने नई पीढ़ी की बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल अग्नि प्राइम का सफल परीक्षण किया। मिसाइल का परीक्षण ओडिशा के तट पर डॉ. एपीजे अब्दुल कलाम द्वीप से किया गया। रक्षा मंत्रालय के एक अधिकारी ने गुरुवार को कहा कि मिसाइल का परीक्षण अपने उद्देश्यों में सफल रहा। मंत्रालय के अनुसार, मिसाइल के तीन सफल विकासात्मक परीक्षणों के बाद यह पहला प्री-इंडक्शन नाइट लॉन्च था। इस तरह का लॉन्च सिस्टम की सटीकता और विश्वसनीयता की पुष्टि करता है।

रडार, टेलीमेट्री और इलेक्ट्रो ऑप्टिकल ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम तैनात

मंत्रालय ने कहा, यह परीक्षण 7 जून की रात में किया गया। रडार, टेलीमेट्री और इलेक्ट्रो ऑप्टिकल ट्रैकिंग सिस्टम जैसे रेंज इंस्ट्रुमेंटेशन को दो डाउन-रेंज जहाजों सहित विभिन्न स्थानों पर टर्मिनल बिंदु पर तैनात किया गया था, ताकि उड़ान डेटा को कैचर किया जा सके। डीआरडीओ और सामरिक बल कमान के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने इस परीक्षण को देखा। रक्षा मंत्री, राजनाथ सिंह ने इस परीक्षण के लिए डीआरडीओ और सशस्त्र बलों को बधाई दी।

डीआरडीओ के चीफ क्या बोले?

रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास विभाग के सचिव और डीआरडीओ के अध्यक्ष डॉ. समीर वी. कामत ने डीआरडीओ प्रयोगशालाओं की टीमों और परीक्षण में शामिल होने वालों की सराहना की। डीआरडीओ और सामरिक बल कमान के वरिष्ठ अधिकारियों ने सफल उड़ान परीक्षण देखा। इस टेस्ट के सफल होने के बाद सशस्त्र बलों में इस बैलिस्टिक मिसाइल को शामिल करने का रास्ता और साफ हुआ है।

अग्नि प्राइम क्या है?

अग्नि प्राइम मिसाइल अग्नि सीरीज की ही नई जेनरेशन की मिसाइल है। इस मिसाइल का वजन 11000 किलोग्राम है। यह मिसाइल 2000 किलोमीटर की दूरी तक किसी भी लक्ष्य को मार गिराने की क्षमता रखती है। 34.5 फिट लंबी मिसाइल पर एक या मल्टीपल इंडिपेंडेंटली टारगेटेबल रीपेंट्री व्हीकल (MIRV) वारहेड लगाया जा सकता है। यह मिसाइल एक साथ कई टारगेट को तबाह कर सकती है।

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/drdo-news-agni-prime-ballistic-missile-successfully-flight-tested-off-odisha-coast/articleshow/100845065.cms>



**Press Information Bureau
Government of India**

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 08 Jun 2023

‘Agni Prime’ Ballistic Missile Successfully Flight-Tested by DRDO off Odisha Coast

New Generation Ballistic Missile ‘Agni Prime’ was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 07, 2023. During the flight test, all objectives were successfully demonstrated.

This was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the accuracy and reliability of the system. Range Instrumentation like Radar, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking Systems were deployed at different locations, including two down-range ships, at the terminal point to capture flight data covering the entire trajectory of the vehicle.

Senior officials from DRDO and Strategic Forces Command witnessed the successful flight-test, which has paved the way for induction of the system into the Armed Forces.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO and the Armed Forces for the success as well as the copy-book performance of the New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni Prime.

Secretary Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts put in by the teams of DRDO laboratories and the users involved in the test launch.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1930689>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 08 Jun 2023

India Flight-Tests New-Gen Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime'

India has successfully carried out a night launch of new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' from the Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha, marking a boost to the country's strategic weaponry. The first pre-induction night launch of the missile with a strike range of 1,000 to 2,000 km was carried out on Wednesday by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the elite strategic forces command, officials said.

The defence ministry said the test-firing met all the desired objectives and that it paved the way for induction of the system into the armed forces.

The test-firing of the missile came amid India's lingering border row with China.

"New generation ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on June 7," the ministry said. "This was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the accuracy and reliability of the system," it said in a statement.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO and the armed forces for the success as well as the "copy-book" performance of the new generation ballistic missile.

The ministry said "range instrumentation like radar, telemetry and electro optical tracking systems were deployed at different locations, including two down-range ships, at the terminal point to capture flight data covering the entire trajectory of the vehicle".

"Senior officials from the DRDO and Strategic Forces Command witnessed the successful flight-test, which has paved the way for induction of the system into the Armed Forces," it said.

Chairman of the DRDO Samir V Kamat appreciated the efforts put in by the teams of DRDO laboratories and the users involved in the test launch.

In December, India successfully test-fired Agni-V missile that can strike targets at ranges up to 5,000 km.

Agni-V can bring almost the entire Asia including the northernmost part of China as well as some regions in Europe under its striking range.

The Agni 1 to 4 missiles have ranges from 700 km to 3,500 km and they have already been deployed.

In April, India successfully carried out the maiden flight trial of an endo-atmospheric interceptor missile from a ship off the coast of Odisha in the Bay of Bengal as part of its ambitious ballistic missile defence programme.

The purpose of the trial of the sea-based missile was to engage and neutralize a hostile ballistic missile threat thereby elevating India into an elite club of nations having such a capability.

India has been developing capabilities to intercept hostile ballistic missiles both inside and outside the earth's atmospheric limits.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/agni-prime-ballistic-missile-successfully-flight-tested-by-drdo/articleshow/100842943.cms>



Thu, 08 Jun 2023

India Successfully Carries out Night Launch of New-Gen Ballistic Missile 'Agni Prime'

India successfully carried out the night launch of the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni Prime' on Thursday from the Abdul Kalam Island off coast of Odisha. The first pre-induction night launch of 'Agni Prime', was successfully flight-tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday at around 7.30pm, a statement said.

As per the official statement, during the flight test, all objectives were successfully demonstrated.

This was the first night launch conducted by the users after three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating the accuracy and reliability of the system.

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted on Thursday, "India's integrated missile development program continues to acquire more cutting edge firepower! 'Agni Prime' ballistic missile successfully flight-tested by DRDO! Congratulations to @DRDO_India @DefMinIndia & all other organisations on this achievement which does proud!"

“First Pre Induction night launch of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni Prime was successfully conducted off the coast of Odisha on 07 June 2023,” tweeted DRDO on Thursday morning.

Agni Prime

The 'Agni Prime', or 'Agni-P', is a nuclear-capable new-gen advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles; it is a two-stage canisterised missile with a maximum range of 2,000 km.

Significantly, it weighs 50 per cent less than the Agni 3 missile and has new guidance and propulsion systems. In addition, since it is canisterised, it can be launched from rail or road, be stored for longer periods and can be transported as per operational requirements.

India in October last year had successfully test-fired 'Agni Prime' from off the coast of Odisha. Defence officials said all test objectives were met and said that the third consecutive (and successful) test of the 'Agni Prime' had 'established the accuracy and reliability of the system'.

The first test was in June 2021, with the second six months later - in December. On both those occasions too the missile 'followed textbook trajectory and met all mission objectives with a high level of accuracy', officials said.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-successfully-carries-out-night-launch-of-new-gen-ballistic-missile-agni-prime-101686235494896-amp.html>



Thu, 08 Jun 2023

Agni P is Ready! Can Counter Pakistan – Know more about it

Agni Prime or the Agni P, a medium-range ground-based ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead was successfully tested on Wednesday (June 7, 2023). The flight test set the path for the system's inclusion into the Indian Armed Forces.

The ballistic missile of the next generation was successfully tested by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and all objectives were met successfully during the flight test.

According to the official statement issued by the Ministry of Defence (June 8, 2023) this was the first pre-induction night launch conducted by the users following three successful developmental trials of the missile, validating its accuracy and dependability.

About the missile

It is a two-stage, surface-to-ground, solid-propellant missile with a range of up to 2,000 kms.

To capture flight data that encompassed the whole trajectory of the vehicle, range equipment such as radar, telemetry, and electro-optical tracking devices were installed at various sites, including two down-range ships near the terminal point of the range.

Agni Series

So far, India has in its arsenal ballistic missiles: “Agni-1” with a range of 700 kms, “Agni-2” with a range of 2,000 kms, “Agni-3” and “Agni-4” with a range between 2,500 and 3,500 kms and “Agni-5” with a range that is larger than 5,000 kms. It is common knowledge that the Agni-6 missile, which can be launched from a submerged platform and has a range of up to ten thousand kilometres, is also in the process of being created.

The Agni Prime missile is the successor to the Agni-I and Agni-II missiles that are now on operational duty with the Strategic Forces Command. It has substantial upgrades, such as an improved composite motor casing, a manoeuvrable reentry vehicle (MaRV), and improved propellants, navigation, and guidance systems.

In the beginning, it was known as Agni-1P, and it was said that it had two stages that utilised the more recent technologies from Agni-IV and Agni-V in order to improve its precision and reliability.

The Agni-P's MaRV enables the missile to deliver the warheads to two different places. The missile is kept secure inside a tandem dual canister launcher that has been hermetically sealed, and it is transported via road and rail. It employs a system for cold launch and has the ability to fire in salvo mode.

For the final portion of the flight, the MaRV is equipped with four delta fins so that it can successfully dodge the missile defence system. It is a new type of missile that is part of the Agni Series, and it weighs only one-third as much as Agni-III. The Agni-V project perfected the use of composite materials, and those materials are being put to use in both the first and second stages of the Agni-P missile. This allows for significant weight savings.

Because its range is insufficient to reach all sections of mainland China, analysts believe that the primary purpose of Agni-P is to counter the Armed Forces of Pakistan. However, if it were to be launched from a strategic place, it would be able to attack western, central, and Southern China.

Furthermore, it would put vital Chinese territories at risk, such as Chengdu, Sichuan, and potentially even Hong Kong. India has developed the Agni V missile as a means of reaching the economically developed East Coast of China as well as major cities in China, such as Beijing or Shanghai. The Agni V missile has also finished its night launch criteria in preparation for commencing serial production and deployment.

Although there was a lot of speculation that Agni-P might replace Prithvi-I, Agni-I, and Agni-II after it was inducted, government sources dismissed any notion that suggested this would happen. It is anticipated that the DRDO will use this missile as the basis for the development of a "carrier killer." In addition, the Indian Ministry of Defence has already issued the directives necessary to replace the Prithvi series of missiles with an indigenous short-range ballistic surface-to-surface (SRBM) missile called Pralay. This conventional weapon has a range of between 150 and 500 kms.

One of the goals of its development is to obtain maximum manoeuvrability against missile defence systems while also achieving improved accuracy for precision strikes.

The test demonstrates that Agni Prime is prepared for an anti-ship mission and also has an increased quick response and accuracy. This is expected to significantly strengthen the precision strike capability of the Indian armed forces. The missile has the capability of hitting strategic targets with a nuclear payload as well as tactical targets with a conventional warhead. When used in either a tactical or strategic capacity, an Agni Prime with a payload of between 1.5 and 3 tonnes is capable of causing tremendous damage.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-agni-p-is-ready-can-counter-pakistan-know-more-about-it-3118673/>

DRDO on Twitter



#DRDOUpdates | First Pre Induction night launch of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni Prime was successfully conducted off the coast of Odisha on 07 June 2023.

pib.gov.in/PressReleasePa...

#Atmanirbharbharat

@DefenceMinIndia

@SpokespersonMoD



12:10 pm · 8 Jun 2023 · 195K Views

India's Nuke Arsenal to get Boost with 'Agni Prime' Missile

India is set to induct a new ballistic missile capable of delivering nuclear warheads up to 2,000 km away, with the defence ministry on Thursday announcing that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a crucial pre-induction launch of the Agni Prime missile from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast a day earlier.

This was the Agni Prime's first pre-induction night launch and validated "the accuracy and reliability" of the weapon system, the defence ministry said in a statement. The latest test followed three successful daytime trials to prove the new weapon's capabilities.

"The successful test has paved the way for induction of the system into the armed forces," the statement said. It is a canisterised missile that can be launched at short notice and has a range between 1,000 km and 2,000 km.

The new missile comes with significant advancements in technology including composites, propulsion system, and guidance and control mechanisms, officials tracking the project said. It will strengthen India's credible deterrence, they added.

"All objectives were successfully demonstrated during the flight test. Radar, telemetry and electro-optical tracking systems were deployed at different locations, including two down-range ships at the terminal point to capture flight data covering the entire trajectory of the vehicle," the statement said. Top officials of the DRDO and the Strategic Forces Command witnessed the flight test.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and the armed forces for the copy-book performance of the missile during the test.

The other variants of the Agni missiles developed by DRDO include the 700-km Pakistan-specific Agni-I, 2,000-km range Agni-II, 3,000-km range Agni-III, 4,000-km range Agni-IV and the 5,000-km range Agni-V missile. The Agni missiles form the backbone of India's nuclear deterrence.

The Agni Prime is set for induction 25 years after the Pokhran-II tests in Rajasthan laid the foundation for achieving self-reliance in the nuclear weapons development programme, and confirmed India's capability to build more powerful weapons with higher yields.

India's nuclear doctrine, promulgated in 2003, commits to "no first use" , with weapons to be used only in retaliation against a nuclear attack on Indian territory or Indian forces. In a stand that reflects the capabilities India has built over the years, the doctrine states nuclear retaliation to a first strike will be massive and designed to inflict unacceptable damage.

Retaliatory attacks can only be authorised by the civilian political leadership through the Nuclear Command Authority consisting of a political council and executive council. The Prime Minister chairs the political council, while the national security advisor chairs the executive council.

India should look at enhancing the range, numbers, accuracy and yield of its nuclear weapons factoring the changes taking place in China and Pakistan into its decision making, former navy chief Admiral Arun Prakash (ret'd) earlier said. India has a fully operational nuclear triad of airborne, naval and land-based platforms.

China has a stockpile of 350 nuclear warheads, Pakistan has 165 and India 160, according to a 2022 yearbook on Armaments, Disarmament and International Security published by Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri).

China is in the middle of a substantial expansion of its nuclear arsenal, the Sipri yearbook said.

The US also believes that China is modernising, diversifying and expanding its nuclear capabilities at a swift pace. In a report to the US Congress last year on military and security developments involving China, the Department of Defense said If China continued the pace of its nuclear expansion, it would likely possess a stockpile of 1,500 warheads by 2035. While there is little official information in the public about India and Pakistan's nuclear weapons programmes, the SIPRI yearbook said the two countries appear to be expanding their nuclear arsenals, and both introduced and continued to develop new types of nuclear delivery systems in 2021.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/indias-nuke-arsenal-to-get-boost-with-new-missile-101686248902788.html>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 08 Jun 2023

Punjab: BSF Recovers Pakistani Drone Near International Border in Amritsar

On June 7, troops of BSF heard a mild buzzing sound of a suspected drone near Bhaini Rajputana village in Amritsar. BSF troops immediately reacted to intercept the drone. During the search, a Pakistani drone in broken condition was recovered from the farming field on the outskirts of the village. The operation was jointly conducted by BSF and Punjab Police. The recovered drone is a Quadcopter of model DJI Matrice 300RTK series.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/punjab-bsf-recovers-pakistani-drone-near-international-border-in-amritsar/videoshow/100841710.cms>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 08 Jun 2023

No Normalcy in Relations with China until Borders not Peaceful: Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday said that China tried to coerce India in 2020 during the Galwan stand-off by violating agreements, so unless there was peace on the borders, there cannot be normalcy in bilateral relations.

While addressing a press conference on the occasion of highlighting the achievements of the NDA government's nine years in office, the Minister said that there were challenges of cross-border terrorism when it comes to bilateral relations with Pakistan, which India has never tolerated.

He said that India does not get swayed by coercion, inducements and false narratives.

Jaishankar added that India has de-legitimised cross-border terrorism.

However at the same time, he explained that bilateral engagement will continue with China, as disengagement (on borders) is a detailed process.

"We want peace with China, but if peace agreements are violated then what can be done. However talks happen. We spoke to China just before Galwan happened... We told them about movement of their troops. I spoke to them just a day after Galwan. We have to find a way to disengage, otherwise relations (with China) will remain impaired if the border situation doesn't improve," he said.

Jaishankar described the situation in Galwan as "complicated".

"It is not about capturing of land by China (he said in response to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's charges of China capturing significant amount of land after Galwan). Both sides made forward deployments," he explained.

While responding to a series of questions on Rahul Gandhi's statements on China capturing Indian territories, Jaishankar said that the Congress leader says many things.

"He (Rahul) referred to a bridge being built by China on Pangong Tso lake. But that was on territory captured by China in 1962. China has captured territories in India since 1950s. However in 2020 we had to do forward deployment, which caused tension," Jaishankar said.

He said that such issues should not be made out to be a point scoring exercise, but should be debated.

"People make it out as it's happened now. Our own borders were neglected for a long time and whenever efforts were made to develop border infrastructure, environmental issues became an issue. Till 2014 our border infrastructure budget was Rs 4,000 crore, which has now gone up to Rs 40,000 crore," Jaishankar informed.

In context to India's relations with other neighbouring countries -- Pakistan, Jaishankar said that with other nations, New Delhi has strong ties.

However challenges with Pakistan are there, especially as it propagates cross-border terrorism, which we never tolerated, the Minister said.

Earlier while presenting a report card of India's foreign policy during the last nine years of NDA government, Jaishankar said large parts of world now see India as a development partner and that the Global South perceives India as a reliable partner.

He also said that India is making significant economic impact that has been recognised globally.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/no-normalcy-in-relations-with-china-until-borders-not-peaceful-jaishankar/articleshow/100845386.cms>



Fri, 09 Jun 2023

PM Modi, Saudi Crown Prince Review Ties with Focus on Connectivity and Defence

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman on Thursday reviewed bilateral cooperation and discussed ways to bolster relations in connectivity, energy and defence.

The matters figured in a telephone conversation between the two leaders, according to a readout from the external affairs ministry.

This was the first contact between top leaders of the two countries since China brokered a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Iranian side announced the reopening of its missions in Saudi Arabia this week.

“The leaders reviewed a number of issues of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on various multilateral and global issues of mutual interest,” the readout said.

“Spoke to Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince & PM HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman. Discussed boosting ties in connectivity, energy, defence, trade & investment, and exchanged views on regional and global issues,” Modi said in a tweet.

“Appreciated his support in safe evacuation of Indians from Sudan and for Haj,” he added.

The readout added that Modi thanked Mohammed bin Salman, or MBS as he is popularly known, for “Saudi Arabia’s excellent support during evacuation of Indian nationals from Sudan via Jeddah in April”. Modi also conveyed his best wishes for the upcoming Haj pilgrimage.

The Saudi crown prince “conveyed his full support” to India’s initiatives as part of its ongoing G20 presidency and said he looks forward to his visit to India for the G20 Summit in September.

The two leaders agreed to remain in touch, the readout said.

Saudi Arabia has emerged in recent years as one of India’s key partners in West Asia, especially in defence and energy. Saudi Arabia is also home to 2.6 million Indians, one of the largest concentrations of expatriates in the region.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-saudi-crown-prince-review-ties-with-focus-on-connectivity-and-defence-101686249683889-amp.html>



Thu, 08 Jun 2023

Trilateral Naval Cooperation: India-UAE and France Focuses on Interoperability & Maritime Coop

The inaugural India, France, and UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise, which commenced on 7th June 2023 in the Gulf of Oman, marks a significant milestone in trilateral naval cooperation. This joint endeavor brings together the formidable forces of INS Tarkash, French Ship Surcouf with integral helicopters, French Rafale aircraft, and UAE Navy Maritime Patrol Aircraft.

According to the official spokesperson of the Indian Navy, over the course of two days, the exercise will encompass a diverse range of naval operations, including Surface Warfare with tactical firing and Missile engagements on surface targets. It will also feature Helicopter Cross Deck Landing Operations, Advanced Air Defense Exercises, and Boarding operations. Furthermore, personnel will engage in cross embarkation, facilitating the exchange of best practices.

The primary objective of this inaugural exercise is to strengthen cooperation among the three navies and establish measures to address both traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime environment. By fostering collaboration, the exercise aims to ensure the safety of mercantile trade and promote freedom of navigation in the high seas of the region. This exercise sets the stage for future endeavors and deeper engagement between India, France, and the UAE in maritime security.

The trilateral India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise holds significant importance for several reasons:

Enhanced Cooperation: The exercise serves as a platform to bolster trilateral cooperation and deepen the strategic ties between the navies of India, France, and the UAE. By conducting joint exercises, these nations can strengthen their relationships, build trust, and foster interoperability among their forces.

Addressing Maritime Threats: The exercise aims to address both traditional and non-traditional threats in the maritime environment. By conducting diverse naval operations such as surface warfare, missile engagements, and boarding operations, the participating navies can enhance their capabilities to tackle potential security challenges at sea.

Exchange of Best Practices: The exercise includes cross embarkation of personnel, enabling the exchange of best practices and knowledge-sharing among the participating navies. This facilitates the learning and adoption of effective strategies and techniques in various naval operations, contributing to the overall improvement of maritime security.

Safeguarding Trade and Navigation: With a focus on ensuring the safety of mercantile trade and freedom of navigation, this exercise underscores the commitment of India, France, and the UAE to protect vital sea lanes in the region. By collaborating and coordinating efforts, the participating navies can enhance their ability to respond to potential threats and maintain the stability and security of the maritime domain.

Future Collaboration: This maiden exercise sets the stage for future collaboration and engagement among the three nations. It establishes a framework for ongoing joint exercises, information sharing, and capacity building, promoting long-term maritime security cooperation and partnership.

Overall, the India-France-UAE Maritime Partnership Exercise plays a crucial role in strengthening regional security, promoting cooperation among navies, and safeguarding common maritime interests in the Gulf of Oman and beyond.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-trilateral-naval-cooperation-india-uae-and-france-focuses-on-interoperability-amp-maritime-coop-3118696/>



Thu, 08 Jun 2023

India's Foreign Minister Jaishankar Confirms Ukraine has not been Invited to G20 Summit

India remains non-committal to inviting Ukraine to the G20 summit, scheduled to be held later this year in New Delhi. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a special briefing on Thursday to mark nine years of the Narendra Modi government wherein he made it clear that no invitation had been sent to Ukraine.

"G20 is only for members. Haven't reviewed the list nor has anyone talked to us about it," said Jaishankar.

The EAM confirmed invites for the summit had been sent, immediately after India assumed the presidency. The statement by Jaishankar effectively brings an end to rumours that Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky may get the opportunity to address the G20 countries during the summit.

"G20 is only for members. Haven't reviewed the list nor has anyone talked to us about it", EAM Jaishankar on if Ukraine president Ukraine Zelenskyy be invited for G20 summit in Delhi

— Sidhant Sibal (@sidhant) June 8, 2023

Jaishankar's statement should not come as a surprise as he has previously iterated that G20 was not a platform to debate international peace and security.

"I think our contribution was to get G20 back to the G20's real business. The G20 is not the UN Security Council. It is not the primary forum to debate international peace and security," Jaishankar had said during an event in March.

He added issues such as international peace and security did matter, but other issues such as food and energy security, green financing for nations took prominence on the G20 stage.

"We actually got something novel for the G20 to look at -- Global Skills Mapping. Where are the skills in the world and where is the demand in the world. They are in two different geographies. So, how do we actually put that together? I think that is a very interesting avenue which we have opened up for G20."

Kyiv's attempts to secure participation

In April, Ukraine's first deputy foreign affairs minister Emine Dzhaparova visited New Delhi and attempted to set the ball rolling for Ukraine's participation in the G20 summit.

"I think India is a global player. It is really a 'Vishwaguru' of the world. We are feeling the pain by actually fighting for the values. This is about justice... Russia is questioning the very existence of my country. In our history of 1,500 years, Ukraine never attacked any country," said Dzhaparova.

However, the statement by Jaishankar may have come as a blow to Kyiv's hopes.

A tall order

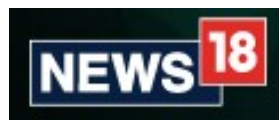
Zelensky addressing the G20 summit was always going to be a tall order, especially considering Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to attend the meet in New Delhi.

Even after the foreign ministers' meeting held in March, India said the differences over Ukraine "could not be reconciled".

"We tried, but the gap between the countries was too much," said Jaishankar.

Notably, the G20, which includes the world's 19 wealthiest nations plus the European Union, accounts for 85 per cent of global economic output and two-thirds of its population.

<https://www.wionews.com/india-news/indias-eam-confirms-ukraine-has-not-been-invited-to-g20-meeting-602040>



Thu, 08 Jun 2023

US-India Defence Partnership Matters but some Challenges Need to be Overcome

By Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh

US Secretary of Defence General Lloyd Austin visited India on 04 and 05 June in what was his second visit with the aim of reinforcing the major defence partnership and advancing cooperation

in critical domains. Significantly, this visit was scheduled ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official state visit to the US on June 22. His previous visit to India was in March 2021.

Shortly after landing, Austin tweeted; "I'm returning to India to meet with key leaders for discussions about strengthening our Major Defence Partnership. Together, we're advancing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific."

I'm returning to India to meet with key leaders for discussions about strengthening our Major Defense Partnership. Together, we're advancing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.
pic.twitter.com/P73Oy2npDx

— Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III (@SecDef) June 4, 2023

THE INTERACTIONS

The Secretary of Defence met Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval. During the meetings, they exchanged perspectives on a range of regional security issues. The US committed to collaborating closely with India in support of the shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

India and the United States also concluded a roadmap for defence industry cooperation for the next few years, the two countries said on Monday, a landmark move expected to bolster New Delhi's defence manufacturing ambitions.

The US is working to deepen ties with India and sees stronger military-to-military and technology ties as a key counterweight to China's dominance in the region. It is also seeking to wean India away from its traditional dependence on Russia for defence supplies.

The roadmap was finalised at a meeting between Lloyd Austin and Rajnath Singh. The roadmap is considered significant as Washington maintains strict controls over what domestic military technology can be shared or sold to other countries.

The agreement comes weeks before PM Modi visits Washington for an official state visit to hold talks with US President Joe Biden.

TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

US-India Defence Industrial Cooperation aims at fast-tracking technology cooperation and co-production in areas such as air combat and land mobility systems; intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance; munitions; and the undersea domain.

This initiative aims to 'change the paradigm for cooperation' between US and Indian defence sectors, including a set of specific proposals that could provide India access to cutting-edge technologies and support India's defence modernisation plans.

The Indian Defence Minister and US Secretary of Defence also pledged to review regulatory hurdles impeding closer industry-to-industry cooperation and to initiate negotiations on a Security of Supply Arrangement and a Reciprocal Defence Procurement Agreement, which will promote long-term supply chain stability.

India depends on Russia for nearly half its military supplies but has also increasingly diversified its sources to buy from the US, France and Israel, among others. The nation also wants global defence manufacturers to partner with Indian companies and produce arms and military equipment in India for local consumption as well as exports.

The Biden administration is likely to sign a deal that will allow General Electric Co to produce jet engines in India powering Indian military aircraft. Engaging in this level of conversation regarding sharing critical technology is no doubt a pointer regarding both the importance and intensity of the relationship.

NEW INITIATIVES

The two sides also discussed the growing importance of defence innovation and cooperation in emerging domains such as space, cyberspace, and Artificial Intelligence. They praised the recent launch of a new Advanced Domains Defence Dialogue and committed to expanding the scope of Bilateral Defence Cooperation to encompass all domains.

The Indo-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X), a new initiative to advance cutting-edge technology cooperation, is also been proposed. The initiative, which will be launched by the US-India Business Council on June 21, is designed to complement existing government-to-government collaboration by promoting innovative partnerships between US and Indian companies, investors, start-up accelerators, and academic research institutions.

General Austin and Rajnath Singh also discussed ways to increase information sharing and new initiatives to improve maritime cooperation, including in the undersea domain.

US VIEW

Austin stated that “The US-India Defence partnership matters because we face a rapidly changing world.”

“We see bullying and coercion from the People’s Republic of China, Russian aggression against Ukraine that seeks to redraw borders by force and threatens national sovereignty, as well as transnational challenges such as terrorism, and climate change. So, democracies must now rally together around not just our common interests but also our shared values,” he said.

Keeping this and India’s leading role as a security provider in the Indo-Pacific, Secretary Austin welcomed India’s leadership role in the Quad Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness Initiative (IPMDA), which aims at providing cutting-edge domain awareness capability to countries across the Indo-Pacific region.

CHALLENGES

There is no doubt that the relationship between the two countries is strong and has been on an upward arc over the past few decades, irrespective of the party in power both in India and the US. However, there are issues that affect the relationship among these, like the US still feels that India is aligned towards Russia and has not supported it in the ongoing conflict in Ukraine.

Their interpretation of the Indo-Pacific does not match. While India defines it to include both the Pacific and Indian Oceans i.e. from the West coast of the US to the East coast of Africa, the US views the Indo-Pacific from the West coast of the US to the shores of India. That could be one of the reasons why Austin met with the Japanese Defence Minister Yasukasu Hamada, Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles and their Philippine counterpart Carlito Galvez in Singapore on the sidelines of the Shangri La Dialogue on June 3, where they talked about the importance of building a networked security architecture in the Indo-Pacific.

India on its part is not ready to join any alliance and retains its strategic sovereignty while the US would like it to be part of an alliance. Pakistan is another issue and there is no doubt that Pakistan has used US funding and military equipment against India in the past and even now, the US has approved funding for spares for the Pakistan F-16 fleet.

The other fact that endures is that countries always place their interests above all else and this is true in the case of the US also. During 1971, they were willing to overlook the genocide in East Pakistan as Nixon and Kissinger were focused on building ties with China using Pakistan as the conduit. More recently, 9/11 changed the priorities, policies and direction of the US and now, despite ‘the stated pivot towards Asia’ to counter the assertiveness of China, the Ukrainian conflict

has once again resulted in efforts being directed towards Europe and against Russia. This is a serious inconsistency which affects relationships.

Presently, China is the threat that both countries have to confront and in turn, is binding both nations as regards their security interests. But India sees China in terms of a continental threat in the Himalayas as well as a maritime threat in the Indian Ocean, whereas most US analysts look at the threat from China in terms of the South China Sea and Taiwan Strait.

CONCLUSION

While both countries are committed to strengthening operational collaboration across all defence domains, the US realises that it needs to support India due to its strategic significance and leading role in the security framework of the Indo-Pacific in view of the expansionism and belligerence of China. India has been the primary security provider and strategic partner to most of its smaller neighbours like Maldives, Mauritius, Seychelles, and Sri Lanka and due to its strategic position, the Indian Navy has always been amongst the first to reach nations requiring humanitarian assistance or medical aid in times of crisis and disasters.

While there is no doubting the centrality of the US-India partnership to maintaining peace and security, the challenge for the US in deepening defence ties also lies in being able to share sensitive defence technology, most of which is developed by private companies. Retaining the essence of these technologies is a 'delicate dance'.

<https://www.news18.com/opinion/opinion-us-india-defence-partnership-matters-but-some-challenges-need-to-be-overcome-8029171.html>



Fri, 09 Jun 2023

Pentagon Readies New \$2 Billion Ukraine Air Defence Package: Report

The Pentagon is expected to announce a long-term arms deal for Ukraine as soon as Friday that would include a lot of air defence missiles and is worth more than \$2 billion, according to a Bloomberg report, citing administration officials.

The money will be used to purchase two different types of cutting-edge Patriot air defence missiles as well as Hawk missile launchers and missiles under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, added the report.

One is the Pac-3 Patriot Advanced Capability Missile, made by Lockheed Martin Corporation. The other is a missile developed by Raytheon Technologies Corp. dubbed the Guidance Enhanced Missile, or GEM-T, which, according to its description, "provides improved ability to defeat tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, or enemy aircraft in complement to the PAC-3 missile."

In order to combat the recent withering barrages of air- and ground-launched cruise and ballistic missiles on cities and to offer cover from Russian aircraft in the long-awaited counteroffensive, air defence has been a primary priority for Ukraine.

The impending announcement will be made as military analysts say that Ukraine's long-anticipated counteroffensive is getting underway.

Ukraine counteroffensive on?

Meanwhile, several reports suggested Ukraine's military has launched its long-awaited counteroffensive against Russian forces

According to an NBC News report, citing a senior officer and a soldier near the front lines, after months of buildup to a campaign that could prove crucial in Kyiv's bid to reclaim occupied territory, a wave of attacks Thursday focused on the war's southeastern front lines and appeared to represent a significant new push.

Many see this new phase of the war as crucial to persuading Western allies to renew their support as Ukraine grapples with the fallout from the destruction of a critical dam in the region, added the report.

While Ukraine's government has consistently said there would be no public announcement of the start of the offensive, Russian officials and the country's cadre of influential military bloggers, who have been sounding the alarm for days, reported a sudden intensification of attacks in the southern Zaporizhzhia region on Thursday.

The Russian Defence Ministry said its forces had beaten back a large overnight offensive, inflicting heavy losses.

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/pentagon-readies-new-2-billion-ukraine-air-defence-package-report-12713122.html>



Thu, 08 Jun 2023

Taiwan Activates Air Defence as China Aircraft Enter Zone

Taiwan activated its defence systems on Thursday after reporting 37 Chinese military aircraft flying into the island's air defence zone, some of which then flew into the western Pacific, in Beijing's latest mass air incursion.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has over the past three years regularly flown its air force into the skies near the island, though not into Taiwan's territorial air space.

Taiwan's defence ministry said that from 5 a.m. (2100 GMT on Wednesday) it had detected 37 Chinese air force planes, including J-11 and J-16 fighters as well as nuclear-capable H-6 bombers, flying into the southwestern corner of its air defence identification zone, or ADIZ.

The ADIZ is a broader area Taiwan monitors and patrols to give its forces more time to respond to threats.

Some of the Chinese aircraft flew to Taiwan's southeast and crossed into the western Pacific to perform "air surveillance and long distance navigation training", the ministry said in a statement.

Taiwan sent its aircraft and ships to keep watch and activated land-based missile systems, it added, using its standard wording for how it responds to such Chinese activity.

China's defence ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

China completed a second phase of joint air patrols with Russia over the Western Pacific on Wednesday, following flights on the previous day over the Sea of Japan and East China Sea, prompting concern in Japan over its national security.

Japan's defence ministry said it scrambled a jet fighter on Thursday morning in response to a Chinese information-gathering aircraft Y-9 flying over the Pacific Ocean and east of Taiwan.

Japan also lodged a protest against China for its naval and coast guard vessels entering Japan's territorial waters along the country's southwest archipelago on Thursday, Tokyo's top spokesperson Hirokazu Matsuno told a press conference. Laura Rosenberger, chair of the American Institute in Taiwan, which manages the unofficial relationship between Washington and Taipei, is visiting Taiwan this week.

On Monday, she told Taiwan media that the United States had an enduring interest in preserving stability in the Taiwan Strait and the United States would continue to arm the island, a source of constant friction in Sino-U.S. ties.

In April, China held war games around Taiwan following a trip to the United States by Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen. Taiwan's government rejects China's sovereignty claims and says only the island's people can decide their future.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/dozens-chinese-military-aircraft-enter-taiwan-air-defence-zone-taiwan-defence-2023-06-08/>



Thu, 08 Jun 2023

Japan Progresses Anti-Ship and Hypersonic Missile Programmes

Japan's Ministry of Defense (MoD) has signed contracts with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries (MHI) and Kawasaki Heavy Industries (KHI) to research and develop anti-ship and hypersonic missiles, according to an MoD press release on 6 June.

The MoD signed three contracts with MHI, which include hypersonic weapons research and the development of an upgraded Hyper Velocity Gliding Projectile (HVGP) and target observation rounds.

An MoD spokesperson told Janes that the country has allocated JPY200.3 billion (USD1.4 billion) to develop an upgraded HVGP with a longer range from the early deployment type.

“The development of an upgraded HVGP is scheduled to be completed in FY [fiscal year] 2030,” the spokesperson added.

The MoD has allocated JPY58.5 billion for hypersonic weapons research to develop missiles that can travel at hypersonic speeds and are difficult to intercept, the spokesperson said. “The research on hypersonic weapons is scheduled to be completed in FY 2031.”

In the FY 2023 budgetary document, the MoD allocated funding of JPY22.2 billion to develop target observation rounds. The MoD seeks to develop the rounds by 2026.

“The rounds will search, detect, identify, and collect information of the target or enemy vessels while avoiding and breaking through the enemy's air-defence network and moving into the vicinity of the target,” the budgetary document said.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/japan-progresses-anti-ship-and-hypersonic-missile-programmes>

UK to Remove Chinese Surveillance Cameras at Sensitive Sites

The UK government has laid out plans to publish a timeline for the removal of Chinese surveillance equipment from sensitive sites as part of stepped-up national security measures, weeks after Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said China posed the "biggest challenge" to global security and prosperity. In amendments tabled to the government's Procurement Bill ahead of its Report Stage in Parliament next week, the UK Cabinet Office said on Wednesday that it is committing to publishing a timeline for the removal of surveillance equipment produced by companies subject to China's National Intelligence Law from sensitive central government sites.

It says the move builds on action taken last year to halt the installation of new equipment on the government estate and will provide "reassurance" that departments are removing surveillance equipment from sensitive sites.

"These new measures will protect our sensitive sectors from companies which could threaten national security and are a firm deterrence to hostile actors who wish to do Britain harm," said Jeremy Quin, UK Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General.

At the G7 summit in Japan last month, British Prime Minister Sunak said that China posed the "biggest challenge" in the world to global security and prosperity.

Under his government's new bill, a National Security Unit for Procurement is set to draw on a full range of expertise within the government and respond swiftly to emerging threats, such as companies looking to win public contracts in order to gain access to sensitive information or sites which could be used to compromise government and society.

The specialist team will work across the government, including liaising closely with intelligence agencies. It also provides new powers to ban suppliers from specific sectors, such as areas related to defence and national security, while allowing them to continue to win procurements in non-sensitive areas.

The UK government said it is introducing new, context-specific mandatory debarments on national security grounds.

This will mean that the government will be able to ban suppliers which pose a risk to national security from specific types of contracts.

"It's absolutely right we continue to look at ways to strengthen central government rules when it comes to national security and I have no doubt these additional measures will ensure the bill delivers on its objective to have a robust, modern procurement process which delivers for the British people," said UK Cabinet Office Minister Alex Burghart.

The bill also introduces new rules to help the government procure in emergency situations, such as during health pandemics, ensuring that contracting authorities can act quickly and transparently to buy vital goods.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/uk-to-remove-chinese-surveillance-cameras-at-sensitive-sites-plans-to-set-up-a-national-security-unit-for-procurement/articleshow/100846885.cms>

ISRO Readies Plan for Next Generation Launch Vehicle

The architecture for Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO), ambitious Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV) has been finalised, ISRO chairman S. Somnath has said.

Speaking to presspersons at the SMOPS-2023 International Conference on Spacecraft Mission Operations here on Thursday, he said that the team working on the NGLV programme had already submitted a preliminary report focusing on what the rocket should look like.

“A big team is working on it at various centres and they came out with a report on how this rocket should look, what are the technology inputs, what are the approaches we should do, where we should do, manufacturing everything is being addressed,” Mr. Somnath said.

He added that ISRO wanted the NGLV to be partially reusable and that the boosters should be reusable.

“We should use new generation propulsion, we must have cryogenic propulsion also in case we need to improve payload and it must be manufacturable using the materials currently available in India. The cost should be brought down, the manufacturing cycle and industry should be looked at. After this process we are going to consult with every industry before we take up the project,” the ISRO chief added.

He said that the industry would be asked if they could accept the responsibility, and NewSpace India Ltd. (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm, would discuss it with the industry.

“If the industry is willing, they will be onboarded to be a shareholder and partner in this process where they get to be a responsible partner in designing and manufacturing. We will create a business model for funding,” he added.

Mr. Somnath said that the NGLV would be offered as a commercial launcher vehicle, for both governmental, and private use.

“This is the plan; it may take maybe five to 10 years given that new rocket development is a long-drawn process. But one big advantage is we have the facilities necessary to develop it today right now. This means development can happen without much investment,” Mr. Somnath said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-readies-plan-for-next-generation-launch-vehicle/article66946403.ece>

