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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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Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Tue, 17 Jan 2023

Indian Army Organises Sainya Ranakshetram 2.0 - A Cyber Threat Seminar cum Workshop

The Indian Army under the aegis of HQ Army Training Command (ARTRAC) organised the second edition of Hackathon aptly named “SAINYA RANAKSHETRAM 2.0” from October 2022 to January 2023 with an aim to seek solutions to operational cyber challenges and to jump start and telescope the development time for innovative solutions in the field of Cyber Security. The prize winners of the event were felicitated by Gen Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff during a virtual function on 17 January 2023.

The event was aimed at providing a platform to identify indigenous talent in niche domains and enhance the standard of training in domains of Cyber Deterrence, Security Software Coding, Electro Magnetic Spectrum Operations (EMSO) and Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning (AI/ ML). The participation was open to all Indian citizens and participation permitted in an individual / team manner. Thus to meet this end state, the Cyber Threat Seminar cum Workshop was held under four sub-events which included following activities:-

Secure Software Coding - Its aim was to engage with academia in the field of securing software programs and identifying talent capable of undertaking cyber security requirements in software code. Mr Aravindh Hariharan M from Coimbatore, a Cyber Security enthusiast holding a number of certifications has won the prize in this category.

ESMO: Customised Indian Army Specific Stack for Wi-Fi 6 - The aim of conducting this sub event was to seek a solution to implement an Indian Army specific version of Secure Wi-Fi stack for increasing the levels of security. Colonel Nishant Rathee, Commandant, Army HQ Computer Centre is the winner in this category. Mr Suryasaradhi Balarkan currently working with L&T is the runners up and Ms Tanisha Joshi, who is currently pursuing a Ph D in Dark Energy has secured the 3rd prize.

Artificial Intelligence / Machine Learning: NLP Processing and Decoding of Radio Intercepts. This sub-event helped create an AI stack for addressing translation and decryption of multi lingual radio transmissions. Master Mithil Salunkhe, a 15 year old class 10 student at Gyan Mata Vidya Vihar, Nanded, Maharashtra has come first this category. Mr Prashant Kumar Singh, who holds a B Tech (CS) from Punjab Technical University and presently pursuing B Sc (Data

Science) from IIT Madras has come second while Cdr Sushant Sarswat, a Naval Officer presently posted in HQ Eastern Naval Command has secured the third position.

Cyber Deterrence: Capture the Flag (CTF). This was a seven stage cyber security exploitation challenge meant for identification of talent for enhancing existing Cyber Security setup. The winner of this challenge was Mr Shaksham Jaiswal, BE (CS) from MVSR Engineering College in Hyderabad. He is now working as a freelancer, and has more than 15 core qualifications in the field. The 2nd prize winner is Mr Prince Kumar Patel presently doing BE (IT) at Army Institute of Technology (AIT), Pune and Mr Hardeep Singh, a BCA from Maharaja Ganga Singh University in Bikaner has won the 3rd prize.

The Cyber Threat Seminar cum Workshop has facilitated engagement with the intrinsic talent at levels of individuals, academia and organisations leading to identification of suitable talent in the field of Cyber Security both within the Defence forces and in the civil academia. The identified talent can further be utilised for focused engagement resulting in fast track development of cyber security tools and techniques.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1891808>



Tue, 17 Jan 2023

India's Rocket Force is Critical to Non-Contact Warfare

Dr VK Saraswat

The concept of an Indian rocket force started with the onset of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) in 1983 under the leadership of our former president, Late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. Prior to that, India had almost all the rockets, like grade 122 of Russian origin. So when the IGMDP was started, its mandate was primarily to build indigenous capabilities, to design, develop, manufacture different kinds of missiles. Our intention was to switch over from unguided rockets to missiles. And as a result, five types of missiles were planned to be developed under IGMDP. One of them was Prithvi, the surface to surface missile with a range of 150 kilometres, which was supposed to be a battlefield support weapon for the Indian army.

Why have a rocket force?

When you want to attack targets in depth, say 500 kilometres, you need a weapon to paralyse the adversary's infrastructure completely. The rocket force is becoming an important part of the battle strategy mainly because now the concept of non-contact warfare is coming. Gone are the days when people go fight with guns and swords. Now, you go and paralyse the enemy's warfighting resources, whether it is an arrow drum or to the ordinance factory, or that ordinance as depot.

Having assigned Prithvi the role of a strategic weapon known for tactical support, you need another weapon, and hence the development of Pralay by the DRDO. But even before Pralay, I remember we made a short-range system called Prahar, which was 200 kilometre range. So you

say, Prahar and then Pralay, so Prithvi, Prahaar and Pralay this is the kind of progression that has taken place.

The Pralay edge

The battlefield support weapons in tactical scenario will always be conventional. That is because nuclear weapons are not used in the tactical battlefield scenario at all. Our nuclear policy is very clear. No first use policy completely eliminates the use of any of the strategic weapons system. As far as the warfare is concerned, unless we are attacked by nuclear weapons.

Whereas Pralay is an aerodynamic trajectory, it flies within that atmosphere. The advantage is that because if a missile is taking an aerodynamic shape, the prediction of the flight path of the missile cannot be done for engaging in missile by another missile, what we call an anti-ballistic missile system.

A deterrent

There are many lessons which you learn from the Russia-Ukraine conflict. One of the lessons was that we realised that any missile which you are launching against the enemy should have stealth characteristics. That means it should not be detected by the enemy radars and electronic measures.

Thought process behind rocket force.

We have capabilities of different types of threats, whether it is country A or country B or country C. That's why you have seen ranges going from 150 kilometres to 5000 plus ranges. We have platforms which can be air launched. We have platforms which can be we have platform here, air base platforms, we have ship based platforms, we have submarine based platform and we have land based platforms. So from any platform, we can launch a missile today. India has coverage for 360 degree as for as adversaries are concerned.

<https://www.news9live.com/india/indias-rocket-force-is-critical-to-non-contact-warfare-au2257-2030846>



Wed, 18 Jan 2023

Production of AK-203 Rifles Begins at Factory in Amethi

India and Russia have started the production of AK-203 Kalashnikov assault rifles in a joint venture at a factory in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh. Army chief General Manoj Pande had said last week that the first batch of 5,000 rifles will be delivered to the Army by March.

Giving details of the commencement of production by a joint venture named Indo-Russian Rifles Private Limited, Alexander Mikheev, Director General of Rosoboronexport of Russia said on Tuesday that the

Korwa Ordnance Factory in Amethi has produced the first batch of 7.62 mm Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles. The beginning of deliveries to the Indian Army is expected soon.

At the same time, the factory's capacity makes it possible to fully equip the personnel of other law enforcement agencies in India with AK-203 assault rifles, which, due to their high adaptability, are suitable for various operators, he stated adding that in addition, the joint venture will be able to export to third countries.

With the launch of series production of Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles, high-quality, convenient and modern small arms will begin to enter service with India's Defence and law enforcement agencies, said Sergey Chemezov, General Director of Rostec.

The full-scale production of the rifles is expected to be reached within 2-3 years. As per contractual terms, the first 70,000 AK-203 rifles will be produced in India with a phased increase in the extent of localization from 5 per cent to 70 per cent. The remaining rifles will be produced with 100 per cent localisation. In all, six lakh rifles will be manufactured by the factory.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/india/production-of-ak-203-rifles-begins-at-factory-in-amethi.html>

The Tribune

Tue, 17 Jan 2023

Must Incorporate Technology in Army: Northern Command Chief

Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Northern Command chief, today said the Army faced the unique challenge of dealing with two adversaries on the borders, coupled with the threat of state-sponsored actors attempting to destabilise internal security.

He was speaking at the two-day Northern Command Techno Commanders Seminar, 2023, which culminated at Military Station Nagrota, Jammu. The seminar was planned in conjunction with academics and think tanks to brainstorm the issue and prepare commanders for future conflicts.

“There is an ever-increasing need to incorporate technology to ensure efficient use of human resources in dealing with the adversaries. Therefore, the seminar worked towards further honing the skills of commanders to exploit technology for future battlefields,” he said.

"The Army has embarked itself on a path of capability-development and force modernisation by leveraging new technologies and encouraging innovations through indigenisation and 'aatmanirbharta'," he said. He said future conflicts would not only be restricted to the military but be fought as a whole-of-nation approach where technology would be extensively utilised.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/j-k/must-incorporate-technology-in-army-northern-command-chief-471288>

The Tribune

Tue, 17 Jan 2023

Address Fighter Shortage with Indigenisation

By Abhijit Bhattacharyya

India must modernise its fighter fleet, for which it needs to curb mounting import expenditure and cultivate doubling up her indigenous combat craft enterprise. Like what China achieved after Mao's death in October 1976. Today, the Beijing air force inventory contains 2,500 combat-capable aircraft because China went all out with indigenisation and went slow on imported craft.

THE *Military Balance 2001-02*, published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, reported that when the Indian Air Force (IAF) operated 40 fighter squadrons in 2001, Pakistan had 19 squadrons. At that time, the Chinese air force's numbers were three times that of India and Pakistan taken together. Hence, whatever the quality of the two South Asian countries' fighter aircraft, the sheer squadron volume of the China-Pakistan duo make it a daunting task for the IAF to deal with in a multi-front conflict.

The glib talk about confronting two hostile neighbours makes little sense because of the rapidly dwindling squadrons of IAF fighters. Successive Indian Air Force chiefs have wailed, failed and faded away, yet the establishment has remained unmoved.

Does anyone remember the then IAF Chief, NAK Browne's words of October 2013? "Of 42 squadrons it should have, IAF now has 34." And now, incumbent IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari stated on December 22, 2022, that the "squadron strength is down to 31" and that "fighter shortage is now critical."

Isn't India proving herself to be an amazing compound of contradictions, chaos and confusion? Do time and tide wait for anyone in the combat zone or, for that matter, on the nation's enemy lines?

While the IAF plays the tragic tune of the depleted and fast-depleting strength of its fighter squadrons, a small bunch of self-serving optimists, including some NRIs, is misleadingly telling the world as to how great the economy of India will become if the rupee depreciates vis-a-vis the dollar every hour, foreign exchange reserves deplete every week, and the current account deficit mounts every month to an astronomical figure, and that what a boon it would be for Delhi if it allows Beijing to spread its wings in industry, investment, commerce, trade, banking etc.

No country of India's shape, size and demography can ever prosper with a mounting debt, an unbridgeable deficit trade, skyrocketing negative current account, depreciating currency and unbridled entry of an enemy nation just for a few investment projects covered with a systemically entrenched espionage in the Indian hinterland.

The harsh reality is that India's imports are several times higher than her exports, thereby making the imported foreign-made goods much more expensive, which inflicts a mounting deficit on India's economy. Thus, whereas importing a fighter aircraft in 2001 would have been an outflow of Rs 45 a dollar, the same import will now be Rs 83 a dollar. Hence, even assuming that the unit production and sale price of the imported machine is constant at \$40 million, one can very well

calculate the price difference (owing to the mounting rupee-dollar exchange rate differential) between 2001 and 2023.

The reference to the fluctuating rupee-dollar exchange rate was made to make a point to modernise the fighter fleet, for which India needs to curb mounting import expenditure and cultivate doubling up her indigenous combat craft enterprise. Like what China achieved after Mao's death in October 1976. Today, the Beijing air force inventory contains 2,500 combat-capable aircraft because China went all out with indigenisation and went slow on imported craft. Thus, it's now an open secret that it will take several years for the IAF to operate to its sanctioned 42 squadron-fleet level.

So, how did China lure the West and endure her worst to develop indigenous fighters to stump all? Chinese indigenisation began in the early 1980s with lightning speed copying of Soviet fighters and inviting UK's Rolls Royce and Canadian Pratt and Whitney engines, followed by American Bell and French Dauphin helicopter. The Chinese strategy was clear. Cultivate the West through the charm offensive. Follow Deng Xiaoping's dictum: "Hide and bide" (hide intent and bide time) — show the smiling teeth and bite when you get the time.

Thus, when the Soviets were neck-deep in the Afghanistan quagmire, the Chinese silently cut a deal with US aviation giant McDonnell Douglas to co-produce MD-82 twin engine passenger jet in January 1984. During the course of the next three decades, Communist China-backed companies lured gullible western corporations to strike deal after deal to shift their production line and latest technology to Beijing's special industrial zones. So much so that the West is now bogged down in the yellow terrain just as the way Hitler's tanks got stuck in the slushy soil of Russia during the harsh winter of the early 1940s.

By the late 1980s, it was western aviation on eastern soil. From capitalist America's Grumman Corporation, McDonnell Douglas to British Aerospace to French Aerospatiale, all are collaborating with the communist China in building air power. And today, the situation has reached a point of no return for the West. The West groans in agony in vain because engine makers of all variety and shade have entered China: the likes of Pratt and Whitney, General Electric, Honeywell, French Snecma, and even Germany's MTU, thereby making the Chinese air force 'atmanirbhar'. The desperate callout of successive IAF chiefs needs be understood and acted upon in this grim perspective. India must accelerate indigenisation through any means; fair or foul. Morality and ethics have no place when it comes to national self-interest, especially if there is an existential threat to national security in the form of the perennially active, two-front, unholy Sino-Pak alliance.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/address-fighter-shortage-with-indigenisation-471279>

Tue, 17 Jan 2023

HAL's New Era of Helicopter Tech: Low Cost, High Performance and Good Maneuverability of LUH

By Girish Linganna

In a major boost for the Indian defence industry, the Ministry of Defence has given the green light for the procurement of 12 Light Utility Helicopters (LUH) from state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL). HAL, a leading aerospace and defence company in India, had reportedly received a Letter of Intent (LoI) from the government for the helicopters in March 2021. The official order for the LUHs is yet to be placed, but this approval marks a significant step forward in the development and production of these aircrafts.

HAL's new helicopter factory in Tumakuru, Karnataka, has begun assembly of the first Limited Series Production (LSP) LUH after starting phase-1 operations last July. This follows the completion of three prototypes, which were built at HAL's production facility in Bengaluru. The LSP series, also known as LRIP (Low Rate Initial Production), will now be built at the new facility in Tumakuru.

According to the information provided, LRIP1 consists of four LUHs, two of which will be delivered to the Indian Air Force (IAF) and two to the Indian Army, with delivery expected by March 2023. LRIP2, which will be built between 2023 and 2024, consists of eight LUHs, with four going to the Indian Air Force and four to the Indian Army. Additionally, Indian leasing company Vman Aviation Services has reportedly placed an order for five civilian LUHs, with the option for an additional five.

According to sources, the Indian military and civilian sectors are looking to replace their ageing fleets of helicopters with newer models. The Chetak and Cheetah, both previously used by the Indian Air Force, are among those set to be phased out. The Chetak, a licensed version of the French Alouette III helicopter produced by HAL in India, was primarily utilized for transportation, reconnaissance, and search and rescue operations. The Cheetah, on the other hand, is a light helicopter primarily used for reconnaissance and surveillance, as well as transportation and medical evacuation.

The LUH is a versatile aircraft that is designed to perform a wide range of missions, including reconnaissance, surveillance, transportation, and medical evacuation. According to sources, the LUH boasts high performance characteristics, including low operational and maintenance costs, high reliability and safety, and good maneuverability. The LUH has a maximum take-off weight of 3,100 kg, allowing it to carry a useful load of 1,500 kg, and can reach a maximum speed of 220 km/h and a cruise speed of 200 km/h. With a service ceiling of 6,500 m and a range of approximately 500 km, the LUH is equipped with a 3-axis autopilot which allows for stable and controlled flight in a variety of conditions. The LUH's glass cockpit features digital avionics and a modern instrumentation suite, as well as a weather radar system that provides pilots with real-time information on weather conditions. Additionally, the LUH's cockpit lighting system is compatible with night-vision goggles, allowing for operation in low visibility conditions. The

LUH can also be fitted with a range of weapons and equipment, including gun pods, rocket launchers and surveillance systems.

It is also designed to operate in all weather conditions, in day and night, at high altitude, hot and cold weather and in hostile environments. It is a 3-ton class, single-engine helicopter designed to meet the requirement of Indian armed forces for reconnaissance and surveillance, transportation, and casualty evacuation.

According to reports, the LUH being produced by HAL is designed to operate in a wide range of weather conditions, including day and night, high altitude, hot and cold weather, and hostile environments. The 3-ton class, single-engine helicopter is being developed to meet the specific requirements of the Indian armed forces for reconnaissance and surveillance, transportation, and casualty evacuation. It has been reported that production of the LUH has already begun at HAL, with two of the helicopters in a highly advanced stage of completion. The company is believed to be working towards fulfilling the requirements outlined in the Letter of Intent received from the Services, which calls for the manufacture of 12 LUH.

The LUH has made history by reaching a significant milestone during its cold weather trials in Leh. The LUH, which is designed to perform missions at sea level to high altitude, achieved a speed of 120 knots at high altitude and in extreme cold weather conditions. This makes it the first helicopter to accomplish this feat. The LUH has been in development for several years, with the first prototype (PT1) flying on September 6, 2016, the second one (PT2) on May 22, 2017, and the third prototype (PT3) on December 14, 2018. However, this latest achievement is a key step in the development and certification process for the LUH, as it demonstrates the helicopter's ability to operate in the most challenging environments.

The LUH developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has proven its ability to withstand extreme cold conditions during a recent cold soak test. Originally planned for 24 hours, the test was grounded for 48 hours due to rough weather, with temperatures reaching minus 20 degrees. Despite the prolonged exposure, the helicopter performed without any issues, signalling a positive sign for its capability in diverse weather conditions, particularly in the Himalayan region.

Not only does the LUH have the ability to operate efficiently in extreme conditions, it also boasts a level of flexibility that sets it apart from other contemporary helicopters in its class. The helicopter has the potential to accommodate additional equipment in the future, allowing it to adapt to changing operational requirements. These features make the LUH a valuable asset for any mission, and an exciting addition to the helicopter market.

The LUH is set to make its debut at Aero India with a host of proven abilities. The design of the LUH is based on the best design philosophies of HAL's proven platforms, which has helped the project to achieve its objectives. The designers are optimistic about completing the pending test points as per the time schedules, bringing the LUH closer to certification.

The LUH is a versatile helicopter, capable of performing a wide range of missions including Medevac (medical evacuation) and troop transportation. These features make the LUH a great option for the Indian Armed Forces and other civilian operators. With its advanced capabilities and proven design, the LUH is sure to make a strong impact in the aerospace industry.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/hals-new-era-of-helicopter-tech-low-cost-high-performance-and-good-maneuverability-of-luh/2950877/>

चीन झुका, मक्की ग्लोबल टेररिस्ट



“ मक्की कश्मीर में फंडिंग करता है, युवाओं को कट्टरपंथी बनाकर उनसे हमले करवाता है। - यूएन की कमिटी

■ मक्की को ग्लोबल टेररिस्ट घोषित करने के पिछले प्रस्ताव को चीन ने वीटो कर दिया था, इस बार अड़चन को हटाया।

■ मक्की ही लश्कर का काम देख रहा है। अब दुनिया भर में उसकी संपत्ति फ्रीज हो सकेगी। ट्रैवल बैं लग सकेगा।

■ पीटीआई, संयुक्त राष्ट्र

आतंकवाद मानवता का साझा दुश्मन: चीन

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने पाकिस्तान स्थित आतंकी संगठन लश्कर-ए-तैयबा के उप प्रमुख अब्दुल रहमान मक्की को ब्लैक लिस्ट में डालकर उसे ग्लोबल टेररिस्ट घोषित कर दिया है। मक्की मुंबई के 26/11 हमले के मास्टर्समाइंड और लश्कर सरगना हाफिज सईद का बहनोई है। मक्की पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र के इस वैन को आतंकवाद के मोर्चे पर भारत की बड़ी कूटनीतिक जीत माना जा रहा है। भारत और अमेरिका पिछले साल जून में ही 68 वर्षीय मक्की को ग्लोबल टेररिस्ट घोषित करवाने का प्रस्ताव लाए थे, लेकिन तब चीन ने 'टेक्निकल' रोक लगा दी थी, पर इस बार चीन को रोक हटानी पड़ी। मक्की को काली सूची में डालने वाली संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद की प्रतिबंध समिति ने उसे सात आतंकी हमलों में शामिल बताया है। इनमें 2000 में लाल किले पर हुआ हमला और मुंबई में 26/11 का हमला भी शामिल हैं।

लश्कर
सरगना
हाफिज सईद
का बहनोई है
मक्की

चीन ने बदले रुख पर कहा कि आतंकवाद मानवता का साझा दुश्मन है। चीन के प्रवक्ता से जब पूछा गया कि क्या चीन अन्य पाकिस्तानी आतंकियों के मसले

पर भी यही फैसला करेगा, इस पर प्रवक्ता ने सीधे से जवाब न देकर यही कहा कि यूएन की 1267 प्रतिबंध समिति आतंकवाद के खिलाफ

अहम तंत्र है। साथ ही, आतंकवाद के खिलाफ पाकिस्तान के प्रयासों को सराहा। भारत के विदेश मंत्रालय ने कहा कि आतंकवाद को कतई बर्दाश्त न करने के रुख पर पूरी तरह से कायम हैं और आतंकियों पर कार्रवाई के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय पर दबाव बनाना जारी रखेंगे।

तीन जंग से गरीबी मिली, बात करें: पाक

“ हमने भारत के साथ तीन जंग लड़ीं। इससे लोगों को केवल गरीबी, बेरोजगारी ही मिली।

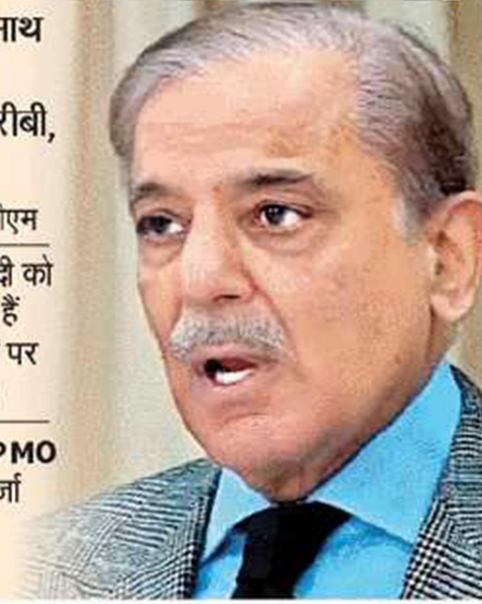
- शहबाज शरीफ, पाकिस्तानी पीएम

■ शहबाज ने कहा, पीएम मोदी को मेरा संदेश है कि आइए बैठते हैं और कश्मीर समेत अन्य मुद्दों पर गंभीरता से बातचीत करते हैं।

■ चंद घंटों बाद शहबाज के PMO ने कहा, कश्मीर का विशेष दर्जा बहाल हुए बिना, भारत से बातचीत नहीं हो सकती है।

■ टीएनएन, नई दिल्ली

पाकिस्तान के प्रधानमंत्री शहबाज शरीफ ने भारत के पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी से बातचीत की गुहार लगाई। अल अरबिया न्यूज चैनल को दिए इंटरव्यू में शहबाज शरीफ ने कहा, 'भारत और पाकिस्तान पड़ोसी हैं और हमें एक-दूसरे के साथ ही रहना है। यह हम पर है कि हम शांति के साथ रहें, तरक्की करें या फिर झगड़ते रहें। हमने भारत के साथ तीन जंग लड़ीं। इससे लोगों को केवल गरीबी, बेरोजगारी ही मिली। हमने अपना सबक सीख लिया है। हम शांति के साथ रहना चाहते हैं।



मोदी को मेरा संदेश है कि आइए मेज पर बैठते हैं और कश्मीर समेत अन्य मुद्दों पर गंभीरता से बातचीत करते हैं।'

शहबाज के इस वयान को इमरान की पार्टी ने गिड़गिड़ाहट करार दिया और मोदी का पुराना विडियो शेयर किया, जिसमें मोदी को कहते दिखाया गया कि भारत ने पाकिस्तान को भीख का कटोरा लेकर घूमने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया है। फिर शहबाज के दफ्तर ने सोशल मीडिया पर वयान जारी कर कहा कि पीएम के वयान का गलत मतलब निकाला गया। भारत से बातचीत तभी हो सकती है, जब कश्मीर का विशेष दर्जा बहाल हो।

India's Efforts Bore Fruit: Defence Expert on UN Terror Tag on LeT's Abdul Rehman Makki

Responding to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) declaring Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander and brother-in-law of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Abdul Rehman Makki, as a 'Global Terrorist', Colonel (retd.) and former Military Intelligence officer Hunny Bakshi on Tuesday said the announcement is the fruit of the Union government's persistent efforts to bring those involved in terror acts to justice. In an interview with ANI, Col (retd.) Bakshi said, "It is very good news that Pakistan-based LeT terrorist Abdul Rehman Makki, who is the brother-in-law of (26/11 mastermind) Hafiz Saeed and also the second-in-command of the terrorist organisation, has been declared a 'Global Terrorist' by the UNSC."

"Makki has been responsible for many terror attacks in India and was also behind the 26/11 terror attacks. Even Pakistan's anti-terror courts punished him in 2020. Unfortunately, however, it has been Pakistan's way to start a trial for the world to see and then acquit them afterwards," he added.

"He was freed in a case on a fine PKR (Pakistani rupees) 50,000. Finally, when the UN today declared him a global terrorist, Pakistan is now asking for hard evidence for designating him as a 'Global Terrorist'. What is the need for hard evidence now when the country's court, itself, had found him guilty and sentenced him to a fine of PKR 50,000?"

Lauding the continued efforts of the Union government to put Makki on the global terror watchlist, Bakshi said, "I congratulate the people and also my government whose efforts have now bore fruit."

This listing is being seen as a major win for New Delhi after China, in June 2022, blocked a joint proposal by India and the US to get the UNSC to list Makki as a 'Global Terrorist'. Beijing put a last-minute 'technical hold' on the joint proposal to put Makki on the UNSC's 1267 list of terrorists linked to al Qaeda and ISIL. The move by Beijing was condemned by India as 'extremely unfortunate'.

"On 16 January 2023, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida, and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities approved the addition of the entry specified below to its ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List of individuals and entities subject to the assets freeze, travel ban and arms embargo set out in paragraph 1 of Security Council resolution 2610 (2021) and adopted under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations," the UN said in a statement.

Resolution 1267 provides for sanctions against individuals and entities that support or finance the acts or activities of ISIL, Al-Qaida, associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.

Makki is the deputy leader of LeT, an organisation that was later renamed the Jamaatud Dawa (JuD), as a terrorist. Just like the LeT, the JuD is also an UN-designated terror group.

Also known as Abdulrahman Maki, he served as the head of the 'foreign relations department of the LeT and a member of its governing body or Shura, while also helping raise money for LeT operations.

In India, Makki is on the UAPA list of designated terrorists and is wanted for his involvement in the attack on the iconic Red Fort, in Delhi in 2000, the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, and attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

The US has also placed Makki on its list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists and has announced a USD 2 million reward for information leading to his capture and conviction.

<https://theprint.in/world/indias-efforts-bore-fruit-defence-expert-on-un-terror-tag-on-lets-abdul-rehman-makki/1319618/>



Wed, 18 Jan 2023

UN Welcomes India's Largest All-Women Peacekeeping Contingent

With India deploying its biggest-ever all-women contingent for a peacekeeping mission in Sudan, the United Nations peacekeeping chief has welcomed them saying female troops mean efficient operations.

"Pleased to see the largest contingent of women peacekeepers from #India arriving in #Abyei where they will be #ServingForPeace with @UNISFA_1. More #Women InPeacekeeping means more efficient operations and they help better reflect the people we serve," UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix said in a tweet late on Monday.

The women peacekeepers, the single-largest all-women platoon from the Indian Army in recent years, arrived in Abyei on Saturday last to begin their deployment with the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). Abyei is disputed zone on the border of South Sudan and Sudan, and has been accorded a "special administrative status."

"UNISFA is excited to welcome the deployment of the single largest all-women platoon of peacekeepers in recent years from #India. They join @IndBatt serving in #Abyei @UNISFA_1. The deployment reaffirms #India's continued commitment to implementation UNISFA mandate @UNPeacekeeping," the mission said in a tweet Monday.

The platoon, comprising two officers and 25 other ranks, is part of an engagement platoon and specialises in community outreach. It will perform extensive security related tasks as well.

Hailing the development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said on January 6, "Proud to see this. India has a tradition of active participation in UN peacekeeping missions. The participation by our Nari Shakti is even more gladdening."

He was reacting to an Army tweet that said, "Indian Army deploys its largest contingent of women peacekeepers in United Nations mission at Abyei, UNISFA."

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/india/un-welcomes-india---s-largest-all-women-peacekeeping-contingent.html>

Tue, 17 Jan 2023

British Home Secretary Suella Braverman Approves Extradition of Defence Middleman Sanjay Bhandari to India

British Home Secretary Suella Braverman has approved the extradition of defence middleman Sanjay Bhandari to India.

London-based businessman Bhandari is accused in a money laundering and tax evasion case by CBI and ED. He has been on bail on security provided to the court. The Home Secretary signed the order on the 12th of January, two months after a court in London ordered the fugitive arms dealer's extradition to India.

Bhandari has 14 days to appeal against the two extradition orders, by the court and the Home Secretary. Bhandari has been under investigation since 2019 on charges of corruption in the 2,985 crore rupees deal in 2009 to procure 75 PC-7 trainer aircraft from Swiss plane maker Pilatus Aircraft.

<https://newsonair.com/2023/01/17/british-home-secretary-suella-braverman-approves-extradition-of-defence-middleman-sanjay-bhandari-to-india/>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Tue, 17 Jan 2023

Russia Plans 'Major Changes' in Armed Forces from 2023 to 2026

Russia said on Tuesday that it would make "major changes" to its armed forces from 2023 to 2026, promising to shake up its military structure after months of setbacks on the battlefield in Ukraine. In addition to administrative reforms, the Defence Ministry said it would strengthen the combat capabilities of its naval, aerospace and strategic missile forces.

"Only by strengthening the key structural components of the Armed Forces is it possible to guarantee the military security of the state and protect new entities and critical facilities of the Russian Federation," Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu said. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the changes had been made necessary by the "proxy war" being conducted in Ukraine by the West, which has been sending increasingly heavy weaponry to Ukraine to help it resist Russian forces.

The defence ministry, which has faced sharp domestic criticism for the ineffectiveness of its drive to take control of large tracts of Ukraine, vowed in December to boost its military personnel to 1.5 million.

It has made numerous changes to its leadership in the 11 months of what it terms a "special military operation", in which its forces initially seized large areas of southern and eastern Ukraine but have since suffered a series of painful defeats and retreats.

Last week, Shoigu appointed Army General Valery Gerasimov, the chief of the military general staff, to take charge of the Ukraine campaign. The Defence Ministry said on Friday that it had taken control of Soledar - a small, salt-mining town in Ukraine's Donetsk region that had for weeks been the focus of a Russian assault.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/russia-plans-major-changes-in-armed-forces-from-2023-to-2026/articleshow/97054225.cms>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Tue, 17 Jan 2023

Russian Defence Minister Visits Troops Involved in Ukraine Offensive

Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has inspected a military headquarters in Ukraine, the ministry said Tuesday. At the headquarters of Russia's Vostok (East) group in an unnamed location, Shoigu was briefed by its commander and heard from commanders of other formations "on the progress of combat mission", the ministry said in a statement. It did not specify the location of the headquarters visited.

A video released by the ministry with the statement showed Shoigu holding a meeting with military commanders in person and via video-link. Among those taking part in the video call was Russia's chief of the general staff Valery Gerasimov, who was recently put in charge of Moscow's forces in Ukraine. The video also showed Shoigu handing out awards to servicemen.

"You serve with dignity, protect our Fatherland, help those who need help, do everything to bring closer the day called Victory Day," Shoigu said. Shoigu in December made two visits to the area of the "special military operation", including to inspect troops on the frontline, according to the ministry.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/russian-defence-minister-visits-troops-involved-in-ukraine-offensive/articleshow/97052149.cms>



Tue, 17 Jan 2023

Putin's Soledar Battle 'Going As Per plan'; Russian Defence Min inspects troops

Russia-installed officials in the Donetsk region said they were in control of the salt-mining town of Soledar in East Ukraine. This comes four days after Russia officially claimed 'capture' of Soledar, which is located near Bakhmut. Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the dynamic

at the frontline was positive and everything was going as per plan. The Russian Defence Minister meanwhile, visited troops involved in Ukraine offensive and inspected the headquarters of Russia's Vostok (East) group in an unspecified location. Watch this video for more details on the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/videos/world-news/putins-soledar-battle-going-as-per-plan-russian-defence-minister-inspects-troops-vostok-hq-101673952661723.html>



Mon, 16 Jan 2023

Defence Secretary Announces Combat Power Package for Ukraine

The Secretary of State for Defence today set out details of the most significant package of combat power to date to accelerate Ukrainian success in the war with Russia, including a squadron of Challenger 2 tanks.

Ben Wallace said that Russia, "isolated and without such support, has now lost over 1,600 main battle tanks in Ukraine since the start of the invasion. But if we're to continue helping Ukraine seize the upper hand in the next phase of this conflict, we must accelerate our collective efforts diplomatically, economically and militarily to keep the pressure on Putin."

The Defence Secretary announced to the House of Commons the details of the combat power package which includes:

- A squadron of Challenger 2 tanks with armoured recovery and repair vehicles
- The donation of around thirty AS90 guns, comprising a battery of eight guns at high readiness and two further batteries at varying states of readiness
- Hundreds more armoured and protected vehicles will also be sent including Bulldog
- A manoeuvre support package, including minefield breaching and bridging capabilities worth £28 million
- Dozens more uncrewed aerial systems worth £20 million to support Ukrainian artillery
- Another 100,000 artillery rounds; on top of the 100,000 rounds already delivered.
- Hundreds more sophisticated missiles including GMLRS rockets, Starstreak air defence missiles, and medium range air defence missiles
- An equipment support package of spares to refurbish up to a hundred Ukrainian tanks and infantry fighting vehicles

The Challenger tank will be the most modern tank at Ukraine's disposal, providing Ukrainian troops with better protection and more accurate firepower.

The A90s are large, self-propelled guns, operated by five gunners.

The UK will begin training the Ukrainian Armed Forces to use the tanks and guns in the coming days, as part of wider UK efforts which have seen thousands of Ukrainian troops trained in the UK over the last six months.

Ben Wallace said, "Today's package is an important increase in Ukraine's capabilities. It means they can go from resisting to expelling Russian forces from Ukrainian soil."

As the first anniversary of the war approaches, the Prime Minister has stressed the need for an international strategy to break the stalemate.

The Defence Secretary has been tasked with bringing together European allies to ensure the surge of global military support is as strategic and coordinated as possible. The Defence Secretary will travel to Estonia and Germany this week to work with NATO allies and other international partners to this end.

The Prime Minister is set to accelerate the UK's diplomatic and military support to Ukraine in the weeks ahead in a bid to push Russia further back and secure a lasting peace.

UK defence and security officials believe a window has opened up where Russia is on the back foot due to resupply issues and plummeting morale. Allies are therefore being encouraged to deploy their planned support for 2023 as soon as possible to have maximum impact.

<https://www.army.mod.uk/news-and-events/news/2023/01/challenger-2-tanks-to-ukraine/>



Tue, 17 Jan 2023

Germany Names New Defence Minister, Faces Pressure to Send Tanks to Ukraine

Germany's government named Boris Pistorius as defence minister on Tuesday at a time of mounting pressure on Berlin from Western allies to allow Ukraine to use German-made tanks in the war with Russia.

Following several missteps, Christine Lambrecht resigned as defence minister on Monday, ahead of a conference on Friday at the U.S. military base in Ramstein on Western plans to provide Kyiv with more arms.

Until now, Germany has been cautious about approving the despatch of heavy Leopard tanks due to worries that such a move could be seen as an escalation of the war. Other countries with such tanks also need Berlin's approval before they can be passed on to another country.

"There are important decisions to be made in the short term, in particular the urgent question of how we continue to support Ukraine in its right to self-defence," Economy Minister Robert Habeck, of the Greens party, said in a statement.

"Germany bears a responsibility here and has major tasks to accomplish," he said.

The new defence minister is expected to host his U.S. counterpart, Lloyd Austin, in Berlin on Thursday.

Pistorius, 62, who completed his military service in the early 1980s, has been interior minister in Lower Saxony since 2013 and in this role has worked with the armed forces.

Like Chancellor Olaf Scholz, he ran for the leadership of the Social Democrat (SPD) party in 2019 - they both lost - and he is known for taking a hard line on security issues. In a brief statement before he is formally appointed on Thursday, Pistorius said he knew the importance of the task he faced. "I want to make the armed forces strong for the time ahead," he said.

Scholz described him as a friend and good politician. "He is someone with an awful lot of experience in security policy, who has cooperated openly and closely in his previous role with the Bundeswehr and who possesses the strength and calm that one needs for such a great task," he said. Pistorius has been in a relationship with Doris Schroeder-Kopf, the ex-wife of former Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Schroeder has drawn sharp criticism from inside Germany and abroad for his close ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Pistorius was also a member of the Bundesrat upper house of parliament German-Russian friendship group before it was dissolved in April. However, he has clearly condemned what he has called Russia's "brutal attacks" on Ukraine. In May, he said Russian sympathisers must not glorify the war on German streets.

"It is intolerable when the end of World War Two, the Allied victory and the liberation of Europe are associated with the illegal war of aggression against Ukraine," he said.

The incoming minister takes over at a crucial time, overseeing an upgrade of Germany's armed forces, with a 100-billion-euro (\$108 billion) special fund at his disposal which was hurriedly agreed after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. After decades of under-investment, German equipment, including Puma infantry tanks which were rendered out of action after problems were found in a military drill, is in the spotlight. Scholz has signalled a policy shift by promising to boost defence spending to more than 2% of its economic output.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/boris-pistorius-serve-next-german-defence-minister-source-2023-01-17/>



Tue, 17 Jan 2023

Why Germany's Defence Minister Christine Lambrecht had to Resign

By Alind Chauhan

German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht on Monday (January 16) resigned after a series of PR disasters and a growing impression that she failed to modernise the country's armed forces, especially since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Most recently, she got embroiled in a controversy after posting a video address on social media on New Year's Eve, in which she "attempted to recapitulate her experiences of the war in Ukraine but was almost drowned out by the noise of fireworks exploding around her", according to DW. Since then, Lambrecht had been facing heavy criticism and calls for her resignation intensified.

In a statement, she said, “Months of media focus on me doesn’t allow for fact-based reporting and discussion about soldiers, the army and security policy in the interest of German citizens. The valuable work of the soldiers and many motivated people in the defence area needs to be in the foreground.”

The Indian Express looks at Lamrecht’s turbulent tenure and how her resignation can affect Ukraine’s bid to win the war against Russia.

Appointed as the defence minister in December 2021, Lamrecht wasn’t seen as a strong candidate for the job as she didn’t have enough experience and knowledge about the military.

Things began to go awry for her once the Ukraine and Russia war broke out. Against this backdrop, the German government sanctioned a 100-billion-euro special fund to revive the country’s ill-equipped armed forces and Lamrecht was expected to quickly get the job done. However, she failed to do so, according to her critics.

Just last month, her capabilities were brought into question when 18 Puma infantry tanks — one of the military’s most advanced pieces of equipment — had to be put out of service due to technical difficulties during a military drill. Before this, Lamrecht, in the initial days of Russian invasion, was ridiculed for her announcement that Germany was supporting Ukraine by sending 5,000 military helmets. She also found herself in hot water after it emerged that she had taken her son on a trip in a military helicopter. According to The Guardian, although her son had paid for the trip, Lamrecht and her government found it difficult to defend themselves against the public outcry.

The implication of her resignation

Lamrecht’s resignation has come at a crucial moment as Germany is set to meet “defence ministers from Ukraine’s western allies at the American military base in Ramstein on Friday to discuss further support for Ukraine”, according to the BBC. The country’s Chancellor Olaf Scholz has said that he would swiftly find her successor. As per a DW report, the ruling party Social Democrats’ (SPD) leader Lars Klingbeil, long-time Labor Minister Hubertus Heil, and Eva Högl, the special parliamentary commissioner for the Bundeswehr military, are the frontrunners.

Regardless of who becomes the next defence minister, they would be under immense pressure to not only improve Germany’s military strength but also ensure its unwavering support to Ukraine. Germany is already facing heat for its “cautious approach” regarding sending heavy weaponry to Ukraine. According to the BBC, there have been “renewed calls to send German-built Leopard 2 tanks – which Ukraine considers vital if it is to defeat Russia – or at least approve their delivery from countries such as Poland.”

Last week, Scholz revealed his plans to supply Marder infantry fighting vehicles to Ukraine. The decision was taken along with the US, which at the same time announced to send Bradley armoured vehicles, said the BBC report. Soon after, the UK announced it would supply Challenger battle tanks, “increasing pressure on Germany to act”.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-global/germanys-defence-minister-christine-lamrecht-resigns-8387391/>



Wed, 18 Jan 2023

Desi Biopesticide to Kill Mosquito Larvae to Hit Markets Soon

In what could be a game-changer not only in curbing mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue and Chikungunya which are on the rise but also save foreign exchange, the technology for India's indigenously developed eco-friendly bio-pesticide VCRC B17 is now available for commercial sale.

It is developed by the ICMR's lab Vector Control Research Centre (ICMR-VCRC), Puducherry after it indigenously isolated a strain of *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis* (BtiVCRC B17) way back in 1980 from a soil sample collected from Puducherry.

After successfully holding a string of clinical trials at various locations including in India, Indonesia, and the USA all these years, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is now seeking commercial production of the bio-pesticide also VCRC Bti B-17. It is said to have very high larvicidal activity against mosquito species belonging to *Culex*, *Anopheles*, and *Aedes*, as assessed by the Institut Pasteur, Paris and designated as an 'Indian standard strain' by the Central Insecticide Board (CIB).

Currently, Bti is largely imported in the country and hence the indigenous product of VCRC strain will be a major import substitute, saving the precious foreign exchange reserves, said an official from the ICMR.

The ICMR has now floated an expression of interest (EOI) in this regard, seeking proposals from the industry in the bio-pesticide sector to manufacture VCRC B17, which it claims is useful for the control of mosquitoes and black flies. It is found to be safe against honey bees, silkworms, mammals, and also non-target organisms occurring in mosquito breeding habitats, as per the Council.

"The isolate was further characterized by sequencing its toxin genes. A simple and low-cost pilot-scale fermentation technology for the production of this bacterium, using locally available raw materials has been developed. Two formulations viz., aqueous suspension (AS 5.0%) and water dispersible powder (WP) formulations of the larvicide have been developed.

"The formulations have been tested, both in the laboratory and under field conditions in different climatic conditions, extensively and found to be highly effective in controlling the larvae of disease and nuisance-causing mosquitoes," said an official from the ICMR.

In laboratory tests, the biolarvicide, Bti ICMR-VCRC B17, was found to be highly toxic to larvae (water stages) of mosquitoes transmitting malaria (*Anopheline* sp.), filariasis, and Japanese encephalitis (*Culicine* sp.), dengue, chikungunya and Zika diseases (*Aedes* spp.).

Bti ICMR-VCRC B17 kills mosquito larvae by destroying their gut, within 10-30 minutes upon treatment. Its identity and larvicidal activity were confirmed by the WHO Reference Centre, Institut Pasteur, Paris, and rated equivalent to the global standard strain ONR 60A (WHO).

A pilot-scale (100 litres capacity) technology for the production of the biolarvicide has been perfected at ICMR-VCRC. The biolarvicide can be produced using locally available agriculture-based raw materials and hence it is cost-effective and environmentally friendly, the official shared.

Blackflies transmit river blindness in African countries. Hence, there is enough scope for its export to other countries, including the African continent for the control of mosquitoes and blackflies, he said.

As mosquitoes are developing resistance to chemical insecticides and United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO) mandating phase out of DDT to be replaced with environment-friendly alternatives such as Bti, ICMR hopes its product will fill the gap as the focus is now on biocontrol agents.

“For almost a century, mosquito control programmes have relied mainly on chemical insecticides. This overreliance is presently being challenged due to the high costs, development of insecticide resistance, health and environmental hazards, depleting raw material resources which are mainly petrochemical-based,” said the official.

As global warming leads to rising temperatures, environments are becoming conducive for mosquitos and black flies to multiply and transmit several diseases such as malaria, filariasis, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, chikungunya, and Zika leading to heavy morbidity and mortality, as also impacting social well-being.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/india/desi-biopesticide-to-kill-mosquito-larvae-to-hit-markets-soon.html>

