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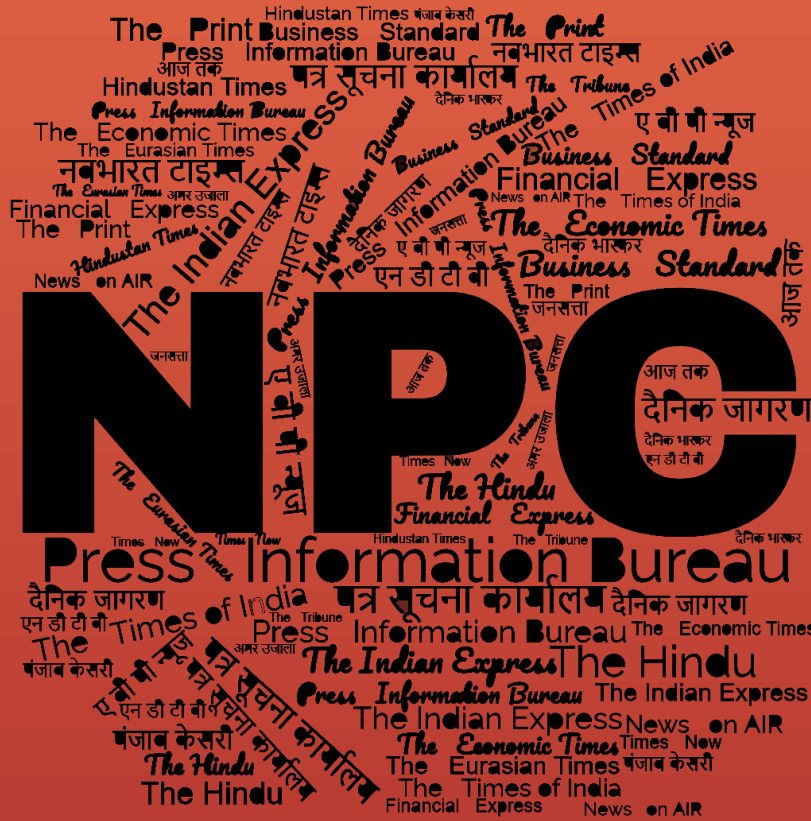
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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Defence Strategic: National/International



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 09 Apr 2024

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan to Chair Parivartan Chintan – II, a Two-day Conference on Jointness & Integration of Armed Forces on 9-10 May

In light of the imminent Theaterization, the Indian Armed Forces are intent on giving momentum to the ongoing Jointness and Integration initiatives amongst the three services.

“Parivartan Chintan”, a pioneering conference for the heads of all Tri-services Institutes, aimed at generating novel reformative ideas & initiatives, was conducted on 08 Apr 2024. Parivartan Chintan – II, chaired by Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, is planned over a period of two days on 09-10 May 2024 in New Delhi.

Members from all the sub-committees of the apex Chiefs of Staff Committee; the CDS as its permanent Chairman and the three Service Chiefs, shall review the progress made in multiple domains, and ideate on the necessary reforms to achieve the desired end state towards transformation through jointness and integration.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2020038>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Wed, 08 May 2024

AWPO Summit 2024 – Converging Requirements of Businesses & Industry with Veterans

The Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) today, organised the AWPO Summit 2024 in Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The Summit witnessed convergence of notable personalities from various sectors to include veteran entrepreneurs, veterans leading in the field of businesses and industry, corporate entities, representatives from government and social sector.

The aim of the Summit was to bring together different stakeholders on a common platform, to bridge the gap between requirements of enterprise and core competencies possessed by the veterans. While the demand for a skilled and experienced workforce exists at the industry end, a disciplined human resource pool of veterans with adequate experience and unique skill sets exit from active service each year. Such a resource pool provides an opportunity to the industry to absorb this workforce. The Summit was an endeavour to synergise the two converging requirements. The AWPO Summit assisted in strengthening the linkages of the veteran community with the industry, PSUs and Quasi Government organisations. The presence of Corporate Heads, representatives of Industry, Start Ups, Ministry and Government Officials in the Summit, underscored this facet.

General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), in his remarks, emphasised the invaluable contributions of veterans to the nation's prosperity and reiterated the commitment of the Indian Army to facilitate their integration into various sectors. He said that veterans bring with them, a unique set of qualities and experiences that can be harnessed by the industry. He acknowledged the opportunities provided by several corporate houses and enterprises to veterans and added that veterans bring with them a unique set of qualities and experiences. The COAS mentioned that services to the nation by the veterans do not end when they bid farewell to military life, instead it transitions into a new chapter or second innings of dedication and commitment to the society and nation building. He urged all to recognize the potential of the words - 'भूतपूर्व सैनिक, अभूतपूर्व योगदान'.

The COAS underscored that Indian Army has undertaken the process of holistic skill certification, as per the core competency of each individual, in collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. He also mentioned that initiatives such as Project KAUSHALVEER help serving personnel in acquiring certification for skill sets as per established industry standards thereby meeting the requirements of both stakeholders. He mentioned that the veterans, with diverse knowledge, experience, managerial acumen and adaptability can contribute in fields such as entrepreneurship, HR consultancy, mentorship, education, crisis management, infrastructure development, healthcare etc.

The COAS further highlighted that Veer Naris also bring with them unparalleled determination and resilience and urged the entrepreneurs to integrate them as part of their initiatives on human capital intake, from the 'uniformed community'. He emphasised that the Veer Naris also possess vocational skills, entrepreneurship acumen and aptitudes in many professional domains.

This Summit was an endeavour in Indian Army's pursuit to evolve an institutionalised support ecosystem for the veterans. Insightful perspectives were put forth by panelists from different fields on the entire landscape of avenues, potential, challenges and initiatives with respect to absorption of veterans into new roles. Veterans who have established themselves into a successful second career, also shared their experiences and success stories. The subjects were discussed across three main themes, aimed at fostering synergy between veterans and various sectors with an important role in nation building.

Theme 1: Harnessing Veterans' Potential & Experience. The panel for Theme 1 included distinguished Veteran Entrepreneurs such as Major V P Sharma (Retired) from Gratitude Farms, Colonel Subhash Deswal (Retired), the Carrot King of India, Naik Shivaji Dole (Retired), who took initiative to revive Venkateshwara Co-operative which practices agro farming, organic farming and water conservation, and Naik Daljinder Singh (Retired), an entrepreneur and established businessman. The discussion was moderated by Major General Ajay Singh Chauhan, Managing Director, AWPO and Brigadier Vikas Bhardwaj from the Directorate of Indian Army Veterans. The session focussed on veterans' potential as entrepreneurs, success stories of achievers and the way ahead. The panelists delved into their inspiring journeys, challenges faced, and the roadmap ahead.

Key points discussed were the unexplored potential of veterans in innovative sectors and strategic entrepreneurship that align with national growth imperatives.

Theme 2: Skills Required to Meet Public and Private Sector Needs. Addressing the need for skilled workforce integration, the session highlighted the significance of the Skilling & Training Ecosystem. The panel for the theme included Colonel Sunil Prem (Retired) from Brisk Olive, Lieutenant Colonel Iqbal Singh (Retired) from Google India and Major Md Ali Shah (Retired). The discussion was moderated by Major General Deepak Sapra (Retired). The session focussed on skills needed in corporate/ industry and strengthening capabilities for veterans in the emerging industrial landscape. The panelists explored avenues, challenges, and strategies to effectively harness the unique skills and experiences veterans bring to the table. They underscored the essential role veterans play in bridging the skills gap in both public and private sectors and deliberated on the road map to explore the veterans' potential.

Theme 3: Unveiling Opportunities for Veterans in India's Growth Story. This session explored the diverse skill sets of veterans, widows, and dependents, showcasing their potential in emerging sectors of both the public and private sectors. The panel for the theme included Major General Rajesh Jha (Retired), Director NEEPCO, Colonel RS Bhatia (Retired), Chairman & MD Bharat Forge Ltd, Mr Gurdeep Singh, CMD of NTPC and Ms Anuradha Prasad, Founder & CEO of India Leaders for Social Sector (ILSS). The session was moderated by Major General Ajay Singh Chauhan (Retired), MD, AWPO. The discussions centred around strategies to enhance veterans' potential and opportunities in the social sector. This comprehensive dialogue addressed the multifaceted contributions and tremendous capacities of veterans in furthering India's social and economic frameworks.

The Summit has been a catalyst for dialogue, collaboration and inspiration, spotlighting vital role of veterans in India's progress. It is crucial for all industries to recognise and utilise unique strengths and skill sets of the veterans by having matching policies for their smooth transition into civilian roles. The nation's growth hinges on nurturing the veterans, whose ongoing contributions are essential for sustained progress and collective wellbeing. Assimilation of skilled and disciplined resource pool of veterans into industry and services sectors will be a win- win situation for both and a game changing venture.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2020036>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Wed, 08 May 2024

Indian Coast Guard Inks MoU with Private Sector for Indigenous Marine Grade Steel to Enhance Indigenous Content in Shipbuilding

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Jindal Steel & Power (JSP), on May 07, 2024, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi for the supply of indigenous marine grade steel to enhance the indigenous content in shipbuilding. Through this partnership, both entities have committed to foster indigenisation, enhance capabilities to produce and use these items in the Nation's interest.

The MoU underscores the importance of public-private partnerships in addressing complex security challenges, emphasising the need for collaboration between government agencies and the private sector. Several key benefits including quality, grades and dimensions along with the designated steel plants to manufacture the product are stipulated in the MoU as an assurance to the shipbuilding yards for a timely supply of marine-grade steel for the ICG.

The MoU was signed by Deputy Director General (Materiel & Maintenance), ICG IG HK Sharma and Chief Marketing Officer, JSP Shri SK Pradhan in the presence of senior officers of the ICG.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2019923>



Thu, 09 Apr 2024

Effective Defence-industry Ecosystem Taking Shape: Army Chief General Manoj Pande

Army Chief General Manoj Pande has said that an effective defence-industry ecosystem is taking shape in the country and veterans with their field experience are "ideally suited" for incorporation into indigenous research and manufacturing of technological solutions required by the force.

In his address at the Army Welfare Placement Organisation (AWPO) Summit 2024 held at the Manekshaw Centre here on Wednesday, he said the Army's responsibility towards its veterans remains a "sacred commitment".

The aim of the summit was to bring together different stakeholders on a common platform, to narrow down the gap between enterprise requirements, veteran competencies and the pursuits of AWPO.

"While the demand for skilled and experienced workforce exists at the industry end, at the same time, a human resource pool of veterans with adequate experience and unique skill sets is also available, after they exit from active service each year.

"The endeavour is to synergise the two as well as strengthen the linkages that can facilitate veteran absorption into not only the industry but also PSUs and quasi-government organisations," the Army chief said.

He said the veterans with their field experience and insights into operational conditions, logistics of the systems and weapon platforms "are ideally suited for incorporation into indigenous research, development, innovation and manufacturing of technological solutions required by the Indian Army."

They also bring to the table, leadership qualities, and a very sound understanding of the human element and can contribute towards ergonomics and user interface design, aspects which are critical to produce user-friendly equipment, Gen Pande said.

He emphasised the invaluable contributions of veterans to the nation's prosperity.

Gen Pande said services to the nation by the veterans "do not end" when they bid farewell to military life, instead it transitions into "a new chapter" or second innings of commitment to society and nation building.

He underscored that the Army has undertaken the process of holistic skill certification, as per the core competency of each individual, in collaborative efforts with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

He also mentioned initiatives such as 'Project KAUSHALVEER' that help serve personnel in acquiring certification for skill sets according to the established industry standards.

Gen Pande praised the 'Veer Naris', who he said also bring with them unparalleled determination and resilience.

He urged the entrepreneurs to integrate them too as part of their initiatives on human capital intake.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/effective-defence-industry-ecosystem-taking-shape-army-chief-general-manoj-pande-3014845>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, 08 May 2024

Shot by Shot, Indian Military is Getting Atmanirbhar

It's not the high-tech weapons such as the M-1 Abrams tank and F-16 fighter jets that can help Ukraine win the war against Russia. It's the humble artillery shells. Russia is currently firing around 10,000 shells a day, compared to just 2,000 a day from the Ukrainian side. Russia is producing about 250,000 artillery munitions per month, or about 3 million a year, while the US and Europe have the capacity to generate only about 1.2 million munitions annually to send to Ukraine, as per a recent CNN report.

Russia and Ukraine are now fighting a "production war", a senior NATO official has told CNN. Because the war is likely to be won with artillery shells instead of high-tech weapons.

India had foreseen a scenario like this a few years ago when it decided to indigenise its defence production at a large scale. Now it is close to achieving self-reliance in many items. In a significant feat, the army is aiming to stop import of all ammunition from the next financial year as the domestic industry has ramped up its capacity to meet all demands and is even poised to bag a chunk of the global market, a senior procurement officer has said.

How India is achieving defence atmanirbharta

Ammunition is not the only stuff India will soon start manufacturing entirely domestically. It is now producing even sophisticated weapons systems. India has so far indigenised 2,920 defence items out of 4,666 listed items, Director (DIP), Department of Defence Production, Amit Satija, said three months ago. These items include assemblies, sub-assemblies, raw materials, critical spares and components. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari has said that the IAF has indigenised more than 60,000 components in the last two to three years.

The indigenisation of defence items was part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India ambitious programme. In 2015, the government issued a record 56 licences, permitting players such as the Mahindras, Tatas and Pipavav to set up production units. In comparison, the previous government cleared just 47 projects in three years.

The previous United Progressive Alliance government had introduced an 'offsets policy' that required overseas companies winning Indian military contracts to invest at least 30 per cent of the contract value in the local defence or aerospace industry. However, most projects were stuck in permissions and other processes. In 2017, the government revised the policy to allow foreign

companies more flexibility in choosing local partners and allocating work. The changes helped unlock \$3.5 billion in foreign investments that were stuck due to the tough offset policy clauses.

Following its policy of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the government took the historic decision to convert the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), a subordinate office of the Ministry of Defence, into seven new 100% government-owned corporate entities with professional management: Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited, Troop Comforts Ltd, Avani Armoured Vehicles, Munitions India Limited, India Optel Limited, Gliders India Limited, Yantra India Limited. Earlier, the 41 ordnance factories in the country came under the OFB and many were in losses and performing poorly. All of these seven new defence companies improved their performances and six of them reported provisional profits in their first six months of business.

In 2020, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) prepared a list of 101 items to be produced indigenously for which the imports would be banned. Last year, the ministry issued the fifth such positive indigenisation list of 98 military hardware. Earlier, four lists contained a total of 411 military items. Separately, the Department of Defence Production notified four positive indigenisation lists consisting of 4,666 items.

MSMEs and startups emerging as key partners

The Department of Defence is moving fast and steadily towards the indigenisation goal, with 40 to 50 licences being issued every year in defence production. Not just big private groups such as Tata and Adani are involved in defence production but the government has been encouraging MSMEs and startups too.

Many small players in India are designing and developing products and solutions for the defence sector. There has been a sharp growth in MSMEs and startups participating in this segment. As of December 2023, there were about 433 startups, MSMEs and individual innovators engaged in defence production in India, according to the Department of Defence Production and Ministry of Defence. The government has signed 302 contracts with them for various projects.

In 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) framework to support innovation and create pathways for technology adoption. It has multiple programmes to identify and support startups with unique innovations.

The government aims to nearly triple India's total annual defence production to Rs 3 lakh crore by 2028-29. The target for defence exports is more than double at Rs 50,000 crore as against Rs 21,083 crore at present. The target for 2024-25 is Rs 1,75,000 crore worth of total annual defence production, which would include exports worth Rs 35,000 crore.

According to a report by Jefferies, with an estimated domestic defence opportunity ranging between USD 100-120 billion over the next 5-6 years, the sector anticipates a visible 13 per cent industry Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) from FY23 to FY30.

Producing all of its ammunition domestically from the next financial year is a significant step for India's ambitious defence production programme. A steady pace of growth can build a military-industrial complex in India with its own Raytheons and Lockheed Martins.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/shot-by-shot-indian-military-is-getting-atmanirbhar/articleshow/109954562.cms>

Wed, 08 May 2024

Kadet Defence Systems Introduces India's Pioneering Loitering Aerial Munitions (LAM) for the Armed Forces

In a significant stride towards strengthening India's defence capabilities, Kadet Defence Systems (KDS) has emerged as the vanguard in indigenous innovation with the successful development of India's first Loitering Aerial Munitions (LAM). Under a unique Development cum Production Partner (DCPP) model with the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), KDS has unveiled a game-changing array of cutting-edge technologies aimed at enhancing the operational efficacy of the Indian armed forces.

The LAM Systems, a culmination of relentless innovation and strategic collaboration, encompass a diverse range of advanced technologies. From Canister Aerial Loitering Munition (CALM) to Combat UAVs boasting stand-off capabilities for munition release, and Tactical VTOL UAVs, Kadet's LAMs represent a paradigm shift in modern warfare.

With a contract in place for the delivery of over 50 systems by the end of 2024, KDS is poised to meet the evolving operational requirements of the armed forces with precision and efficacy.

What distinguishes Kadet's LAMs is not just their technological prowess but also their adaptability to diverse terrains and environments. From deserts to plains, and even high-altitude regions surpassing 5,000 meters, these systems promise unparalleled performance, thereby ensuring comprehensive defence coverage across varied landscapes. Moreover, with over 90% of components locally sourced, Kadet underscores its commitment to fostering indigenous innovation and self-reliance in defence production.

Avdhesh Khaitan, Co-Founder & CEO of Kadet Defence Systems, emphasized the strategic significance of indigenous LAMs, stating, "True self-reliance lies in the ability to design and develop cutting-edge defence solutions domestically. The burgeoning demand for LAMs underscores their critical role not only in bolstering our armed forces but also in strengthening ties with friendly nations."

With plans to scale up production and deliver an estimated five thousand systems within the next 2-3 years, Kadet reaffirms its commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the defence sector.

KDS's LAMs offer multifaceted capabilities, serving as both combat UAVs capable of precision strikes and Kamikaze drones for targeted engagements, reminiscent of cruise missiles. With the market size of LAMs in India estimated to be around Rs. 15,000 crores, Kadet is well-positioned to capitalize on the burgeoning demand for advanced defence solutions.

Established in 2011, Kadet Defence Systems has emerged as a trailblazer in the aerospace industry, specializing in Unmanned Systems. Headquartered in Bengaluru, India, the company operates on a global scale, offering an extensive range of UAVs catering to defence and industrial sectors alike. As India marches towards self-reliance in defence production, Kadet's pioneering efforts stand as a testament to the nation's prowess in innovation and technological advancement.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-kadet-defence-systems-introduces-indias-pioneering-loitering-aerial-munitions-lam-for-the-armed-forces-3481405/>

Indian Navy to Hold Maritime Exercise with Singapore Navy to Enhance Operability

The Indian Navy is looking forward to further enhancing its operability with the Singapore Navy and understanding of each other's operational philosophy by holding joint maritime exercises, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet Read Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar has said. Addressing a reception for 150 guests from Singapore's defence sector, heads of diplomatic missions and Indian diaspora on board INS Shakti at the Changi Naval Base on Tuesday, he said the navies of the two countries are planning to hold the 31st edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) which will be held at Visakhapatnam in the fourth quarter of this year.

"We will be undertaking the 31 Edition of SIMBEX (and) we have done the planning at the working level for the event to be held in the fourth quarter of this year at Visakhapatnam," Dhankhar who is leading the Indian Naval Ships Delhi, INS Shakti, and Kiltan to Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

"We look forward to further enhancing our operability and understanding of each other's operational philosophy and also increasing the competency of our bilateral exercise in keeping with the times that we are witnessing," said Dhankhar who in the past had been associated with a two-year training programme for the Singapore Navy.

"Our current deployment here and beyond is to visit friendly partner navies and share our experiences and knowledge that would enable us to be better informed in line with security and growth of all - as per India's Sagar Doctrine," said Dhankhar. The fleet arrived in Singapore on Monday and will sail to Malaysia on Thursday and then onwards visit the Philippines.

The Indian High Commissioner to Singapore, Dr Shilpak Ambule, elaborated on the Indian Navy's engagement in the region, particularly in Singapore, saying it has seen an outward trajectory which without doubt has gained from its well-founded construct and has kept evolving with passing times.

"The growing intensity of engagement is in confirmation with the changing paradigm and in maritime challenges...as well as increasing the depth of our bilateral partnership with Singapore.

"This, in true sense, reminds us all of the quintessential need to collaborate for mutually beneficial cooperation and to tackle the real challenges of the maritime domain."

He also highlighted India's deep historical and cultural linkages with ASEAN countries which has been extended in the recent past with vibrant economic engagement.

"In the maritime domain, we follow the Sagar Doctrine - security and growth for all. We are happy that our naval ships are implementing the policy on the ground deployment in the region," said the envoy. He also underscored the long-standing robust bilateral ties between the Indian and Singapore Navies that have been developed through efforts over several decades. "I am only confident that this relationship will grow stronger with the visits of Indian naval ships."

The High Commissioner expressed deep appreciation on behalf of the Indians and all Indian Ocean partners to the Indian Navy for their stellar role in securing the vital sea lanes in the Red Sea to ensure the safety and security of our sailors and commercial ships so that the trade is not impacted.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-navy-to-hold-maritime-exercise-with-singapore-navy-to-enhance-operability/articleshow/109946114.cms>

India, EU Hold Dialogue on Defence, Security Cooperation, Including in the Indo-Pacific Region

The delegation of the European Union organised a 'Road to Schuman' seminar in the national capital, where security experts discussed the security landscape in the region and threats dynamics and identified avenues for cooperation, ahead of the Schuman Forum in Brussels later this month.

In an official post on X, EU Ambassador to India, Herve Delphin, said, "Growing security interconnectedness between European Union and Indo-Pacific region means more cooperation with Asian partners, including India."

"Ahead of the next Schuman Forum which will be held in Brussels end of May, this seminar held in Delhi brought together European and Indian security experts to exchange on the security landscape in the region and on the perspectives for EU and India to increase cooperation in defence matters and in non-traditional security domains," Delphin said in the seminar on Monday.

The EU and India have made significant steps in the past years to deepen their security and defence cooperation including counter-terrorism, cyber and maritime security. The Indo-Pacific at large and the Indian Ocean in particular are key areas where this cooperation can be further enhanced, Delegation of the European Union said in a press release.

"On May 6, the Delegation of the European Union to India organised a Road to Schuman event titled 'The security environment in the Indo-Pacific region and the EU's role as a security actor in partnership/cooperation with India', gathering prominent security and defence experts and practitioners, think tanks, academia, diplomats, Indian government officials and EU member state representatives," the release added.

This initiative is part of the Road to Schuman events that will feed into the second edition of the Schuman Security and Defence Forum, which will take place in Brussels on 28-29 May.

The seminar provided a platform for dialogue, exchange of views on specific regional security challenges, maritime security environment, and policy developments covering the EU strategy for cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative, EU-India maritime cooperation, and regional initiatives to address international maritime security issues.

According to the release, the seminar also enabled an assessment of the current and emerging challenges in the Indo-Pacific region while identifying future avenues for cooperation between the European (EU) and India.

The first-panel session focused on the "Overall security environment in the Indo-Pacific region: dynamics and likely evolution". The panellists Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, National Maritime Foundation, Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation; and Brigadier Rahul Bhonsle, Director, Security Risks Asia discussed the origins and evolution of the Indo-Pacific concept, as well as its current geopolitical dimension and the different actors operating in it.

In the second panel session, speakers discussed the "EU-India security partnerships and cooperation, opportunities/constraints and how India considers EU as a security actor".

The three panellists IndrBagchi, CEO, Ananta Aspen Centre, Professors Srikanth Kondapalli, Jawaharlal Nehru University; and Swasti Rao, Associate Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute of

Defence Studies and Analyses exchanged on the existing and potential areas of convergence between the EU and India in the security and defence field, in a bilateral and multilateral context.

During her address, Joanneke Balfoort, Director of security and Defence policy, at European External Action Service, said, "In this interconnected world, mutually beneficial peace, security and defence partnerships are more needed than ever. We see India, a country with considerable strategic weight on the global security balance, as a key partner for the EU in the Indo-Pacific."

On the occasion, Herve Delphin, EU Ambassador to India said, "The global environment has turned more volatile and unstable with war and security threats on the rise. The EU is adapting to this new reality by enhancing its own security and defence but also by working together with international partners to address common security challenges to promote peace and stability. The growing inter-connectedness between dynamics in Europe and the Indo-Pacific region means that cooperation with Asian partners and most notably with India has become more important than ever". He added, "Ahead of the next Schuman Forum which will be held in Brussels end of May, this seminar held in Delhi brought together European and Indian security experts to exchange on the security landscape in the region and on the perspectives for EU and India to increase cooperation in defence matters and in non-traditional security domains."

He further said, "EUNAVFOR Operation ASPIDES, recently launched in the Red Sea, together with EUNAVFOR ATALANTA, is a concrete example of the EU commitment to regional maritime security in the Indian Ocean region. While we have already stepped up our cooperation with India in the areas of Maritime Security, Counter-terrorism, Cyber-security, Non-proliferation and Disarmament, other areas like Space, Hybrid and Cyber threats and security dimensions of Artificial Intelligence are possible areas of growth for EU-India cooperation."

The second edition of the Schuman Security and Defence Forum (Schuman Forum) will take place in Brussels on 28-29 May 2024. It will bring together high-level representatives of the European Union (EU), EU Member states and partner countries, international and regional organisations, as well as leading think tanks and academia.

The Forum aims at looking for avenues of cooperation on how ongoing and potential peace, security and defence partnerships can respond to the most pressing common security threats and challenges and contribute to global peace and security as well as uphold the international rules-based order and multilateralism. India is one of the key partners invited to the Forum.

On the morning of May 6, the EU and India also held their second Security and Defence Consultations, co-chaired by Director Balfoort on the EU side and Vishvesh Negi, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Defence on the Indian side.

During the consultations, the two sides agreed to deepen their cooperation in security and defence. They both reiterated their commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based maritime order in the Indo-Pacific region, underpinned by respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, democracy, rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, and peaceful resolution of disputes in accordance with international law, notably the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Both the European Union and Indo-Pacific countries have a stake in each other's prosperity and security. With its Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Global Gateway, the EU aims to contribute to stability, security, prosperity and sustainable development in the Indo-Pacific, fostering the principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights and international law acting as an "intelligent facilitator" for peace and security in non-traditional security domains, in full partnerships with the other actors in the region mainly India.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-eu-hold-dialogue-on-defence-security-cooperation-including-in-the-indo-pacific-region/articleshow/109940012.cms>

नवभारत टाइम्स

Thu, 09 Apr 2024

भारतीय सेना में पहली बार महिला अधिकारी नई ब्रांच में बनेंगी ब्रिगेडियर, जानें कब तक होगा प्रमोशन

इंडियन आर्मी में पहली बार महिला अधिकारी नई ब्रांच में ब्रिगेडियर बनेंगी। सूत्रों के मुताबिक अगले साल अगस्त-सितंबर के आसपास ब्रिगेडियर के लिए प्रमोशन बोर्ड बैठ सकता है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के बाद 2020 में आर्मी ने महिलाओं को उन सभी ब्रांच में परमानेंट कमीशन दिया था जिनमें वह शॉर्ट सर्विस कमीशन के तहत आई हैं। पिछले साल फरवरी में परमानेंट कमीशन पाई महिला अधिकारियों की कर्नल रैंक में पोस्टिंग शुरू हुई थी। एक अधिकारी के मुताबिक कर्नल रैंक में दो साल होने के बाद उन्हें ब्रिगेडियर रैंक के लिए कंसीडर किया जाएगा। अगले साल सेकंड हाफ में ब्रिगेडियर का स्पेशल प्रमोशन बोर्ड बैठ सकता है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश के बाद आर्मी अब तक 1992 से 2009 बैच तक की 508 महिला अधिकारियों को परमानेंट कमीशन दे चुकी है। इसमें से 128 महिला अधिकारियों को कर्नल रैंक में प्रमोशन भी दिया गया। सूत्रों के मुताबिक अगले साल 1992 से 1997 बैच तक की इन महिला अधिकारियों को ब्रिगेडियर रैंक के लिए कंसीडर किया जाएगा। आर्मी में पहले सिर्फ मेडिकल कोर, लीगल और एजुकेशन कोर में ही महिला अधिकारियों को यह प्रमोशन दिया जाता था। क्योंकि इन्हीं ब्रांच में महिला अधिकारियों के लिए परमानेंट कमीशन था। महिला अधिकारी अब आर्मी एयर डिफेंस, सिगनल्स, इंजीनियर्स, आर्मी एविएशन, इलैक्ट्रॉनिक्स एंड मैकेनिकल इंजीनियर्स, आर्मी सर्विस कोर, आर्मी ऑर्डिनेंस कोर और इंटेलिजेंस कोर में परमानेंट कमीशन की हकदार हैं। इसका मतलब है कि वह इन सब ब्रांच में कर्नल और इससे ऊपर के किसी भी रैंक तक पहुंच सकती हैं।

प्रमोशन को लेकर आर्मी ने सभी निर्देशों का पालन किया: SC

1992 से 2009 तक के बैच की 508 महिला अधिकारियों को परमानेंट कमीशन देने के बाद आर्मी ने सरकार से कर्नल रैंक में 150 नई वेकेंसी ली थी ताकि इन महिला अधिकारियों को प्रमोशन दिया जा सके। जब आर्मी ने 2006 तक के बैच के लिए कर्नल रैंक में प्रमोशन का बोर्ड बैठाया तो 120 महिला अधिकारियों को कर्नल बनाया गया। जिसके बाद कुछ महिला अधिकारी सुप्रीम कोर्ट पहुंची और कहा कि आर्मी ने प्रमोशन में सुप्रीम कोर्ट के आदेश का पालन नहीं किया है। जिसके बाद कोर्ट ने आर्मी से कहा कि नए एसीआर (ACR) के हिसाब से प्रमोशन दिया जाए। जिसके बाद आर्मी ने 8 और महिला अधिकारियों को प्रमोशन दिया। इसके बाद फिर कुछ महिला अधिकारी प्रमोशन न मिलने को लेकर कोर्ट पहुंची। सोमवार को कोर्ट ने इस केस को खारिज कर दिया और कहा कि आर्मी ने प्रमोशन को लेकर निर्देशों का पालन किया है। आर्मी की तरफ से कर्नल सारिका पेंडेलवार ने कोर्ट को बताया कि जो 150 वेकेंसी ली गई हैं वह 2009 तक के बैच के लिए ली गई हैं। इसमें से भी 8 अतिरिक्त महिला अधिकारियों को प्रमोशन दिया जा चुका है।

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/india/for-the-first-time-in-indian-army-women-officers-will-become-brigadiers-in-new-branch/articleshow/109891038.cms>

नवभारत टाइम्स

Thu, 09 Apr 2024

चीनी फौज बदल रही, भारत न रहे पीछे

लेखक: हर्ष वी पंत

जब भारत असाधारण रूप से लंबी चुनाव प्रक्रिया में उलझा हुआ है, बाकी दुनिया अपनी प्राथमिकताओं पर आगे बढ़ रही है। पिछले हफ्ते, चीन के राष्ट्रपति शी चिनफिंग ने देश के सशस्त्र बलों के व्यापक पुनर्गठन की ओर कदम बढ़ाते हुए पीपल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी (PLA) की डिविजन स्ट्रैटजिक सपोर्ट फोर्स (SSF) को भंग करने का आश्चर्यजनक फैसला किया। इस डिविजन का गठन उन्होंने 2015 में किया था, जिसका मकसद PLA के स्पेस, साइबर, इलेक्ट्रॉनिक और साइकॉलजिकल वॉरफेयर से जुड़े हिस्सों का विलय करना था।

सूचना सहायता बल : इसके स्थान पर, शी ने सूचना सहायता बल (ISF) की शुरुआत की, जिसे उन्होंने PLA का एक नया रणनीतिक घटक बताया और कहा कि यह नेटवर्क सूचना प्रणाली को समन्वित रूप से आगे बढ़ाने में अहम भूमिका निभाएगा। इस फैसले के बाद अब PLA में चार प्राथमिक शाखाएं हो गई हैं – थल सेना, नौसेना बल, वायु सेना और रॉकेट बल। इसके अतिरिक्त, चार सहायक इकाइयां हैं- संयुक्त लॉजिस्टिक सपोर्ट फोर्स और SSF से प्राप्त तीन डिविजन।

भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी अभियान : शी के मुताबिक, इससे चीनी सेना को 'मौजूदा दौर के युद्धों में प्रभावी ढंग से शामिल होने और जीत हासिल करने' में मदद मिलेगी। वैसे, इस कदम की भूमिका पिछले साल PLA के भीतर चलाए गए उनके व्यापक भ्रष्टाचार विरोधी अभियान से तैयार हुई। कई प्रभावशाली जनरल इस अभियान की चपेट में आए। चीन की परमाणु और बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलों के तेजी से बढ़ते भंडार के प्रबंधन के लिए जिम्मेदार रॉकेट फोर्स में भी इस वजह से डिसरप्शन आया।

शी की निगरानी को मजबूती : पुनर्गठन का ताजा प्रयास PLA की रणनीतिक क्षमताओं पर शी की प्रत्यक्ष निगरानी को मजबूत करता है और भविष्य में युद्ध के बदलते स्वरूप के मद्देनजर AI और अन्य उभरती टेक्नॉलजी का कुशलतापूर्वक उपयोग सुनिश्चित करने की जरूरत पर जोर देता है। यह चीन के लिए इस अर्थ में भी अहम है कि वह अपनी सेना को बदलते रणनीतिक हालात और मौजूदा दौर में युद्ध के तेजी से विकसित होते स्वरूप के अनुकूल ढालने की कोशिश कर रहा है।

आधुनिकीकरण का दशक : पिछले एक दशक में चीन ने अपनी सैन्य क्षमताओं का व्यापक आधुनिकीकरण किया है, जिसका लक्ष्य PLA को क्षेत्रीय और वैश्विक स्तर पर अपने हितों की रक्षा करने में सक्षम अजेय ताकत में तब्दील करना है। इस आधुनिकीकरण अभियान में तकनीकी प्रगति, संगठनात्मक सुधार और सैद्धांतिक विकास सहित विभिन्न पहलू शामिल हैं।

अत्याधुनिक हथियार : चीन के सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण का केंद्र बिंदु अत्याधुनिक हथियार और साजो-सामान का विकास व अधिग्रहण रहा है। इसमें एयरक्राफ्ट कैरियर्स की कमिश्निंग के जरिए नौसैनिक क्षमता में वृद्धि करना, अगली पीढ़ी के लड़ाकू जेट विमानों के जरिए वायु सेना का आधुनिकीकरण और उन्नत बैलिस्टिक व क्रूज मिसाइलों के जरिए मिसाइल फोर्स को मजबूती देना शामिल है।

संगठनात्मक सुधार : इसके अलावा, कमांड संरचनाओं को सुव्यवस्थित करने, संयुक्त संचालन में सुधार और PLA की समग्र दक्षता और प्रभावशीलता को बढ़ाने के लिए संगठनात्मक सुधार शुरू किए गए हैं। इन सुधारों में नए कमांड और थिएटर कमांड की स्थापना के साथ-साथ सैन्य कर्मियों को पेशेवर और आधुनिक बनाने के प्रयास शामिल हैं।

भारत के लिए चुनौतियां : कहने की जरूरत नहीं कि चीन का सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण भारत के लिए कई तरह की चुनौतियां पेश करता है। चीन की बढ़ी हुई सैन्य क्षमताएं इस क्षेत्र में शक्ति संतुलन को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं। देखा

जाए तो इस क्षेत्र में चल रहे विवादों पर चीन के रुख में पहले के मुकाबला ज्यादा आक्रामकता अभी से स्पष्ट होने लगी है। ऐसे में स्वाभाविक ही दोनों देशों के बीच सैन्य टकराव का खतरा बढ़ गया है।

रक्षा पर खर्च : वैसे भी चीन की बढ़ती सैन्य शक्ति का भारत की रक्षा योजनाओं और सुरक्षा चिंताओं पर प्रभाव पड़ता ही है। संभावित चीनी आक्रामकता के खिलाफ एक विश्वसनीय प्रतिरोध बनाए रखने के लिए भारत अपने सैन्य आधुनिकीकरण प्रयासों में निवेश बढ़ाने को मजबूर है।

मेक इन इंडिया : पिछले दशक में भारत ने अपने सशस्त्र बलों को आधुनिक बनाने और इनकी दक्षता बढ़ाने के उद्देश्य से रक्षा सुधारों का सिलसिला शुरू किया है। एक महत्वपूर्ण सुधार 'मेक इन इंडिया' कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से स्वदेशी रक्षा विनिर्माण को बढ़ावा देना है। इस पहल का उद्देश्य रक्षा उपकरणों के घरेलू उत्पादन को प्रोत्साहित करना, आयात पर निर्भरता कम करना और रक्षा क्षमताओं में भारत की आत्मनिर्भरता को मजबूत करना है।

खरीद प्रक्रिया : इसके अलावा, महत्वपूर्ण मिलिटरी हार्डवेयर और प्रौद्योगिकी के अधिग्रहण में तेजी लाने के लिए रक्षा खरीद प्रक्रिया को सुव्यवस्थित करने पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया गया है। रक्षा अधिग्रहण प्रक्रिया (DAP) और रणनीतिक साझेदारी मॉडल जैसे उपायों का उद्देश्य खरीद प्रक्रियाओं को सहज और सुविधाजनक बनाना और रक्षा उत्पादन में निजी क्षेत्र की भागीदारी को प्रोत्साहित करना है।

बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास : भारत की सीमाओं पर, विशेषकर चीन से लगे सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में, रक्षा बुनियादी ढांचे के विकास पर भी जोर बढ़ाया गया है। इसमें सशस्त्र बलों की मोबिलिटी बढ़ाने और उनके लिए लॉजिस्टिक सपोर्ट बढ़ाने के मकसद से सड़कों, हवाई क्षेत्रों और अन्य बुनियादी ढांचे का विकास शामिल है। इसके अलावा, भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों की तीनों शाखाओं – थल सेना, नौसेना और वायु सेना – के बीच एकीकरण को बढ़ावा देने पर जोर दिया गया है।

थिएटर कमांड पर बहस : फिर भी तेजी से सुधार और व्यापक पुनर्गठन की जरूरत बनी हुई है। देश में थिएटर कमांड पर बहस अभी भी अटकी हुई है। मानव संसाधन और टेक्नॉलजी का अनुपात वाजिब स्तर से काफी कम है। चीन के हालिया कदम भारत के लिए एक चेतावनी हैं। भारतीय सशस्त्र बलों को 21 वीं सदी के युद्ध लड़ने लायक बनाना जून में आने वाली सरकार की सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता होनी चाहिए।

<https://blogs.navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/nbteditpage/chinese-army-is-changing-india-should-not-be-left-behind/>

Science & Technology News

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Scorching, Rocky Planet Twice Earth's Size Found to have Thick Atmosphere

A thick atmosphere has been detected around a planet that's twice as big as Earth in a nearby solar system, scientist reported Wednesday. The so-called super Earth - known as 55 Cancri e - is among the few rocky planets outside our solar system with a significant atmosphere, wrapped a blanket of carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. Exact amounts are unclear. Earth's atmosphere is a blend of nitrogen, oxygen, argon and other gases.

"It's probably the firmest evidence yet that this planet has an atmosphere," said Ian Crossfield, an astronomer who was not involved with the research, published in the journal Nature. Super Earth refers to a planet's size - bigger than Earth but smaller than Neptune. The boiling temperatures on this planet - which can reach as hot as 2,300C - mean that it is unlikely to host life.

Instead, scientists say the discovery is a promising sign that other such rocky planets with thick atmospheres could exist that may be more hospitable. The exoplanet 41 light years away is eight times heavier than Earth and circles its star Copernicus so closely that it has permanent day and night sides. A light-year is nearly 9.7 trillion kms. Its surface is encrusted with magma oceans.

To identify the makeup of its atmosphere, researchers studied Webb Space Telescope observations before and after the planet passed behind its star. They separated the light emitted from the planet versus its star and used the data to calculate the planet's temperature. There's evidence the planet's heat was being distributed more evenly across its surface - a party trick atmospheres are known for. Gases from its magma oceans may play a key role in holding its atmosphere steady. Exploring this super Earth may also yield clues to how Earth and Mars might have evolved. "It's a rare window," said Renyu Hu from Nasa's Jet Propulsion Lab, who was part of the research.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/scorching-rocky-planet-twice-earths-size-found-to-have-thick-atmosphere/articleshow/109963070.cms>

