

जुलाई
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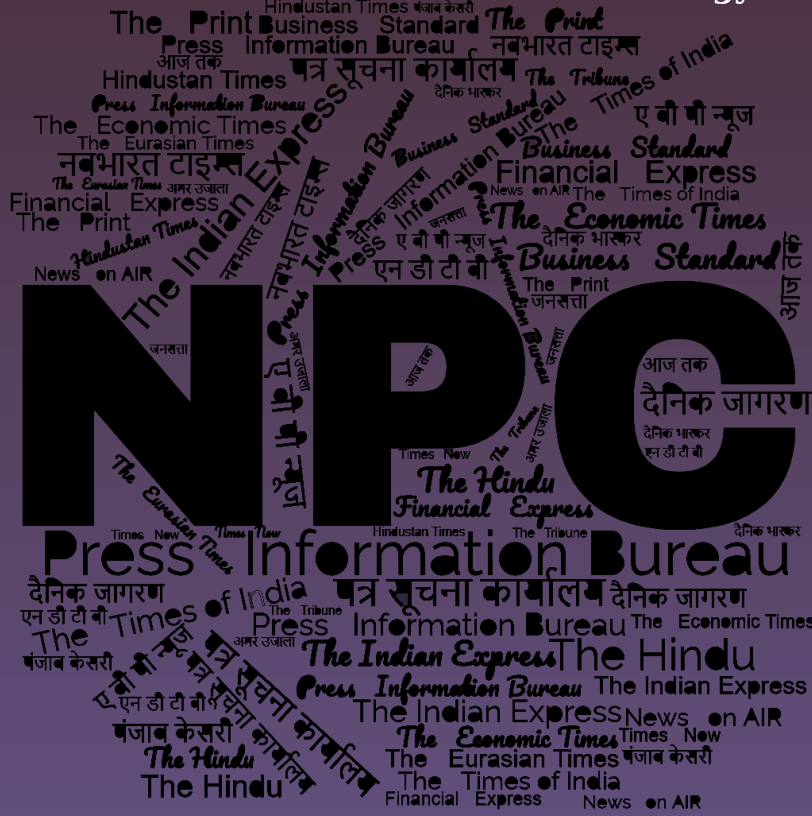
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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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Thu, 13 Jul 2023

रूस को ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल बेचने को भारत तैयार

भारत की ब्रह्मोस क्रूज मिसाइल को देश का ब्रह्मास्त्र कहा जाता है। यह किसी भी सशस्त्र बल में शामिल इकलौती सुपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल है। ये मिसाइल इतनी खास है कि चीन में तैनात S-400 एयर डिफेंस सिस्टम भी इसका कुछ नहीं बिगाड़ सकता। और तो और पश्चिमी देशों के साथ कई NATO देश भी इस मिसाइल को खरीदने में अपनी दिलचस्पी दिखा चुके हैं।

ये कहना है कि ब्रह्मोस एरोस्पेस के CEO और MD अतुल दिनकर का। अतुल ने हाल ही में द वीक मैगजीन से इस मिसाइल की खूबियों और क्षमताओं पर बात की।

इंटरव्यू के दौरान अतुल ने बताया कि जब उन्होंने ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल बनाने की शुरुआत की थी, तब दुनिया में ऐसी कोई डिफेंस प्रणाली नहीं थी जो इसका सामना कर सके। हालांकि, अब उन्होंने कुछ ऐसे एंटी-मिसाइल सिस्टम के बारे में सुना है जो काफी एडवांस्ड हैं, लेकिन ब्रह्मोस के ऑपरेशन पर ये कितना असर डाल सकते हैं, इसे लेकर ज्यादा साक्ष्य नहीं मिले हैं।

द वीक मैगजीन के साथ ब्रह्मोस एरोस्पेस के MD अतुल दिनकर के इंटरव्यू के कुछ अहम अंश -

सवाल- चीन ने रूसी S-400 एयर डिफेंस सिस्टम तैनात किया है। यह ब्रह्मोस के खिलाफ कितना प्रभावी होगा?

जवाब- फिलहाल बहुत कम देशों के पास S-400 एयर डिफेंस सिस्टम है। ब्रह्मोस के लॉन्च होने के बाद टारगेट लोकेशन पर इसके प्रभाव के बीच बहुत कम समय होता है, इसलिए किसी भी जमीन से हवा में मार करने वाले मिसाइल सिस्टम के लिए इसे रोक पाना मुश्किल है। सुपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल को रोकना नामुमकिन है।

अगर कोई डिफेंस सिस्टम ऐसा करने में कामयाब हो भी गया तो वो सिर्फ 1,2 या 3 को रोक पाएगा। एक साथ 5-6 के सैल्वो को रोकना संभव नहीं है। ये मिसाइल किसी न किसी तरह अपने टारगेट तक पहुंच ही जाएगी।

सवाल- ब्रह्मोस को रूस के साथ मिलकर बनाया गया है, लेकिन फिर भी उसने इसे अपनी मिलिट्री में शामिल करने के बारे में क्यों नहीं सोचा?

जवाब- रूसी P-800 ओनिक्स मिसाइल ब्रह्मोस का एक पुराना वर्जन है। ब्रह्मोस इससे कहीं बेहतर है। P-800 को रूस में बनाया जाता था और ये अब भी वहीं बनती है। हम हमेशा से ही रूस को ब्रह्मोस के लिए

एक बड़े मार्केट के रूप में देखते हैं। अगर उन्होंने इसे तब खरीदा होता, तो उनके पास मौजूदा स्थिति में इस्तेमाल करने के लिए बहुत सी चीजें होतीं।

यूरोप में चल रहे हालात बेहतर होने के बाद हमें रूस से ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल के लिए कुछ ऑर्डर मिल सकते हैं। उनके पास ब्रह्मोस जैसी कोई क्रूज मिसाइल नहीं है। हवा में लॉन्च होने वाली ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल जैसी दुनिया में कोई मिसाइल नहीं है। मैं इसे एक्सपोर्ट के मामले में गेम-चेंजर के तौर पर देखता हूं।

सवाल- हमने अब तक कौन-कौन से देशों के साथ ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल के लिए डील की हैं?

जवाब- हमने ब्रह्मोस बेचने के लिए पहला कॉन्ट्रैक्ट फिलिपीन्स के रक्षा मंत्रालय के साथ किया। ये उनके समुद्री दल के लिए है। ये बहुत बड़ा कॉन्ट्रैक्ट नहीं था, लेकिन ये एक अच्छी शुरुआत है। NATO सदस्यों सहित कई पश्चिमी देश इसमें अपनी दिलचस्पी दिखा चुके हैं।

वे सभी ब्रह्मोस चाहते हैं। एक विदेशी नेवल चीफ ने मुझसे कहा था- मैं कभी भी ब्रह्मोस के खिलाफ खड़ा नहीं होना चाहूंगा। मैं इसे हमेशा अपनी पक्ष में देखना चाहूंगा। ब्रह्मोस से डील होने के बाद हम साउथ ईस्ट एशियाई देशों पर ज्यादा फोकस कर रहे हैं। कई मिडिल ईस्ट और अफ्रीकी देशों ने भी इसमें दिलचस्पी दिखाई है। लेटिन अमेरिका के देश भी ब्रह्मोस के लिए हमसे बातचीत कर रहे हैं।

ये एक महंगी मिसाइल है। इसे खरीदने से पहले किसी भी देश को इसकी जरूरत को लेकर सही आंकलन करने की जरूरत है। साथ ही उन्हें ये भी इवैल्यूएट करना होगा कि क्या वो हमारे साथ इतने बड़े लेवल पर पार्टनरशिप करना चाहते हैं।

सवाल- हमारे पड़ोसी तेजी से हाइपरसोनिक मिसाइल तकनीक विकसित कर रहे हैं। ऐसे में ब्रह्मोस की शेल्फ लाइफ कितनी है?

जवाब- अगर हमने 2005 में डिलीवरी शुरू की, तो हमें 20 साल से भी कम समय हुआ है। ब्रह्मोस लंबे समय तक काम आने वाली मिसाइल है। अभी भी दुनिया में सबसोनिक मिसाइल इस्तेमाल हो रही है। ऐसे में सुपरसोनिक मिसाइल हमेशा एक कदम आगे रहेगी। हो सकता है हम आगे चलकर ब्रह्मोस का हाइपरसोनिक वर्जन भी तैयार करें। इससे हम एक कदम और आगे पहुंच जाएंगे।

हम ब्रह्मोस न्यू जेनरेशन पर फोकस कर रहे हैं, क्योंकि ये बिजनेस के लिहाज से भी हमारे लिए बेहतर है। जब हम वर्तमान टेक्मोलॉजी में महारत हासिल कर लेंगे तो ब्रह्मोस हाइपरसोनिक पर काम शुरू करेंगे। फिलहाल तो ये सिर्फ रिसर्च का हिस्सा है। सेना में ऐसा कोई क्रूज हथियार शामिल नहीं है जो पूरी तरह से हाइपरसोनिक हो।

बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलें हाइपरसोनिक हैं, वे मैक 6-प्लस पर चलती हैं, लेकिन वो क्रूज मिसाइल नहीं होतीं। हाइपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल पर अभी सिर्फ रिसर्च हो रही है।

<https://www.bhaskar.com/international/news/russia-india-brahmos-missile-deal-drdo-scientist-atul-dinkar-rane-on-missile-capabilities-131529561.html>

DRDO on Twitter



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DRDO is organising two day DRDO Directors' Conclave on theme 'Redefining Role of DRDO in the wake of New Government Policies and emerging scenarios' during 14-15 July 2023 at New Delhi as follow up to the various 'Chintan Shivir' and review of their outcome by Hon'ble RM

डीआरडीओ निदेशक सम्मेलन 2023
DRDO Directors' Conclave 2023

“नई सरकारी नीतियों और उभरते परिदृश्यों में
डीआरडीओ की भूमिका को पुनः परिभाषित करना”

“Redefining Role of DRDO in the wake of
New Government Policies and Emerging Scenarios”

14th - 15th July 2023
Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.

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5:09 pm · 13 Jul 2023 · **19.3K** Views



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Thu, 13 Jul 2023

INS Sunayna Participates in CMF EX 'Op Southern Readiness - 2023'

INS Sunayna was at Seychelles from 10-12 Jul 23 to participate in Op Southern Readiness 2023 conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The visit was aimed at strengthening multilateral ties and enhancing cooperation through CMF exercise which is a multinational initiative aimed at enhancing maritime security, countering piracy to ensure safety and freedom of navigation in the region.

During the visit, personnel of participating Navies from USA, Italy, UK, Seychelles Defence Forces & Marine Police, member nations of EUNAVFOR were engaged in wide range of professional interactions, subject matter expert exchanges and visits. The ship conducted lecture and practical demonstrations on varied aspects of Navigation, VBSS (Basic and Advanced training), Maritime Domain Awareness and mass casualty evacuation drills. A delegation of CMF from Bahrain headed by Cmde Oliver, Commander of CTF56 witnessed the training exercises onboard.

A combined yoga session was organised onboard with participation of personnel from Seychelles Defence Forces and CMF along with the ship's crew.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1939210>



Fri, 14 July 2023

Indigenisation Initiatives have Helped Elevate India's Image: Satheesh Reddy

Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister G. Satheesh Reddy has said that the indigenisation initiatives launched by the Government of India during the last eight years changed the outlook of various countries towards India.

Speaking at an interactive session organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on Thursday evening, Dr. Satheesh Reddy said that the Centre was providing ample opportunities to the private sector to partner in the manufacturing of equipment in various sectors, including defence, and was opening up facilities in the government sector for the use of private industries.

Calling for a change in the mindset to transform the system, Dr. Satheesh Reddy, who is also the former chief of the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), said that the DRDO itself gave 150 Development-cum-Production Partnerships (DCPPs) to the private sector. The private industry was being involved from the prototype stage itself. The private partners were also being involved in the manufacture of missiles and bombs, he said, adding that India was working with the USA in the areas of critical and emerging technologies.

Referring to start-ups, Dr. Reddy said that the start-ups, which numbered around 400 in 2016, have crossed the 1-lakh mark now. A vast majority of them were coming out with products not just for India but also for the world, he said. He appreciated the changing mindset of young Indians and their commitment to working in India rather than going abroad. About 70% of IITians were preferring to stay back in India. Similarly, while the students opting for IT was 90% in the past, advanced material technology, core technologies and defence technologies were being explored by youngsters. A majority of those who went abroad were looking to return to India, he said.

Mr. Reddy said that a lot of activities were going on in and around Visakhapatnam, which has a vibrant defence ecosystem due to the presence of the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) headquarters, Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) and the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL).

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Visakhapatnam/indigenisation-initiatives-have-helped-elevate-indias-image-satheesh-reddy/article67076565.ece>



Thu, 13 Jul 2023

Defence Acquisition Council Approves Proposal to Buy 26 Rafale Jets, 3 Scorpene Submarines

The Defence Acquisition Council on Thursday gave the approval to purchase 26 Rafale fighter jets for its navy. These include 22 single-seated Rafale marine aircraft, and four twin-seater trainer versions, reported *India Today*.

Furthermore, it also gave nod for three additional Scorpene class submarines to be bought for the Indian navy. As per the report, the deals are expected to be worth around Rs 90,000 crore. The three Scorpene class submarines will be constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

"The DAC granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, simulator, spares, documentation, crew training and logistic support for the Indian Navy from the French Government based on Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA)," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

It further added that the procurement of additional submarines, with higher indigenous content, will not only help in maintaining required force level and operational readiness of the Indian Navy, but also create significant employment opportunities in the domestic sector.

Reportedly, the deals are likely to be signed during PM Modi's visit to France, for which he left India today morning. On Tuesday, PM Modi embarked on a two-day visit to France at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron. He will be the guest of honour at the French Bastille Day celebrations on July 14.

An Indian tri-services contingent will be part of the Bastille Day Parade, while Indian Air Force aircraft will perform a fly-past on the occasion, the PM said. The ageing fleet of India's Russian-made platforms, Moscow's inability to perform maintenance work, and delays in India's indigenous manufacturing plans for parallel platforms have necessitated the two new defence deals, Reuters reported.

India has relied on French fighter jets for four decades now. Much before buying Rafale in 2015, India bought Mirage jets in 1980s, which still comprise two squadrons of the air force. In 2005, India bought six Scorpene-class diesel submarines from France for 188 billion rupees (\$2.29 billion), the last of which will be commissioned next year.

<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/in-focus/story/defence-acquisition-council-approves-proposal-to-buy-26-rafale-jets-3-scorpene-submarines-389597-2023-07-13>



Thu, 13 Jul 2023

Defence Ministry, FSSAI to Promote Use of Millets, Healthy Eating Habits Among Armed Forces

The defence ministry and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Thursday to promote healthy eating practices and ensure availability of safe and nutritious food for the armed forces.

"It aims to create awareness about the nutritional benefits of diet diversity and millet-based food products among the personnel. The MoU will also pave the way for the introduction of millet-based menus in mess, canteens and other food outlets under the MoD," the defence ministry said.

Defence minister Rajnath Singh and health minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who were present at the signing of the MoU, also unveiled a book titled 'Healthy Recipes for Defence,' developed by FSSAI, which aims to encourage the consumption of millets, also known as Shree Anna, and highlight their numerous health benefits.

The MoU will also encourage the families of the armed forces and the community at large to adopt nutritious diets, make healthy food choices and maintain food safety, it added. The MoU was signed by Director General (Supplies and Transport) Lieutenant General Preet Mohindera Singh on behalf of Ministry of Defence and CEO, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India G Kamala Vardhana Rao.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/defence-ministry-and-fssai-sign-mou-to-promote-healthy-eating-and-safe-food-for-armed-forces-in-new-delhi-11689240720246.html>

Thu, 13 Jul 2023

India's First Integrated Theatre Command: Strengthening Inter-Service Synergy and National Security

In a significant development for India's armed forces, plans for the establishment of the country's first Integrated Theatre Command (ITC) are nearing completion. The ITC aims to enhance inter-service cooperation and jointmanship, contributing to improved national security.

Sources within the defense establishment suggest that the announcement regarding the formation of the ITC is likely to be made on August 15. The initial step involves designating the South Western Command in Jaipur as the inaugural theatre command. Jaipur, home to the Army's South Western Command (SWC), will be the headquarters for the theatre command that will look after Pakistan. To take care of the borders with China, another theatre command is likely to come up in Lucknow – Headquarter of Central Command.

This initial step will consolidate the South Western, Western, and Southern Commands of the Army, along with select elements from the Northern Command. The IAF's Western and South Western Air Commands, together with elements from the Central and Southern Commands, will also be incorporated into this theater command structure. The proposed Maritime Theatre Command, to be headquartered in Karwar, Karnataka, will provide comprehensive security coverage of coastal and maritime boundaries, further bolstering India's defence capabilities.

Strengthening Defence and Security:

The establishment of the ITC reflects India's commitment to adapting its military structure to the evolving strategic landscape. By implementing an integrated theater command, India seeks to address shortcomings, enhance efficiency, and tackle challenges effectively. The South Western Command, as the experimental theater command, will play a pivotal role in identifying and resolving deficiencies, thereby setting the stage for subsequent theater commands. These commands will encompass the Western Integrated Theatre Command, responsible for the defence and security of the border areas with Pakistan, and the Northern Integrated Theatre Command, overseeing the border areas with China.

The Concept of 'One Border One Force':

The ITCs are aligned with the concept of 'One Border One Force,' which envisions a unified command structure to safeguard strategic and security concerns within specific geographic theaters. By streamlining the command hierarchy, the ITC will enable better coordination and synergy among the three armed services. This unified approach aims to optimize resources, enhance operational capabilities, and improve decision-making processes.

Selection of Integrated Theatre Commander:

Discussions are currently underway to select the first Integrated Theatre Commander, a pivotal role in overseeing the unified command structure. Seniority principles dictate that Lieutenant General RP Kalita, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Kolkata-based Eastern Command, could be a potential candidate. Another option is Lieutenant General BS Raju, the current commander of the South Western Army. The chosen commander will possess extensive experience, strategic acumen, and the ability to foster collaboration and coordination among the services, ensuring the successful implementation of the integrated theater command structure.

Joint Commands

Additionally, several joint commands, such as logistics, training, cyber, space, missiles, and intelligence, will be established and headed by three-star officers. These joint commands will report to the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), who operates under the purview of the CDS. The service chiefs will retain responsibility for raise and sustenance matters. As for the leadership of the first theater commander, a decision regarding this crucial role is yet to be finalized by the defense leadership.

Retirement Age and Existing Command Structures:

The retirement age of the Integrated Theatre Commander will be set at 61 years. This aligns with the existing retirement age for Lieutenant Generals and equivalent ranks, while Services chiefs retire at 62 years or after three years of service. It is important to note that the establishment of the ITC will not create additional posts or ranks. Instead, personnel will be drawn from the existing command structures of the Army, Air Force, and Navy, ensuring a smooth transition and continuity of expertise. As India adapts to the evolving strategic landscape, the ITC will ensure a cohesive and comprehensive approach to safeguarding national security. The stage is set for a new era of inter-service cooperation, jointly securing India's borders and strategic interests.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-indias-first-integrated-theatre-command-strengthening-inter-service-synergy-and-national-security-3169032/>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Fri, 14 Jul 2023

China Flexes Military Muscles Ahead of Taiwan's War Games

China's military has been flexing its muscles this week around Taiwan practicing joint force operations far out at sea, ahead of Taipei holding its annual war games at the end of the month when Taiwan will simulate breaking a Chinese blockade.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its territory, has been staging regular exercises around the island for the past three years, to pressure Taipei to accept Beijing's claim of sovereignty.

Since Tuesday, China has sent dozens of fighters, bombers and other aircraft including drones into the skies to Taiwan's south, some crossing the Bashi Channel which separates Taiwan from the Philippines and into the Pacific, accompanying Chinese warships, Taiwan's defence ministry said.

Some of the aircraft crossed the Taiwan Strait median line, an unofficial buffer that separates the two sides, and came near waters 24 nautical miles off Taiwan's shores, the island's contiguous zone, in what Taiwan security officials called "harassment".

Chieh Chung, a military researcher at Taiwan's National Policy Foundation think tank, said practicing long-distance missions was important for China as they would be the "main combat mode" in any conflict.

"China regards breaking through the first island chain as an important tactical goal," he said, referring to the islands running from Japan through Taiwan, the Philippines and on to Borneo, enclosing China's coastal seas.

China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment. On Thursday, China's foreign ministry, asked about the drills, said: "The Chinese people will never waver in our resolve and determination to uphold China's sovereignty and territorial integrity".

Taiwan's main annual Han Kuang exercises take place in the last week of this month, focusing on defending the island's main international airport and how to keep sea lanes open in the event of a Chinese blockade.

China practised precision strikes and blockades in drills around the island in April after Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen met U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Kevin McCarthy in Los Angeles.

Turmoil and Change

A senior Taiwan security official, who declined to be identified, said China's activities, coming before Han Kuang, were part of its psychological warfare against the island. "They are expanding military deterrence actions to create a cognitive effect that Taiwan's national defences are useless," the official said.

Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the headquarters of the Eastern Theatre Command, which is in charge of the area around Taiwan, on July 6, and warned of a "new period of turmoil and change for the world", state media reported.

Adding to a sense of tension, on Thursday a U.S. Navy patrol plane flew through the strait, monitored by Chinese jets. China routinely denounces U.S. military activity in the strait as provocation. Taiwan's military has been on its own publicity push about the Han Kuang drills, this week releasing a slickly produced video on social media of fighters soaring into the skies, missiles fired from warships and artillery barrages.

"We are determined to protect our territory," read text in Chinese and English accompanying the video. Su Tzu-yun, a research fellow at Taiwan's top military think tank, the Institute for National Defence and Security Research, said judging by the aircraft used, the Southern Theatre Command, which covers the South China Sea, was being included in China's exercises this time to gain experience in joint operations across commands.

"The Eastern Theatre Command are well seasoned, but it's the Southern Theatre Command that needs training for long-distance support," Su said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-flexes-military-muscles-ahead-of-taiwans-war-games/articleshow/101747537.cms?from=mdr>



Fri, 14 Jul 2023

Ukraine Looks to Pakistan as Western Weapons Stockpile Runs Dry

The Ukrainian government is looking towards Pakistan to fulfill its weapons need as the stock of ammunition in the western warehouses is starting to run dry. Dmitro Kuleba, the Ukrainian Foreign Minister, will visit Pakistan on very short notice where, according to a report by *ET*, he is expected to ask for more ammunition supply from Pakistan.

This comes amid the reportedly faltering Ukrainian counter offensive in the southern-eastern province of Zaporizhia, on account of shortage of ammunition. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and western countries have already admitted to a shortage in ammunition stockpiles, and the US decision to supply Ukraine with cluster munitions is a direct result of this shortage.

Kuleba, according to reports, is expected to meet Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari and military authorities. Ukraine and Pakistan have strong military relations in the past, so much so, that Ukraine has supplied Pakistan with more than \$1.6 billion worth of arms, including 320 T-80 tanks.

Pakistan has also, on multiple occasions, supplied artillery ammunition to Ukraine, since the start of war, ostensibly to get a *quid pro quo* from the west to secure an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package.

According to reports, Pakistan last year served as an air-bridge where UK Air Force C-17 transport aircrafts flew twice daily for three weeks, to deliver weapons to Ukraine, via Romania from Rawalpindi air base in Pakistan. Pakistan then, earlier this year, delivered another consignment containing 159 containers of 155 mm artillery shells, M4A2 propelling bag charges, M82 primers and PDM fuse to Ukraine, via Gdansk port in Poland.

Last month as well, Pakistan shipped a large consignment of equipment including air defence vehicles, multiple barrel rocket launchers, recovery vehicles and spare parts, to Ukraine, via Gdansk port in Poland and Aqaba Naval Base in Jordan.

According to the *ET* report, Pakistan has even opened a weapons trading branch in Warsaw — capital of Poland — to smoothen the weapons flow to Ukraine. Interestingly, this comes after just two days after (12 July), IMF executive board approved a \$3 billion bailout package for Pakistan.

This approval by the IMF, for financial support to Pakistan has raised allegations of it being a reward for the continuous supply of weapons to Ukraine, thus potentially serving as an indication to persist in such supply, thereby enabling western nations to keep the pot boiling in Ukraine.

<https://swarajyamag.com/world/ukraine-looks-to-pakistan-as-western-weapons-stockpile-runs-dry>

ThePrint

Fri, 14 Jul 2023

In Rare UN Appearance, North Korea Defends Missile Launch as ‘Self-Defence’ Measure

North Korea's launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) was an exercise of its right to self-defense “to deter dangerous military moves of hostile forces and safeguard the security of our state,” the country's U.N. envoy told the Security Council on Thursday during a rare appearance.

The 15-member Security Council met after North Korea said it tested on Wednesday its latest Hwasong-18 ICBM, adding the weapon is the core of its nuclear strike force.

“We categorically reject and condemn the convening of the Security Council briefing by the United States and its followers,” North Korea's U.N. Ambassador Kim Song told the council.

North Korea last spoke at a council meeting on its nuclear and ballistic missile programs in December 2017, diplomats said. North Korea – formally known as the Democratic People's

Republic of Korea (DPRK) – has been under U.N. sanctions for its missile and nuclear programs since 2006. This includes a ban on the development of ballistic missiles.

For the past several years the council has been divided over how to deal with Pyongyang. Russia and China, veto powers along with the United States, Britain and France, have said more sanctions will not help and want such measures to be eased. China and Russia blame joint military drills by the United States and South Korea for provoking Pyongyang, while Washington accuses Beijing and Moscow of emboldening North Korea by shielding it from more sanctions.

“Russia and China have prevented this council from speaking with one voice. And with these repeated launches, Pyongyang is demonstrating it feels emboldened,” Deputy U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Jeffrey DeLaurentis, told the council.

China slams NATO

DeLaurentis said the U.S. was committed to diplomacy and “publicly and privately and at senior levels we have repeatedly urged the DPRK to engage in dialogue.” He said Washington had made clear there were no preconditions for engagement and it would “discuss any topic of concern to Pyongyang.”

“The DPRK has not responded to our offers,” he said. China’s U.N. Ambassador Zhang Jun told the council that Beijing was committed to the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the settlement of the issue through dialogue. He described the situation as “tense” and said it was getting “ever more confrontational.” China has “taken note” of North Korea’s latest missile launch, Zhang said.

“The Cold War has long since ended, but the specter of the Cold War mentality lingers. It has not only rendered the Peninsula issue intractable, but also intensified antagonism and conflict around the world,” he said.

He went on to slam a communique by NATO leaders this week, telling the council it was as “long-winded as it was harping the same old tunes filled with Cold War mentality and ideological prejudices.” Zhang said NATO should do some “soul-searching.” NATO leaders in the communique said China challenged NATO’s interests, security and values with its “ambitions and coercive policies.”

“China does not cause trouble, nor does it fear trouble,” Zhang said. “We stand ready to respond firmly and forcefully to any act that violates China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, undermine China’s development and security interests and breach the peace and stability in China’s neighborhood.”

<https://theprint.in/world/in-rare-un-appearance-north-korea-defends-missile-launch/1668810/>



Fri, 14 Jul 2023

US Military Chief Praises Japan's Defence Funding Boost as a Buttress Against China and North Korea

The highest-ranking US military officer on Friday encouraged Japan's commitment to doubling its defense spending over the next five years, calling Tokyo's controversial push for a stronger military crucial to confront rising threats from North Korea and China.

Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, mentioned Japan's need for improvements in cruise missile defense, early warning missile systems and air capabilities, all of which would help the United States as it looks to counter North Korea's push for a nuclear missile program capable of pinpoint-targeting the U.S. mainland and China's increasing aggression against Taiwan, the democratic island that Beijing claims as its own.

China has "invested enormously in their military, and aspire to be the regional power in the next 10 to 15 years," Milley said. That "could be very unstable; it could be very dangerous, and I think having a powerful Japan, a militarily capable Japan that has a close alliance with the United States and other countries, will go a long way to deterring war," Milley said.

Milley's comments to reporters at the U.S. ambassador's residence in downtown Tokyo provide an explicit U.S. military analysis of an increasingly unstable security situation in northeast Asia. With more than 80,000 U.S. troops in Japan and South Korea, and rising military moves by North Korea and China, the possibility of war in the region has become a growing worry. Washington wants its allies, particularly in Tokyo and Seoul, to do more.

Japan, meanwhile, has long wrestled with the need for a strong military amid domestic and regional wariness about anything seen as overly aggressive. Japanese soldiers overran much of Asia in the years leading up to World War II, and the nation is still viewed with anger by many in surrounding nations because of a perception that it hasn't been fully repentant.

Milley also addressed the most recent missile test-launch by North Korea, a solid-fuel ICBM that he said "clearly demonstrates an intent to develop a capability to strike the continental United States." While not providing specifics about the North's missile program, he said: "It has our attention."

Japan's budget for the coming fiscal year provides a record 6.8 trillion yen (\$50 billion) in defense spending, up 20 per cent from a year earlier. That includes 211.3 billion yen (\$1.55 billion) for deployment of U.S.-made long-range Tomahawk cruise missiles that can be launched from warships and can hit targets up to 1,600 kilometers (1,000 miles) away.

The hefty defense budget is the first installment of a five-year, 43-trillion-yen (USD 315-billion) military spending plan as part of Japan's new National Security Strategy, which was announced in December.

The new spending target meets NATO standards and will eventually push Japan's annual defense budget to about 10 trillion yen (USD 73 billion), the world's third biggest after the United States and China.

"I have no doubt that the Japanese military could rapidly expand in scale, size, scope and skill very, very fast," Milley said. Milley also spoke of the need to speed up U.S. military assistance to Taiwan, mentioning the island's need for better air defense, mines and air-to-air and shore-to-ship capabilities.

"What we're opposed to is any ... use of military to compel some sort of unification," Milley said. "Taiwan should have the capability to defend itself" as a way to deter any aggression by China. "The speed at which we the United states or other countries assist Taiwan in improving their defensive capabilities, I think that probably needs to be accelerated in the years to come," Milley said.

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/international/2023/07/14/fgn20-us-japan-defence-boost.html>



Thu, 13 Jul 2023

What is Chandrayaan-3? ISRO Moon Mission Aiming to Analyse the Lunar Surface

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch Chandrayaan-3 on Friday, July 14, 2023, at 2:35 pm IST. Chandrayaan-3 is the succeeding mission to Chandrayaan-2. The primary objective of Chandrayaan-3 is to put a lander and a rover on the Moon's highlands near its south pole, and to demonstrate end-to-end landing and roving capabilities. ISRO will use Chandrayaan-2 as a backup relay. Chandrayaan-3 is expected to land on the Moon by August this year. Chandrayaan-3 will be launched using the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV-Mk III), also called the Launch Vehicle Mark III (LVM3), from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. On July 12, 2023, the mission readiness review of Chandrayaan-3 was completed.

Chandrayaan-3: Basic facts

Consisting of a lander, a rover, and a propulsion module, Chandrayaan-3 weighs a total of 3,900 kilograms. The propulsion module, which weighs 2,148 kilograms, will carry the lander and rover to a 100-kilometre lunar orbit. The lander module, which refers to the complete configuration of the lander and the rover fitted inside the former, weighs 1,752 kilograms. The rover weighs 26 kilograms. The rover will be similar to Chandrayaan-2's Pragyan rover, but improvements have been made to help ensure a safe landing. The propulsion module will generate 758 Watts of power, the lander module 738 Watts, and the rover 50 Watts.

Chandrayaan-3: Objectives

The objectives of Chandrayaan-3, apart from demonstrating a safe and soft landing and roving capabilities on the lunar surface, is to conduct in-situ scientific experiments, and develop and demonstrate new technologies required for interplanetary missions, ISRO says on its website.

Chandrayaan-3: The lander, the rover, and the propulsion module

The Chandrayaan-3 lander has been designed in a way such that it can land softly in the Moon at a specified site, and deploy the rover, whose aim is to conduct in-situ chemical analysis of the lunar surface. The propulsion module will carry the lander module to the final 100-kilometre circular orbit. After reaching this orbit, the lander module and the propulsion module will separate.

The propulsion module, after separation, will remain in orbit around the Moon, and act as a communications relay satellite, NASA says on its website. The lander, rover and propulsion modules will carry their own scientific payloads. According to NASA, the propulsion module is a box-like structure and will be mounted with a large solar panel on one side and a large cylinder on top. The cylinder, called the Intermodule Adapter Cone, will act as a mounting structure for the lander.

At the bottom of the propulsion module, the main thruster nozzle is located. The box-shaped lander has four landing legs, four landing thrusters, a number of sensors to ensure a safe touchdown, and a suite of cameras to avoid hazards and have positional knowledge. The lander is also equipped with

an X band antenna which will ensure communications. The rover is rectangle-shaped, and has six wheels and a navigation camera.

Chandrayaan-3: Payloads

Chandrayaan-3's lander will be equipped with five payloads. These are the Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment (ChasTE), Instrument for Lunar Seismic Activity (ILSA), Langmuir Probe, Laser Retroreflector Array (LRA) Rover, and Radio Anatomy of Moon Bound Hypersensitive ionosphere and Atmosphere (RAMBHA). ChasTE will carry out measurements of thermal properties such as thermal conductivity and temperature of elements on the lunar surface near the south pole; ILSA will measure the seismicity around the landing site and describe the structure of the lunar crust and mantle; LP will estimate plasma density; and LRA, a spacecraft from NASA, is a passive experiment which will help understand the dynamics of the Moon.

The rover is equipped with two payloads, which are the Alpha Particle X-ray Spectrometer (APXS), and Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS). APXS will help determine the elemental composition of the lunar soil and rocks around the landing site. The elements to be studied include magnesium, aluminium, silicon, potassium, calcium, titanium and iron. LIBS will conduct qualitative and quantitative elemental analysis in order to infer the chemical and mineralogical composition of the lunar surface.

The propulsion module is equipped with a payload called Spectro-polarimetry of Habitable Planet Earth (SHAPE). The function of SHAPE is to study the spectral and polarimetric measurements of Earth from lunar orbit. This means that SHAPE will analyse the spectro-polarimetric signatures of Earth. According to the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Observatory, spectro-polarimetry is a technique which involves the polarisation of light by splitting the incoming light into its constituent colours, and then analysing the polarisation of each colour individually. Understanding the spectro-polarimetric signatures of Earth can help scientists analyse the reflected light from exoplanets and determine whether they would qualify for habitability.

Chandrayaan-3: More interesting facts

The vertical velocity with which the lander will touch down on the lunar surface should be less than two metres per second, and the horizontal velocity should be less than 0.5 metre per second. The slope must be less than 120 degrees. The mission life of Chandrayaan-3 is one lunar day, which is equivalent to about 14 Earth days.

<https://news.abplive.com/india-at-2047/chandrayaan-3-isro-indian-space-research-organisation-moon-mission-set-to-launch-in-july-to-analyse-the-lunar-surface-lander-rover-1606322>

