

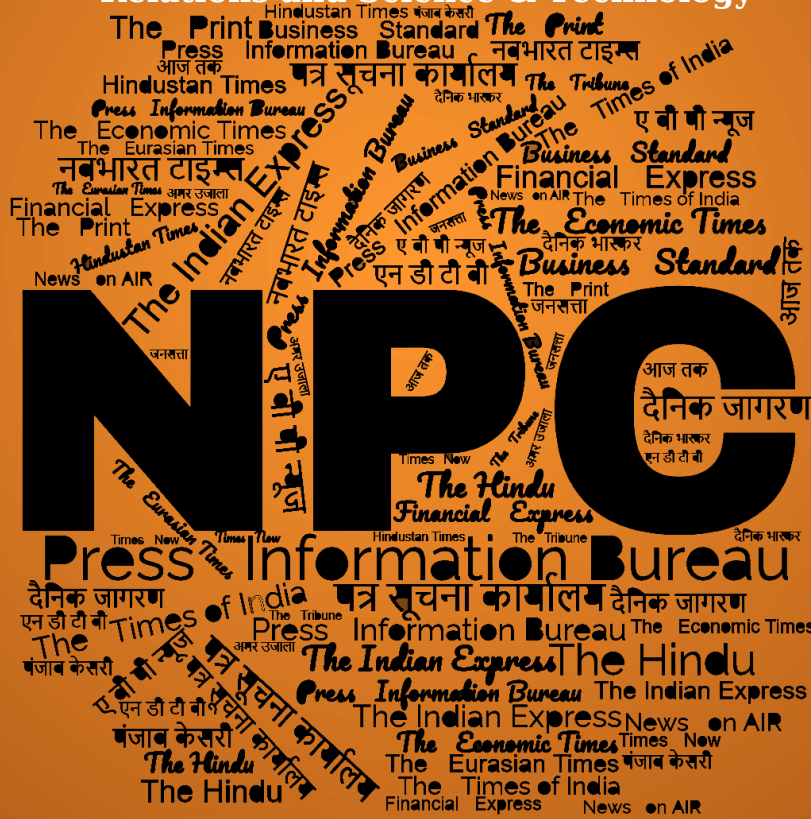
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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Type-V Heavy Drop System Showcased at North Tech Symposium in Jammu

A “Type-V Heavy Drop System” in which a parachute is used to drop from an aircraft arms, ammunition and equipment weighing up to 20 tons in a battlefield or an inaccessible high-altitude area was showcased at the North Tech Symposium here on Monday.

Designed and developed at the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the system was successfully tested from a cargo aircraft by the Indian Air Force (IAF) recently, officials said.

With the help of this system, arms, equipment and ammunition weighing up to 20 tons can be easily transported and dropped with the help of parachute in the battlefield or inaccessible high-altitude areas, they said.

Being manufactured with 100 per cent indigenous resources, the IAF users have declared it a major success under “make in India”.

Officials said the testing was jointly completed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, armed forces and Airbornics Defence and Space Private Limited (defence division of JCBL). “The system can be used for C-17, C-130 and other C-series aircraft. It has a platform and a special multi-stage parachute system,” an official said.

It consists of eight main canopies, three extractor parachutes, one drogue parachute and electrical, electronic, mechanical systems and other latching accessories. The platform of this system is made of a special aluminum metal, they said.

Preparations have been completed for the induction of this system into the armed forces, he added.

It is being manufactured by Airbornics Defence and Space Private Limited.

ADSPL is involved in R&D activities with aerial delivery research and development establishment, Agra (DRDO) since 2018 for development of such systems for the needs of the armed forces, officials said.

The three-day North Tech Symposium, organised by the Army, began on the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) campus on the outskirts of Jammu on Monday. A large number of companies and start-ups are showcasing their military equipment at the symposium, which facilitates a structured approach to product evaluation, prioritisation, and acquisition while contributing actionable inputs for procurement plans.

<https://theprint.in/india/type-v-heavy-drop-system-showcased-at-north-tech-symposium-in-jammu/1757467/>



Tue, 12 Sep 2023

Defence Minister to Inaugurate Devak Bridge in Jammu Today

Defence minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate a strategically significant bridge over the Devak river in Samba district on Tuesday during his two-day visit to the Jammu region.

Singh will also dedicate 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) worth ₹2,941 crores to the nation through virtual mode.

The ceremony will be carried out at Devak Bridge in Jammu.

These projects have been constructed in 10 border states and UTs of northern and northeastern India. Devak bridge has a 422.9-metre span and has come up on the Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road, close to the Indo-Pak international border.

The defence minister will also carry out e-shilanyas of Nyoma Airfield to be constructed in Ladakh. Singh will also inaugurate 22 roads, 63 bridges, the Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, two airfields in West Bengal and two helipads.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/others/defence-minister-to-inaugurate-devak-bridge-in-jammu-today-101694460207302.html>



Tue, 12 Sep 2023

Arunachal: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Virtually Inaugurate Nechiphu Tunnel in West Kameng District Today

In a significant infrastructural boost to the northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be inaugurating and dedicating 90 vital infrastructure projects to the nation on September 12 which includes the inauguration of the 500 meter long Nechiphu Tunnel situated on the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road in Arunachal Pradesh.

This passage, related to the under-development Sela Passage, will give all-weather availability to the decisively essential Tawang Locale. It is normal to help both the military conveyed in the locale and the travelers visiting the immaculate Tawang region.

In addition, the reconstruction of the West Bengal airfields of Bagdogra and Barrackpore, which cost Rs 529 crores each, is expected to significantly improve the Indian Air Force's offensive and defensive capabilities. In addition, they will make commercial flight operations possible in the region, which will be a significant advancement in connectivity throughout the region.

Protection Priest Rajnath Singh will likewise lead the e-shilanyash of Nyoma Runway in Ladakh, an undertaking costing Rs 218 crores. This landing strip improvement will altogether reinforce air framework in Ladakh and upgrade the Indian Aviation based armed forces' capacities along the Northern Boundaries.

These improvements to the infrastructure, which were spearheaded by the Border Roads Organization (BRO), show that road and bridge construction has significantly increased over the past three years. These activities reinforce India's safeguard readiness as well as trigger positive changes in remote line towns. The network given by these advancements has prompted invert movement, populace development, and worked on everyday environments, including tutoring offices, medical care places, power supply, and business open doors for the nearby networks.

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/arnachal-pradesh/story/arnachal-union-defence-minister-rajnath-singh-to-virtually-inaugurate-nechiphu-tunnel-in-west-kameng-district-today-676654-2023-09-12>

United News of India
India's Multi Lingual News Agency

Mon, 11 Sep 2023

Vice Chief of Army Staff Declares Open 3-Day North Tech Symposium at IIT Jammu

Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar on Monday declared open the three-day North Tech Symposium jointly organised by Northern Command SIDM and IIT Jammu.

The Symposium will conclude on September 13.

The event has invited a lot of brilliant minds and state of the art defence technologies under one umbrella of Northern Command headquarters and is based on the theme "Atmanirbhar Bharat Takniki Navikaran Ke Dwara Uttari Kaman Sainya Abhiyan Chunautiyan Ka Nivaran".

The Defence Spokesman said that the event had active participation from nearly 180 Indian defence companies including MSMEs, DRDO, DPSU, Simulator Development Division etc.

"His interactive platform for knowledge diffusion through Joint Army - Industry participation was also aimed at propelling the Government initiative of "Make in India"," he said adding that the symposium served to showcase cutting edge technologies and innovative products providing solutions to some of the complex challenges faced by the security forces in the Northern Command and also acted as an ideal platform for mutual exchanges of ideas between the Indian defence industry and the Army. "The technologies and products on display covered a wide canvas, the prominent being, surveillance and situational awareness, tactical mobility, firepower, soldier/ force protection, communications, combat medical facility, robotics, simulators and training aids among others," said the spokesman.

The aura of the symposium grew many a fold when it was graced by Lt Governor of UT of Ladakh Brig (Dr) BD Mishra (Retd) and Lt Governor of UT of Jammu and Kashmir Manoj Sinha and also Gen Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff.

The symposium was a huge success and GOC-in-C, Northern Command lauded the initiative and innovations of all the vendors.

He furthermore commended the spirit of the participants who showcased their technical equipment. GOC-in-C Northern Command remarked that he was convinced by the plethora of technologies available indigenously which can further boost the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” project of the Nation.

The symposium was a huge success and was just the beginning of the indigenous defence production industries which are soon going to form the backbone of the country, he said.

<http://www.uniindia.com/~vice-chief-of-army-staff-declares-open-3-day-north-tech-symposium-at-iit-jammu/States/news/3048555.html>



Mon, 11 Sep 2023

India has Indigenously-built Drones for Cross-Border Strikes: CDS Anil Chauhan

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Monday indicated that India has acquired indigenous drones capable of striking targets deep inside enemy territory. He was speaking at the North Tech Symposium in Jammu.

Replying to a question whether India will ever be using drones to hit terror camps across the border, like the US, he said “I wish you go around this particular exhibition more closely and you will find systems which can target with loitering ammunition having a range of 100 -150 kms”.

“If you ask them (manufacturers), (they will say) the people have procured them. The people have not procured them for only target practice, they are to be used operationally,” the Chief of Defence Staff said. “And all what you see here, some of it you will find as part of our inventory at some particular time,” he added.

To another question about the threat of drones from Pakistan, he said that in the recently conducted G20 summit in Delhi, a large number of anti-drone systems were installed at the summit venue and the airport by Army, Air Force and the Navy. “Those systems were actually picked up from official places like air bases and the borders,” he said, adding that the armed forces are aware of this (drone) problem and they have procured these equipment in sufficient quantity to meet the immediate requirement.

“They have been successfully tested also,” he said hinting at the successful conduct of the G20 summit.

Earlier, talking to media persons, Northern Army Commander Lt General Upendra Dwivedi said that “we have already inducted a lot of equipment as part of counter drone technology”.

“However, as drones technology keeps evolving, we too have to enhance our counter drone systems, he said, adding that the people who have come here have brought with them the latest technology which will enhance our ability.

Since May 2022 when the last North Tech Symposium was held in Udhampur, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Command said that they have procured 256 equipment. The Army identify which every equipment comes at the exhibition, improves productivity and directly inducts it,” he added.

The symposium, jointly organized by the Northern Command, SIDM and IIT Jammu, displayed cutting-edge military technologies by Indian defence firms.

“With active participation from nearly 180 Indian defence companies including MSMWs, DRDO, DPSU, Simulator Development Division etc., this interactive platform for knowledge diffusion through joint Army-Industry partition is also aimed at propelling the government initiative of “Make in India”, an official statement here said.

The exhibition showcased cutting edge technologies and innovative products providing solutions to some of the complex challenges faced by the security forces in the Northern Command and also acted as an ideal platform for mutual exchanges of ideas between the Indian defence industry and the Army. The technologies and products on display covered a wide canvas, the prominent being, surveillance and situational awareness, tactical mobility, firepower, soldier/ force protection, communications, combat medical facility, robotics, simulators and training aids among others, the statement added.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-built-drones-cross-border-strikes-cds-anil-chauhan-8935492/>

United News of India
India's Multi Lingual News Agency

Mon, 11 Sep 2023

PM Modi, DM Rajnath Singh Set Target of Achieving 70 pc 'Aatmanirbharta' in Weaponry by 2027: J&K LG

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh have set a target of achieving 70 percent 'Aatmanirbharta' in weaponry by 2027.

Speaking at the North Tech Symposium organised jointly by the Northern Command and IIT Jammu, Sinha said that it is a proud moment for Academia as for the first time since its inception North-Tech Symposium, defence expo is being held in IIT Jammu.

“The PM and Defence Minister have set the target of achieving 70 percent Aatmanirbharta in weaponry by 2027, which is providing unlimited opportunities to private industries, MSMEs and tech startups. It signals our steadfast commitment to self-reliance,” said Sinha.

“This year is unique since Northern Command, SIDM and IIT Jammu are jointly hosting hundreds of Industries and defence tech start-ups,” he said.

Sinha said, “under leadership of PM Narendra Modi, the country has witnessed a major push for Aatmanirbharta in Defence. We are a responsible space power and have shown our strategic strength. Also, the launch of INS Vikrant last year vindicated our resolve to develop indigenous capabilities.” “Our arms imports have reduced significantly in the last 4-5 years and defence exports reached an all time high in the last financial year. It shows our commitment to innovation and Indigenous technology development,” he added.

The Lieutenant Governor added, “our greater thrust on R&D, innovation for defence excellence will ensure India is fully prepared for Future Warfare. I congratulate and express my deep gratitude to the armed forces for complete devotion to the motherland and determination to strengthen our national security.”

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/north/defence-jk-lg-sinha/3048541.html>



Mon, 11 Sep 2023

Indian Army to Get ‘Steel-Piercing’ Bulletproof Jackets, Helmets by Year-end

The Indian Army troops deployed along the Line of Control (LoC) and in operational areas will get bulletproof jackets and helmets that can protect troops from 'steel piercing' bullets by the year-end. As part of the Indian Army's emergency procurement, four contracts have been granted for procurement of bulletproof jackets, helmets, shields and Sikh helmets.

Vikramjeet Singh Mann, who heads the Sales and Marketing wing of SMPP, the company which got the contracts, told Republic that Indian Army jawans will be getting bulletproof jackets and helmets that can provide protection from deadly “steel-piercing” bullets.

The supply will start in the next couple of months and most likely by year end, troops will have a new level of protection. The Indian Army has procured 15,000 steel bulletproof jackets, 15,000 helmets, 12,000 Sikh helmets and over 1,400 bulletproof shields.

"These jackets provide BIS level-6 protection and helmets provide level 3+ protection, which are the best in the world as of now. The Indian Army will have world-class protection with these jackets and helmets that can provide protection from ‘steel-piercing’ bullets as well as sniper shots. These have been tested in service and tested by DRDO as well. It is for the first time that these bulletproof vests of level 6 protection have been procured by the Indian Army," Mann added.

Four emergency procurements made by the Indian Army as part of its self-reliance programme: Officials

Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan informed that four emergency procurements have been made by the Indian Army as part of its self-reliance programme.

“The fourth emergency procurement is of indigenous sources, which show we had faith in it. Last year, 68 per cent of the procurement was indigenous. The traditional view that local products aren't good are changing now,” Chauhan said.

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan hinted at potential use of drones for targeting terror camps across the border. General Chauhan revealed that there are drones available with a capability to target locations up to 100km away. He emphasised that the forces have already acquired these drones, which are not intended for mere target practice but rather for operational use.

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/indian-army-to-get-steel-piercing-bulletproof-jackets-helmets-by-year-end-articleshow.html>

During G20 Summit, Delhi Police Website Hit by 3-4 Cyber Attacks

The Delhi Police's official website saw three to four cyber-attacks over three days during the G20 Summit — all within hours of each other — and remained temporarily inaccessible for 10-30 minutes each time, The Indian Express has learnt.

On Monday, police said a group of unknown hackers, who call themselves 'Team Insane PK', had attacked the website multiple times. Police sources also said cyber attacks were detected on other government websites — including the Mumbai Police site — during the Summit. Following this, a Ministry of Home Affairs-level team was activated on Friday evening to prevent such attacks and restore the websites' functions. Senior police officers said the hackers are based in Pakistan and have been targeting websites in two ways — Distributed Denial of Services (DDoS) attacks, in which multiple servers are used to flood the source website and bring it down, and defacement attacks. The hackers attacked the Delhi Police's site using the first method, said police. The site displayed a message saying, "This service isn't available."

"We had detected multiple attacks during the Summit. However, our teams worked with MHA-level officers, and the website was restored successfully within minutes. We learnt this was a cyber terror attack to defame the Delhi Police and our country since we are the G20 hosts. In such cases, we usually take out our servers and shut down the system. We then fight the virus and restore the entire portal..." said an officer from the Delhi Police Headquarters.

Officers said despite their efforts, the firewall was attacked again. All citizen and police services were shut and important data was accessed by hackers, said police.

The Delhi Police website has multiple portals for citizens, policemen, traffic police, the Economic Offences Wing etc. Citizen portals have options to view FIRs, complaints, e-theft FIRs, RTI information and details about unidentified persons found and unclaimed vehicles seized. Police services include Zipnet, dossiers, FSL, conviction details, court rulings, police circulars, notifications, orders etc. Police said efforts are on to identify the hackers and an investigation is being conducted. "While the cyber cell has not registered an FIR, the matter has been flagged to higher authorities at the DRDO and CERT-In. They are working to prevent further attacks since other government sites were also targeted," added the officer.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/delhi-police-website-attacked-by-hackers-cyber-attacks-police-probe-8935656/>



Hyderabad's ARROBOT and Raghu Vamsi Group Unveil Innovative UGV for Armed Forces in Industry 4.0 Initiative

In a groundbreaking partnership, the Hyderabad-based Raghu Vamsi Group, an innovative Aerospace & Defence manufacturer, has joined hands with PAR EAST, a leader in autonomous manufacturing and supply chain solutions. This collaboration has given birth to ARROBOT,

established in April 2023, in direct response to the explosive growth of automation driven by Industry 4.0.

ARROBOT unveiled an Unmanned Guided Vehicle (UGV) for the Armed Forces, with Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary, Government of Telangana, as the guest.

This startup, ARROBOT, has developed an Unmanned Guided Vehicle (UGV) tailored for the Armed Forces, designed to aid in logistics, surveillance, and reconnaissance in challenging terrains and environments. It boasts a capacity to carry up to 200 Kgs on its top and tug up to 600 Kgs, offering a 30-degree view, and is versatile with various additional attachments. Positioned at the intersection of digitalization, electronics, and automation, ARROBOT aims to simplify and democratize Industry 4.0. It has already received more than 10 separate orders from multinational corporations and Indian government undertakings. According to the company's Co-Founder & CEO, Ravi Achanta, "ARROBOT" intends to empower industries with cutting-edge solutions, making them thrive in the modern era.

Known for its innovative prowess, Raghu Vamsi Group has developed solutions for autonomous material movement of up to 5 tons and Aircraft Push Back for towing and manoeuvring aircraft. This showcases their unwavering commitment to providing advanced technology and solutions to customers not only in India but worldwide.

Expressing his enthusiasm at the launch, Vamsi Vikas, Managing Director of Raghu Vamsi, stated, "It's a moment of pride for us to stand among the few companies in India with in-house expertise spanning all core manufacturing domains, enabling us to create cutting-edge products in fields like Missile Systems, Electro Optics, Jet Engines, Loitering Munitions, Drones, and more."

ARROBOT has ambitious plans to generate highly skilled job opportunities for India's youth in the next two years. This not only boosts the economy but also ensures India's leadership in technological advancements. With the introduction of "ARROBOT," Raghu Vamsi Group is propelling India to the forefront of robotics and industrial automation. This strategic move is a significant stride towards realizing the "Atmanirbhar Bharat" vision of the Government of India, solidifying India's stature as a prominent player in the global automation industry.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-hyderabad-arrobot-and-raghu-vamsi-group-unveil-innovative-ugv-for-armed-forces-in-industry-4-0-initiative-3240093/>



Mon, 11 Sep 2023

Exercise Bright Star-23 Enters Last Phase, More Complex Joint Missions to Follow: Indian Air Force

Indian Air Force on Monday informed that the Bright Star-23 exercise has entered the culmination phase which will involve more complex joint missions involving assets of all participating forces. A 137 personnel contingent of the Indian Army had departed for Exercise Bright Star- 23 on August 29.

Informing about the news on X (formerly Twitter), Indian Airforce wrote, "Exercise #BrightStar 23 moves on to its culmination phase. The last phase follows a build up to more complex joint missions and will involve assets of all participating forces."

According to a release by the Ministry of Defence, Exercise Bright Star-23 began on August 31 and it ends on September 14. Exercise Bright Star-23 is a tri-services joint military exercise that is led by US CENTCOM and the Egyptian Army.

“Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23 will provide a unique opportunity to Indian Army to share best practices and experiences with other armies besides enhancing the defence cooperation. Indian Army looks forward to an enriching professional experience from the Exercise.”, the Ministry of Defence had earlier said in a statement.

What is Exercise Bright Star-23?

Exercise Bright Star-23 was conceptualized as a training exercise between the US and Egypt during the Camp David Accord of 1977. The first edition of the exercise was conducted in Egypt in 1980 and it was expanded to include more nations in the year 1995.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/exercise-bright-star-23-enters-last-phase-more-complex-joint-missions-to-follow-indian-air-force-11694410412073.html>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Mon, 11 Sep 2023

Ajit Doval is the Man Behind India's Answer to China's Belt and Road Initiative

The most consequential announcement at the recently concluded G20 Summit in Delhi was the commitment to build a rail-and-port network that will connect India to the Middle-East and the Middle-East to Europe and the US. It has been named the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). Though no leader from the participating countries mentioned China, it is an obvious alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) that aims to connect the whole world to China through shipping, rail and road networks.

Though intense negotiations, led by Deputy NSA Vikram Misri, were held between the four countries and other stakeholders since early last week to seal the deal, as reported by ET, the IMEC was not something that was hurriedly cobbled up at the G20 Summit. Its genesis lies in a forum created nearly two years ago in October 2021 called I2U2, comprising India, Israel, the UAE and the US. The Saudi Arabia was later made part of the grouping.

India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval is the man behind crafting this mega infrastructural project as he had been in negotiations with his counterparts from other participating countries, especially American NSA Jake Sullivan, for past several months.

How it all started

The I2U2 is a grouping of four nations, which came into existence in October 2021. The group consists of India, the US, the United Arab Emirates and Israel. The primary objectives of the group are to deepen the technological and private-sector collaboration among the nations and tackle large-scale challenges. In July last year, the group issued its inaugural joint statement, affirming the six focus areas that member nations collectively agreed to prioritise. These key areas are water, energy, transport, space, health, and food security.

The idea of IMEC emerged during talks at the I2U2 forum and Saudi Arabia was included in this plan. I2U2 had emerged to counter China's rising influence in the Middle-East. “Nobody said it out loud but it was about China from day one,” a former senior Israeli official who was directly

involved in early discussions on the issue had told American news portal Axios. It was Israel which raised the idea of connecting the region through railways during the I2U2 meetings. Part of the idea was to use India's expertise on such big infrastructure projects, especially railways.

Doval and Sullivan at work

Doval met his American counterpart Jake Sullivan and those from the UAE and Saudi Arabia to discuss the infrastructural project in early May. The exact details of the meeting were not revealed, though in an anodyne statement, the White House said, "National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan met with Saudi Prime Minister and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, UAE National Security Advisor Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval on May 7 in Saudi Arabia to advance their shared vision of a more secure and prosperous Middle East region interconnected with India and the world."

Sullivan had hinted at this initiative during his speech at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy right before the meeting in Saudi Arabia: "If you remember nothing else from my speech, remember I2U2, because you will be hearing more about it as we go forward," he said. Sullivan added the fundamental notion was to connect South Asia to the Middle East to the U.S. "in ways that advance our economic technology and diplomacy".

Sullivan said in his speech that one of the pillars of the Biden administration's strategy in the Middle East was regional integration. "A more integrated, interconnected Middle East empowers our allies and partners, advances regional peace and prosperity, and reduces the resource demands on the U.S. in this region over the long term without sacrificing our fundamental interests or our involvement in the region," he said.

Doval and Sullivan had been meeting since early this year to prepare the ground for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic state visit to the US in July which proved to be a landmark with India and the US agreeing on deeper cooperation in the fields of business, trade, technology and defence. Doval had started preparing the ground for this visit much earlier, and in months of negotiations he built a momentum for various important deals between India and the US.

President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Modi had announced on the margins of the Tokyo summit of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) in May last year the US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) to elevate and expand the strategic technology partnership and defence industrial cooperation between the two countries. After that, Modi chose Doval to define and expand the initiative by negotiating with different stakeholders in the US. Doval and his US counterpart Sullivan had been shaping up iCET in the run-up to Modi's state visit to the US. The idea of an infrastructural corridor from India to the Middle East to Europe was also firmed up by them as they worked together on India-US partnerships.

The China threat in the Middle East

In the past few years, China has stepped up its cooperation with West Asia, particularly with Iraq, since the unveiling of the BRI. Iraq's strategic location and its trade through the Persian Gulf make it a crucial point in China's BRI. China's insatiable hunger for energy resources places a high priority on importing energy from West Asia. China is pushing hard to expand its footprints across the West Asia North Africa region riding on the atmosphere created by the Saudi-Iran deal that was brokered by it, ET reported recently. There has been a flurry of visits from China across the region since the deal was concluded.

China Harbour Engineering Company or CHEC has reportedly awarded a deal in March worth \$2.1 billion to develop infrastructure projects, according to a recent ET report. China's local partner ROSHN is backed by the Saudi Public Investment Fund. The proposed projects include housing

units and schools. Earlier various deals were signed at the China-Saudi Arabia Economic and Trade Cooperation Matchmaking Conference.

The IMEC will not only counter China's growing BRI footprint in the Middle East but will also contain its strategic clout that it gains through business and infrastructural deals with other countries. With India expected to build the railways in the Middle East countries as part of the IMEC, it would also open up for India other avenues of cooperation with those countries besides earning India the reputation of a global infrastructure builder. The key role being played by Doval, India's topmost security expert, in shaping up the IMEC deal indicates that the infrastructural project is important for India from strategic and security aspects too, besides its economic benefits.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/ajit-doval-is-the-man-behind-indias-answer-to-chinas-belt-and-road-initiative/articleshow/103572843.cms>



Mon, 11 Sep 2023

India, Saudi Arabia Ink 8 Pacts; PM Modi Says Ties Between 2 Nations Crucial

India and Saudi Arabia on Monday decided to expedite implementation of the USD 50 billion West Coast refinery project, and identified energy, defence, semiconductor and space as areas for intensified cooperation during talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud.

In his opening remarks at the first India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council meeting, Prime Minister Modi said the relationship between the two countries is crucial for regional and global stability.

In the talks, the two sides agreed to diversify the current status of their hydrocarbons relationship into a "comprehensive energy partnership" and inked eight pacts to boost cooperation in a range of areas including digitisation and investment.

A joint statement said both sides also stressed the importance of strengthening security cooperation to combating terrorism and its financing.

Bin Salman was on a day-long State Visit to India following the end of the G20 Summit.

Emphasising that terrorism, in all its forms, remains one of the "gravest threats" to humanity, the two sides agreed that there cannot be any justification for any act of terror for any reason whatsoever. They rejected any attempt to link terrorism to any particular race, religion or culture and called on all States to reject the use of terrorism against other countries, dismantle terrorism infrastructure where it exists and bring perpetrators of terrorism to justice swiftly.

A major focus of the talks was enhancing energy cooperation.

"Both sides extended their full support to the early implementation of the West Coast refinery project, which is a trilateral cooperation between ARAMCO, ADNOC and Indian companies," Ausaf Sayeed, secretary (overseas Indian affairs) in the External Affairs Ministry, said.

At a media briefing, Sayeed said different areas of cooperation such as energy, defence, security, education, technology, transportation, healthcare, tourism and culture were identified in the talks between the two leaders.

The two sides also held deliberations on power grid, gas grid, optical grids and fibre networks for possible cooperation.

In the talks, both sides also agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation in the area of payment systems including the acceptance of RuPAY card in Saudi Arabia for the benefit of the Indian community in general and more particularly the Hajj/Umrah pilgrims.

Prime Minister Modi and the Saudi leader co-chaired the first meeting of the Strategic Partnership Council that was established in October 2019.

Sayed said both Prime Minister Modi and Crown Prince Bin Salman extended their "full support" to the early implementation of the West Coast refinery project for which funds to the tune of USD 50 billion are already earmarked.

"The two sides agreed to set up a joint task force to help in identifying and channelising the USD 100 billion investments which was promised by the Saudi side half of which was for the refinery," he said. The West Coast Refinery project is to come up in Maharashtra. The mega refinery-cum-petrochemicals complex project was first announced in 2015.

The two sides also decided to have a monitoring committee to ensure that the refinery projects are done according to the plans laid out by both the sides.

In the morning, Bin Salman was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The visiting leader and Modi held one-on-one talks before the Strategic Partnership Council meeting. Modi also hosted a working lunch for the Saudi leader.

In the meeting, the two sides welcomed the launch of the India-Middle-East economic corridor.

"I am very glad to be here in India. I want to congratulate India for the G20 Summit," Bin Salman told reporters after the ceremonial welcome.

The Saudi leader said the announcements made at the summit will benefit the world. "We will work together to create a great future for both the countries," he said.

Saudi Arabia is one of India's key strategic partners in the Middle-East. The overall relations between the two countries have witnessed a significant upward trajectory in the last few years.

The two sides have also been focusing on strengthening their defence and security partnership.

The then Chief of Army Staff, General MM Naravane, visited Saudi Arabia in December 2020 in the first-ever visit by a head of the 1.3 million-strong Army to the important Gulf nation.

Since then, there have been series of visits of high-ranking military officials between the two sides.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/amp/india/story/india-saudi-arabia-ink-8-pacts-pm-narendra-modi-says-ties-between-2-nations-crucial-2434422-2023-09-11>



Mon, 11 Sep 2023

US Navy Looks to Significantly Increase Additive Manufacturing for Building and Repairing Ships

The US Navy (USN) is striving to bolster the use of additive manufacturing (AM) in shipbuilding and ship repairs, according to Rear Admiral Jason Lloyd, chief engineer and deputy commander for Ship Design, Integration and Naval Engineering at Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA).

“We have a national imperative to make additive manufacturing an interchangeable process for other types of manufacturing,” Rear Adm Lloyd said on 7 September during a keynote speech at the American Society of Naval Engineers (ASNE) Fleet Maintenance & Modernization Symposium.

Rear Adm Lloyd detailed the USN's plans to encourage greater AM use in shipyards and on ships, including the installation of additional 3D printers on more vessels.

The service has some hurdles to jump to do that, he said. “AM is not a programme of record,” he added, noting the USN often has to rely on research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) funding.

“It's a very difficult discussion in budget cycle,” Rear Adm Lloyd said, adding, though, the Pentagon recently made funding available to “scale up” the installation of 3D print shops on additional ships.

Amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) was the first USN warship to install a metal 3D printer in 2022. Amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) completed installation of a metal 3D printer in November 2022.

“Not only can they print the part, but they can also use it right after [printing it] on the ship.”

The ship already has printed a compressor that saved significant time on repairs, according to the NAVSEA chief engineer.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/us-navy-looks-to-significantly-increase-additive-manufacturing-for-building-and-repairing-ships>

United News of India
India's Multi Lingual News Agency

Mon, 11 Sep 2023

NATO Plans Biggest Military Exercise since Cold War Next Year – Reports

Countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) are planning to hold the biggest military exercises since the Cold War, the Financial Times newspaper reported on Monday.

The organization's joint command and some 41,000 military personnel are to be summoned to practice repelling a Russian attack against a member of the alliance, as the newspaper wrote.

The exercises dubbed "Steadfast Defender" are to be held next spring. The drills will be carried out on the territory of Germany, Poland and the Baltic countries. From 500 to 700 air combat exercises will be carried out, with more than 50 aircraft vehicles slated to participate.

Sweden, whose full accession to NATO is yet to be approved by Hungary and Turkey, is expected to join the military drills.

Last September, Russian President Vladimir Putin addressed citizens, saying that the West had overstepped all limits in its anti-Russian politics and threats. Putin said that Russia's production is superior to foreign military hardware in a number of components and warned those trying to blackmail Moscow with nuclear weapons, adding that "the wind may turn in their direction."

<http://www.uniindia.com/nato-plans-biggest-military-exercise-since-cold-war-next-year-reports/world/news/3048622.html>

Mon, 11 Sep 2023

IIT-Tirupati to Host National Symposium on Science and Technology Missions on September 12

The Indian Institute of Technology in Tirupati (IIT-T) is all set to host the national symposium on 'National Science and Technology Missions' organised by Innovation, Science and Technology Foundation (ISTF) on Tuesday.

The eminent persons from the S&T arena and policymakers such as Niti Aayog member V.K. Saraswat, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) Secretary M. Ravichandran, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Director-General Kalai Selvi (virtual mode), DRDO Director-General (Electronics and Communication Systems) B.K. Das and Shanta Biotech Emeritus Chairman K.I. Varaprasada Reddy are among the speakers at the prestigious event.

The top scientists would dwell upon the respective S&T missions being pursued by the premier research bodies, IIT-Tirupati Director K.N. Satyanarayana, ISTF Chairman D. Narayana Rao and Vijnana Bharati (AP) representative Kompella Shastri told the media here on Monday. The event would immensely benefit the academic, industrial and research fraternities.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/iit-tirupati-to-host-national-symposium-on-science-and-technology-missions-on-september-12/article67294561.ece>



Tue, 12 Sep 2023

AI-Backed Tool TTPs Developed by IIT to Fight Online Frauds

A unique AI-backed cybercrime investigator tool TTPs (tactics, techniques and procedures)-has been developed to aid the police in its fight against online attacks targeting humans, like insurance fraud, online matrimonial fraud and so on.

Scientists from I-hub NTIHAC foundation (c3ihub) at IIT Kanpur with support from Department of Science and Technology (DST) have developed the tool which has cybercrime investigation framework that can help in tracking and classifying cybercrimes identifying chain of evidences required to solve the case and in mapping evidences onto the framework to convict criminals.

With advancing technology, cyber scammers are also following new ways to target people and real money. Some of the common cyber frauds include identity theft, phishing scams, credit card fraud, romance scams, investment fraud and more. According to reports, cybercrime incidents cause one crore/day loss in many states. Mostly, women, aged and poor people are targeted resulting in loss of entire life savings.

Usually, it has been noted that the number of cybercrime investigations has been significantly lesser than the number of cybercrime reports in India. “The investigation of such cybercrimes depends on the FIR narratives by the victims who usually have extremely low cyber literacy. Hence their narratives frequently mislead or distract investigators. Victims frequently do not maintain contact after reporting the incident, which makes tracking the crime even more difficult,” explained an official from the DST.

The investigator will extract key points from the victim's FIR, provide sufficient information on the reported cybercrime to categorize it systematically and exhaustively, indicate the steps to follow based on pre-existing crime paths, map evidence to the steps taken to decide the following step and finally conclude and convict criminals.

No comprehensive framework exists for cybercrime incident response till now.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/india/ai-backed-tool-ttps-developed-by-iit-to-fight-online-frauds.html>

