

मार्च

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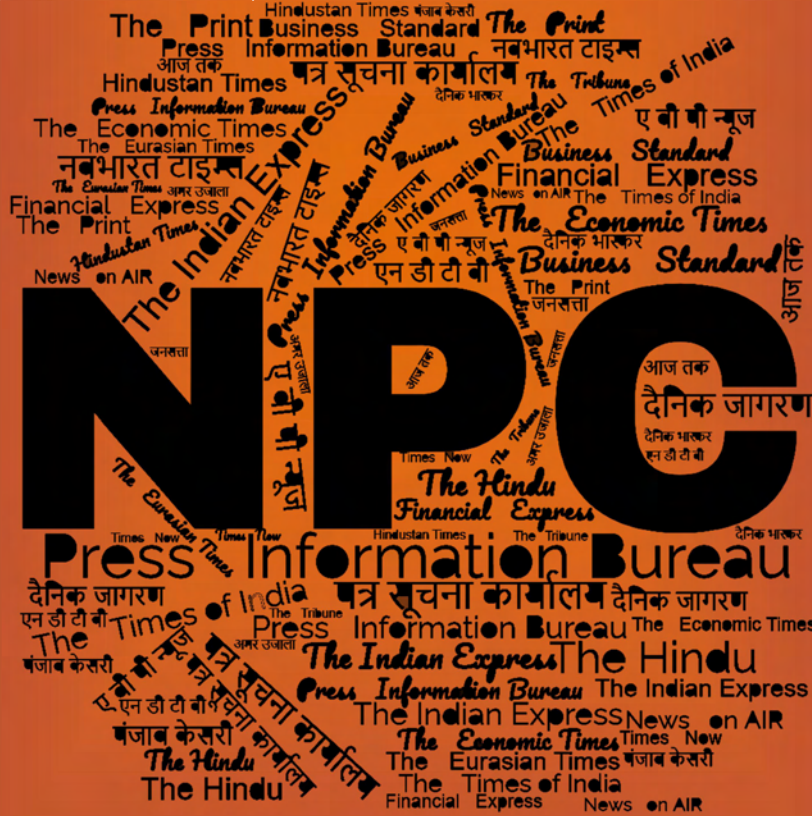
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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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Defence Strategic : National/International



पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
भारत सरकार

रक्षा मंत्रालय

Thu, 23 Mar 2023

आत्मनिर्भर भारत: रक्षा मंत्रालय ने मध्यम शक्ति रडार 'अरुधरा' और 129 डीआर- 118 रडार चेतावनी प्राप्तकर्ताओं के लिए बीईएल के साथ 3,700 करोड़ रुपये के अनुबंध पर हस्ताक्षर किए

भारतीय वायु सेना की निगरानी, पहचान और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने के लिए परियोजनाएं

रक्षा मंत्रालय ने 23 मार्च, 2023 को भारतीय वायु सेना की परिचालन क्षमताओं में बढ़ोतरी के लिए भारत इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स लिमिटेड (बीईएल) के साथ 3,700 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक के दो अलग-अलग अनुबंधों पर हस्ताक्षर किए। इनमें पहला अनुबंध 2,800 करोड़ रुपये से अधिक का है, जो भारतीय वायु सेना के लिए मध्यम शक्ति रडार (एमपीआर) 'अरुधरा' की आपूर्ति से संबंधित है। वहीं, दूसरा अनुबंध लगभग 950 करोड़ रुपये का है, जो 129 डीआर-118 रडार चेतावनी प्राप्तकर्ता (आरडब्ल्यूआर) से संबंधित है। ये दोनों परियोजनाएं खरीदें {भारतीय - आईडीएमएम (स्वदेशी रूप से डिजाइन विकसित व निर्मित)} श्रेणी के तहत हैं। ये अनिवार्य रूप से 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' की भावना के प्रतीक हैं और देश को रक्षा निर्माण में आत्मनिर्भरता की सोच को साकार करने में सहायता करेंगे।

एमपीआर (अरुधरा)

रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) ने इस रडार को स्वदेशी रूप से डिजाइन व विकसित किया है और इसका निर्माण बीईएल करेगी। पहले ही इसका सफल परीक्षण भारतीय वायु सेना कर चुकी है। यह हवाई लक्ष्यों की निगरानी और पता लगाने के लिए दिगंश व

उन्नयन, दोनों में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक स्टीयरिंग के साथ एक 4डी मल्टी-फंक्शन चरणबद्ध एरे रडार है। इस प्रणाली में एक साथ स्थित चिन्हित मित्र या शत्रु प्रणाली से पूछताछ के आधार पर लक्ष्य की पहचान होगी। यह परियोजना औद्योगिक वातावरण में विनिर्माण क्षमता के विकास के लिए एक उत्प्रेरक के रूप में कार्य करेगी।

डीआर-118 आरडब्ल्यूआर

डीआर-118 रडार वार्निंग रिसीवर एसयू-30 एमकेआई विमान की इलेक्ट्रॉनिक युद्ध (ईडब्ल्यू) क्षमताओं में काफी बढ़ोतरी करेगा। इसके अधिकांश उप-संयोजन और पुर्जे स्वदेशी निर्माताओं से प्राप्त किए जाएंगे। यह परियोजना एमएसएमई सहित भारतीय इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स और संबद्ध उद्योगों की सक्रिय भागीदारी को बढ़ावा देने के साथ उसे प्रोत्साहित करेगी। इसके अलावा यह साढ़े तीन साल की अवधि में लगभग दो लाख मानव-दिवस का रोजगार सृजित करेगी।

डीआर-118 आरडब्ल्यूआर स्वदेशी ईडब्ल्यू क्षमताओं को विकसित करने और देश को रक्षा क्षेत्र में 'आत्मनिर्भर' बनाने की दिशा में एक बड़ी छलांग है।

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1910159>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 23 Mar 2023

To Boost IAF's Capabilities, Defence Ministry Signs Contracts worth Rs 3700 cr with BEL for Radars, Receivers

The defence ministry on Thursday signed two contracts worth over Rs 3,700 crore with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for radars and receivers, which will enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force. The first contract worth over Rs 2,800 crore pertains to the supply of Medium Power Radars (MPR) 'Arudhra' for the IAF, and the second, at an overall cost of around Rs 950 crore, relates to 129 DR-118 Radar Warning Receivers (RWR).

Both projects are under 'Buy Indian-IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)' category. The projects are aimed at enhancing surveillance, detection, tracking and electronic warfare capabilities of the air force.

"These essentially embody the spirit of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and will help facilitate the realisation of the country's journey to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing," the Indian Air Force (IAF) said in a statement. MPR (Arudhra) radar has been indigenously designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and will be manufactured by BEL. Its successful trials have already been conducted by the IAF. It is a 4D multi-function phased array radar with electronic steering in both azimuth and elevation for surveillance, detection and tracking of aerial targets. The system will have target identification based on interrogations from co-located identification friend or foe system.

The DR-118 RWR will considerably enhance the electronic warfare capabilities of the Su-30 MKI aircraft. Majority of sub-assemblies and parts will be sourced from indigenous manufacturers, the statement said.

The IAF said the project will boost and encourage active participation of Indian electronics and associated industries, including MSMEs. It is also expected to generate employment of approximately two lakh man-days over a period of three and half years, it said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/to-boost-iafs-capabilities-defence-ministry-signs-contracts-worth-rs-3700-cr-with-bel-for-radars-receivers/articleshow/98948569.cms>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 23 Mar 2023

Annual Bilateral Maritime Exercise Konkan 2023

Konkan 2023, the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy, was held from 20 to 22 Mar 23 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea.

INS Trishul, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, participated in this edition and undertook multiple maritime drills to enhance interoperability and imbibe best practices. The exercises covered all domains of maritime operations, air, surface and sub-surface, and included gunnery shoots on surface inflatable target 'Killer Tomato', helicopter operations, anti-air and anti-submarine warfare drills, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), ship manoeuvres and exchange of personnel.

The exercise yielded excellent training value to personnel of both navies. A high level of professionalism and enthusiasm was also evident during its conduct. The focus personnel exhibited on op-readiness, enhancing interoperability and improving the ability to conduct joint operations will go a long way in bolstering the combined efforts of the IN and RN to strengthen maritime security and uphold a rules-based order in the region.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1909937>

 **The Indian EXPRESS**

Fri, 24 Mar 2023

Army, IAF Conduct Joint Multi-domain Exercise Close to LAC in Northeast

The Army and the Indian Air Force (IAF) jointly carried out a multi-domain air-land exercise in an undisclosed location close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the northeast in the second week of March, defence sources said on Thursday. The exercise comes amid efforts to

institutionalise tactical-level jointness between the defence forces, as a precursor to the creation of integrated theatre commands.

India and China have been locked in a military standoff along the Tibetan border since 2020, where China has already fielded its Combined Arms Brigades.

The exercise — Vayu Prahar — was held in the eastern theatre to validate joint plans and prosecute synergised multi-domain operations, the sources said. They added that operations like these aim at orchestrating military activities across all spectrum to deliver converging effects.

Defence sources said the scope of the exercise included quick mobilisation of a specified rapid reaction force from the hinterland to undertake air-landed operations in a nominated advanced landing ground (ALGs) close to the LAC. An air-landed operation refers to rapid envelopment of enemy forces using airborne induction of troops.

As part of its infrastructure push along the LAC, India is constructing several ALGs in forward locations to facilitate more air operations. Arunachal Pradesh has several ALGs including at Along, Mechuka, Tawang, Tuting, Walong and Ziro. These ALGs have also been opened for use by civil aircraft. They added that the air landed force executed contingency tasks based on a realistic operational scenario in a challenging high-altitude terrain.

“The conduct of Vayu Prahar enabled coordination and rehearsal amongst various agencies for quick mobilisation, transportation and deployment of forces within a theatre which can be executed across theatres,” a source said. “The exercise validated and refined procedures quintessential for synergised joint operations. Army Formations, Special Forces along with the IAF participated in the 96-hour exercise,” the source added. Last month, the Army had conducted Trishakti Prahar — a joint training exercise — close to the strategic Siliguri Corridor in North Bengal.

Army sources had said that the exercise was aimed at practicing battle preparedness of the defence forces using latest equipment and weapons in a networked and integrated environment.

All arms and services of the Army, the IAF and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) were involved in the exercise.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/army-iaf-conduct-joint-multi-domain-exercise-close-to-lac-in-northeast-8515612/>



Thu, 23 Mar 2023

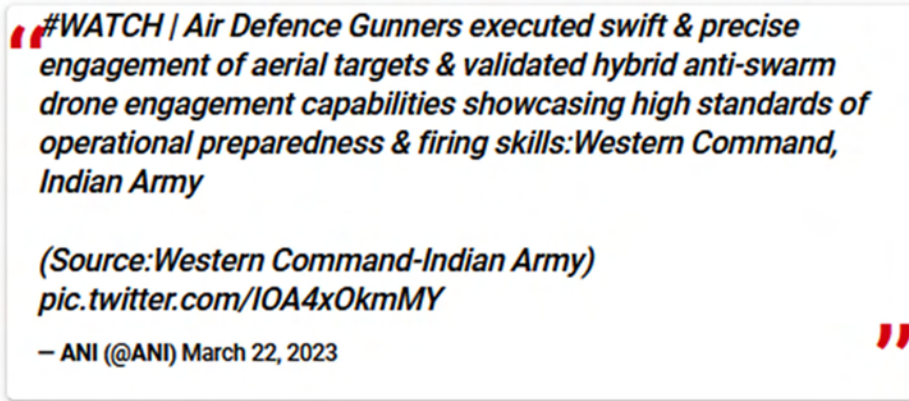
'पलक झपकते ही कई ड्रोन तबाह...' Indian Army ने दिखाई Air Defence की ताकत

भारतीय सेना (Indian Army) हर मोर्चे पर अपने आप को तैयार कर रही है। जल, थल और वायु तीनों सीमाओं की सुरक्षा तैयारियों को और पुख्ता किया जा रहा है। इसी क्रम में थल सेना की

वेस्टर्न कमांड (Western Command) ने एक स्पेशल एक्सरसाइज का आयोजन किया। इस अभ्यास में ऐरावत (Airawat), वायु (Air) और रक्षक (Rakshak) डिवीजन की तोपों ने हिस्सा लिया। इस दौरान वेस्टर्न कमांड ने अपनी एयर डिफेंस (Air Defence) की ताकत दिखाई।

बुधवार को हुए इस अभ्यास के दौरान, थल सेना के वेस्टर्न डिवीजन ने अपने स्पेशल अभ्यास का एक वीडियो शेयर किया। वीडियो में एक Terrain में सेना की कई बख्तरबंद गाड़ियां और तोप नजर आ रहे हैं। जो सटीक तरह से आसमान में उड़ रहे ड्रोन को नेस्तनाबूत कर दे रहे हैं। इस वीडियो में सेना ने लिखा है, 'कोई भी Terrain हमें रोक नहीं सकती है। हर समय हर जगह सेना तैयार है।'

सेना ने जारी किया बयान



थल सेना की वेस्टर्न कमांड ने एक बयान जारी करते हुए कहा, "एयर डिफेंस गनर्स ने हवाई टारगेट को तेजी से और सटीक रूप से अंजाम दिया और ऑपरेशनल तैयारियों और फायरिंग कौशल के हाई स्टैंडर्ड को प्रदर्शित करते हुए हाईब्रिड एंटी-स्वर्म ड्रोन एंगेजमेंट क्षमताओं का प्रदर्शन किया।"

इस अभ्यास का उद्देश्य सेना के युद्ध कौशल और एयर डिफेंस के कौशल का प्रदर्शन करना था। सेना ने रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध में इस्तेमाल हुए ड्रोन हमलों से सीख लेकर इस क्षेत्र में भी अपनी तैयारियां तेज कर दी है। ताकि भविष्य में संभावित किसी भी ड्रोन हमले से आसानी से निपटा जा सके। सेना लगातार इस क्रम में अपनी तैयारियों को तेज कर रही है।

सेना का जांबाज कमांडो चील 'अर्जुन'

पाकिस्तान (Pakistan) की ओर से बढ़ रहे ड्रोन के घुसपैठ को रोकने के लिए भारतीय सेना ने नया तरीका अपनाया है। सेना ने अब चीलों (Kite) और डॉग्स को इन ड्रॉन्स (Pakistan Drone) से निपटने के लिए प्रशिक्षित किया। इन नए कमांडोज का मूल काम संयुक्त रूप से ड्रॉन्स का मुकाबला करना और उन्हें नष्ट करना है। सेना के इन नए कमांडोज के ट्रेनिंग का प्रदर्शन

भारत-अमेरिका के बीच उत्तराखंड के औली में चल रहे संयुक्त प्रशिक्षण अभ्यास 'युद्ध अभ्यास 2022' के दौरान दिखाया गया था। इस अभ्यास में सेना ने ड्रोन का शिकार करने के लिए प्रशिक्षित "अर्जुन (Arjun)" नाम के एक चील को दिखाया था।

सीमापार से लगातार हो रही है ड्रोन घुसपैठ

गौरतलब है कि, हाल में पाकिस्तान की ओर से बड़े ड्रोन की साजिशों के बीच सेना लगातार सीमा पर मुस्तैद है। सेना लगातार नापाक ड्रोन हमलों का जवाब दे रही है। ऐसे में सीमापार से हो रही ड्रोन घुसपैठ की कोशिशों को लगातार सेना नापाक कर रही है।

<https://bharat.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/indian-army-western-command-showed-power-of-air-defence-against-drones>

अमर उजाला

Thu, 23 Mar 2023

T-72 और T-90 टैंक का इंजन कितना हुआ स्वदेशी, क्यों दांव पर है आयुद्ध कारखानों से बने निगमों का भाग्य

रक्षा पर 38वीं स्थायी समिति की रिपोर्ट (2022-2023) अब सार्वजनिक पटल पर है। साल 2021 में 220 साल पुराने 41 आयुद्ध कारखानों को जिन सात निगमों में तब्दील किया गया था, अब उनकी स्थिति कैसी है, रिपोर्ट में इस बात का उल्लेख है। हालांकि सरकार की ओर से रिपोर्ट में सात निगमों को लेकर गुलाबी तस्वीर दिखाने का हर संभव प्रयास किया गया है। रिपोर्ट में कहा गया है कि 'टी-72' और 'टी-90' टैंक में जो इंजन लगते हैं, वे पूरी तरह से स्वदेशी हैं। अगर संपूर्ण टैंक की बात करें तो 'टी-72' अब 96 फीसदी स्वदेशी हो गया है। इसी तरह 'टी-90' टैंक का भी स्वदेशी स्तर करीब 82 फीसदी तक पहुंच चुका है। दूसरी ओर, एआईडीईएफ के महासचिव सी. श्रीकुमार ने कहा है कि मौजूदा परिस्थितियों में सात निगमों का भाग्य दांव पर लगने वाला है। निगमों की ऑर्डर बुक की स्थिति पर गौर करें तो अगले पांच वर्षों के लिए वह तस्वीर बहुत ही धूमिल है।

रिपोर्ट में 95 फीसदी स्वदेशी कंटेंट की बात

रिपोर्ट में एमआईएल को लेकर कहा गया है कि हम लोग आत्मनिर्भर भारत को आत्मसात करते हुए स्वदेशीकरण पर बहुत फोकस करते हैं। इस समय हम जो प्रोजेक्ट बना रहे हैं, उसमें स्वदेशी कंटेंट 95 फीसदी है। केवल पांच फीसदी कंटेंट ही ऐसा है, जिसमें हमें बाहर से लेना पड़ता है। दूसरे निगम एवीएनएल को लेकर कहा गया है कि कुछ प्रोजेक्ट तो सौ फीसदी स्वदेशी हैं। जैसे

सीआरएन-91 नेवल गन, कवच, नेवल डेक्वाय सिस्टम, कुछ माइन प्रोटेक्टिड व्हीकल और लॉजिस्टिक व्हीकल हैं, जो पूरी तरह स्वदेशी हैं। जितने भी इंजन टी-72 और टी-90 टैंक में लगते हैं, वे पूरी तरह से स्वदेशी हैं। टी-72 टैंक 96 फीसदी और टी-90 टैंक 82 फीसदी स्वदेशी हो चुका है। बीएमपी जो एक आईसीबी व्हीकल है, वह 98 फीसदी है। इसके इंजन का स्वदेशी स्तर 90 फीसदी है। बाकी दोनों इंजन पहले से ही सौ फीसदी स्वदेशी हैं। स्वदेशी आइटमों की संख्या 31 रखी गई है। इनमें से आठ आइटम तो स्वदेशी हो गए हैं। इससे सरकार को 112 करोड़ रुपये की बचत हुई है।

तीसरे निगम को लेकर 94 फीसदी पर है ग्राफ

एडब्लूआईएल को लेकर रिपोर्ट में जो तथ्य हैं, उनमें स्वदेशीकरण का प्रतिशत 94 बताया गया है। इसमें आरएंडडी पर फोकस किया गया है। घरेलू एवं वैश्विक जरूरतों के मुताबिक, विभिन्न प्रोजेक्ट की पहचान की गई है। इन सभी का इंटरनल ट्रायल पूरा हो चुका है। इन्हें लांच करने की तैयारी है। देश का पहला स्वदेशी आइटम आर्टिलरी गन 'धनुष' रहा है। ये अब भारतीय सेना में तैनात हो चुकी है। ईशापुर की राइफल फैक्ट्री को गत वर्ष इनोवेशन प्रोजेक्ट की श्रेणी में गोल्ड अवॉर्ड मिला था। चौथे निगम 'आईओएल' में बैटल टैंक के साइट सिस्टम के 8-10 स्वदेशीकरण हो चुके हैं। छह माह के अंदर ड्राइव नाइट साइट विकसित की गई है।

पांचवें निगम 'वाईआईएल' के बारे में कहा गया कि यह एक ऐसी यूनिट है, जहां पर सौ फीसदी स्वदेशीकरण है। यहां पर कोई भी कच्चा माल कहीं से आयात नहीं होता है। इंडिया लिमिटेड के साथ मिलकर स्मार्ट एम्युनेशन, डीपीआईसी, पिनाका के वैरियर रॉकेट्स, गाइडेड रॉकेट्स और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक एंड मैकेनिकल फ्यूज के नए वर्जन तैयार करने पर काम हो रहा है।

टीसीएल में भी आयात हुआ सौ फीसदी जीरो

रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, इस कंपनी के सभी उत्पादों को लेकर आयात सौ फीसदी जीरो है। यहां सब कुछ स्वदेशी है। इसके प्रोजेक्ट का सबसे बड़ा ग्राहक भारतीय सेना है। 90-95 फीसदी सामान इंडियन आर्मी को जाता है। सातवें निगम 'जीआईएल' के तहत रिकवरी पैराशूट तैयार किया गया है। इसका ट्रायल बाकी है। ड्रोन रेस्क्यू पैराशूट्स की जरूरत आने वाले समय में बढ़ेगी। मार्केट में इस प्रोजेक्ट को लांच करने की तैयारी है। श्रीकुमार कहते हैं कि निगमों की ऑर्डर बुक स्थिति ठीक नहीं है। वर्ष 2023-24 के लिए इनकी ऑर्डर बुक स्थिति 16,694.58 करोड़ रुपये है। इसमें केवल एमआईएल और एवीएनएल ही कंफर्टबल जोन में हैं, जबकि 8 फैक्ट्रियों वाली एडब्लूआईएलआई के पास 1915 करोड़ रुपये का लोड है। टीसीएल और वाईआईएल तो सबसे खराब स्थिति में हैं। चार फैक्ट्रियों वाली टीसीएल पर केवल 88.89 करोड़ रुपये का वर्कलोड है, जबकि आठ फैक्ट्रियों वाली वाईआईएल पर 700 करोड़ रुपये का वर्कलोड है। एमआईएल पर 2025-26 के

बाद कोई काम का बोझ ही नहीं है। एवीएनएल का वर्कलोड भी 2027-28 में घटकर 560 करोड़ रुपये दिखाया गया है। आयुध कारखानों का निगमीकरण करते हुए केंद्र सरकार ने 30,000 करोड़ रुपये की ऑर्डर बुक होने का दावा किया था।

शीर्ष 10 हथियार आयातकों में भारत पहले स्थान पर

सरकार ने अब कई वस्तुओं/उपकरणों के आयात पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया है। संसदीय स्थायी समिति के समक्ष प्रस्तुत रिपोर्ट में मालूम हुआ है कि सरकार ने पिछले कुछ वर्षों में कई नीतिगत पहल की हैं। रक्षा उपकरणों के स्वदेशी डिजाइन, विकास और निर्माण को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए कई सुधार किए हैं। इसका मकसद रक्षा निर्माण और प्रौद्योगिकी में आत्मनिर्भरता को बढ़ावा देना है। बतौर श्रीकुमार, रिपोर्ट से पता चलता है कि सात निगमों में न तो निर्यात, न अनुसंधान एवं विकास और न ही नवाचार आदि हो रहा है। आज भी भारत दुनिया के शीर्ष 10 हथियार आयातकों में पहले स्थान पर है। भारत के शस्त्र आयात का वैश्विक हिस्सा 11 फीसदी है। पाकिस्तान का 3.7 फीसदी है। दुनिया के टॉप 10 आर्म्स एक्सपोर्टर्स में भारत का नाम गायब है।

सेना द्वारा आयुध कारखानों को मांग देना बंद करने और खुली निविदा के माध्यम से निजी क्षेत्र में जाने के कारण सात निगमों का भाग्य दांव पर लगने वाला है। हाल ही में सेना ने 12 लाख नए डिजाइन वाली वर्दी की खरीद के लिए एक खुली निविदा जारी की है। टीसीएल के तहत चार आयुध कारखानों को प्रतिबंधात्मक शर्तें लगाकर निविदा में भाग लेने की अनुमति भी नहीं दी गई है। ऐसा ही कुछ दूसरे निगमों में देखने को मिल रहा है।

आयुध कारखानों का निगमीकरण विफल

तीन प्रमुख कर्मचारी संगठन, एआईडीईएफ, बीपीएमएस और सीडीआरए ने डीडीपी को एक विस्तृत नोट प्रस्तुत किया है। इसमें आरोप लगाया गया है कि आयुध कारखानों का निगमीकरण विफल रहा है। केपीएमजी की सिफारिशें भी विफल रही हैं। अब उन अधिकारियों पर जिम्मेदारी तय की जानी चाहिए, जिन्होंने गलत निर्णय लेने के लिए राजनीतिक आकाओं को गलत सलाह देकर उन्हें गुमराह किया है। एआईडीईएफ के महासचिव सी श्रीकुमार ने रक्षा की स्थायी समिति की रिपोर्ट पर कहा, सरकार किसी तरह गुलाबी तस्वीर पेश कर यह दिखाना चाहती है कि ओएफबी का निगमीकरण एक सफल अभ्यास था। अभी सात निगमों के भविष्य के बारे में अनिश्चितता है। देश के सर्वश्रेष्ठ कार्यबल को कुछ उदासीन और असंवेदनशील व्यक्तियों द्वारा प्रताड़ित किया जा रहा है। आयुध कारखानों के निगमीकरण के निर्णय को वापस लेकर सरकार अपनी गलती को सुधार सकती है। सरकार को इस संबंध में कर्मचारी संघों से तत्काल बातचीत शुरू करनी चाहिए। एआईडीईएफ की राष्ट्रीय कार्यकारी समिति की बैठक 29 और 30 मार्च को होगी। उसमें

आयुध कारखानों और इसके कर्मचारियों को बचाने के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए जाने का निर्णय लिया जा सकता है।

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/standing-committee-report-on-defense-said-t-72-96-percent-indigenous-and-t-90-tank-82-percent-indigenous-2023-03-23>



Fri, 24 Mar 2023

Indian Army Mulling Over Technology Infusion to Counter China's Cyber Capabilities: Report

The contemporary landscape of the conduct of warfare has evolved with the infusion of modern smart technology. The Indian Ministry of Defence is actively engaged in efforts to modernise, theatreise as well as indigenise the Indian Armed Forces. The induction of Emerging Technologies is part of the Indian Army's efforts to enhance its operational capabilities and preparedness to counter misadventures by existing as well as emerging foes. Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande recently addressed a seminar on Defence Technology at New Delhi's Manekshaw Centre. The Indian Army Chief discussed the roadmap for the infusion of technology in the Indian Army.

In bids to modernise the defence as well as the offence element and upgrade its effectiveness in carrying out operations, the Indian Army has engaged in the development and integration of Artificial Intelligence, Quantum computing, Augmented Reality, Robotics, Autonomous Systems, and Cybersecurity. Notably, in the current geo-political scenario, China poses a significant threat to India's national security. According to a report by India-based independent think tank CLAWS (Centre for Land Warfare Studies), China's cyber operations which include cyber-espionage, cyber-attack and cyber-influence seek to disrupt the target nation's political, economic and military functioning.

India's options in countering Chinese cyber operations

Addressing the Def-Tech seminar, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande mentioned the lessons learnt by the nation from the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. The Indian Army Chief stressed the significance of achieving self-reliance in the defence sector and further called for the integration of modern technology and warfighting systems to enhance the Indian Army's operational capabilities.

"Our transformation has as its edifice five pillars - one of which is Modernization and Technology Infusion," COAS General Manoj Pande said during the address. The Army Chief further stressed that major initiatives are underway to transform the Indian Army into a "technology-driven, Aatmanirbhar and battle-worthy force," which will enable it to execute its "operational mandate, more effectively." Notably, as per the latest Global Cyber Security Index 2020, India ranks 10th while China occupied the 33rd spot in the index. However, a Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs report ranked China at the second spot in the National Cyber Power Index. Meanwhile, India was ranked 21st among the 30 nations analysed.

Notably, even though India's cyber-defence capabilities make the nation's cyberspace more secure, its offensive capabilities in the cyber domain require a major push, the CLAWS report indicated. The development of Deterrence Capability to counter China's cyber operations has been cited as a potentially effective step by the report. The CLAWS report suggests the Indian Army avoid offensive cyber operations and focus on the defensive aspect.

"It is strongly recommended that no offensive cyber operations be carried out at the army's tactical, operational, and strategic levels," the report said while citing the example of a malicious computer worm called 'Stuxnet' which was first discovered in 2010. "Stuxnet did not remain within the confines of Iranian Nuclear Installations," the report stressed. Meanwhile, as a response to China's cyber operations, the Indian Army has focussed on strengthening its cybersecurity capabilities. Measures taken by the Indian Army to counter China's cyber operations include:

- Establishment of dedicated cybersecurity cells: The Indian Army has set up dedicated cybersecurity cells, such as the Directorate of Information Warfare, to enhance its capabilities in dealing with cyber threats.
- Conduct of cybersecurity exercises: The Indian Army regularly conducts cybersecurity exercises to test its preparedness and identify areas that need improvement. For example, in 2020, the Indian Army conducted a two-day-long exercise called 'Hackathon' to test its cybersecurity preparedness.
- Collaboration with other agencies: The Indian Army collaborates with other agencies, such as the National Technical Research Organization (NTRO) and the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), to enhance its cybersecurity capabilities.

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/indian-army-mulling-over-technology-infusion-to-counter-chinas-cyber-capabilities-report-articleshow.html>



Thu, 23 Mar 2023

Jaishankar Meets US Air Force Secretary; Discusses Indo-US Defence Ties, World Strategy

On Tuesday, March 21, External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar met with Frank Kendall, the United States Secretary of the Air Force. The officials of both countries deliberated on the current state of world strategy and potential futures for Indo-US defence cooperation. "The US Secretary of the Air Force Frank Kendall was great to catch up with," the External Affairs Minister tweeted after the meeting and further wrote "discussed the global strategic scenario and new opportunities for Indo-US defence cooperation.

The discussion between the two sides comes at a crucial time as for the first time, an Indian-American man was recently nominated to the position of Assistant Secretary of the Air Force. Ravi Chaudhary's appointment as the Air Force's assistant secretary for Energy, Installations, and Environment was officially verified by the US.

Indian-American Ravi Chaudhary appointed to top position in US Air Force

With a mandate of 65-29, Ravi Chaudhary was elected to the post and joined one of the top civilian leadership positions at the Pentagon. After Minneapolis native Chaudhary was declared for the top position, US Senator Amy Klobuchar in a statement, averred that Dr Ravi had grown up in Minnesota as the son of immigrants and had always desired to join the US Air Force.

She claimed that Dr Chaudhary had devoted his professional life to serving the public for more than 20 years, from his time as an active-duty Air Force commander to his time working for the Federal Aviation Administration. US Senator Klobuchar continued by stating that she battled to have his nomination approved by the Senate because she is certain of his qualifications, underscoring that his experience is appropriate for the crucial position that has been assigned to him. Klobuchar further asserted that she was looking forward to working with him and helping the men and women of the US Air Force now that the Senate had cleared his reputation.

Chaudhary worked as an active-duty Air force pilot between 1993 and 2015, and carried out several missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. Following his retirement, he worked for the Federal Aviation Administration for five years as a top official in the Regions and Center operations and Office of Commercial Space.

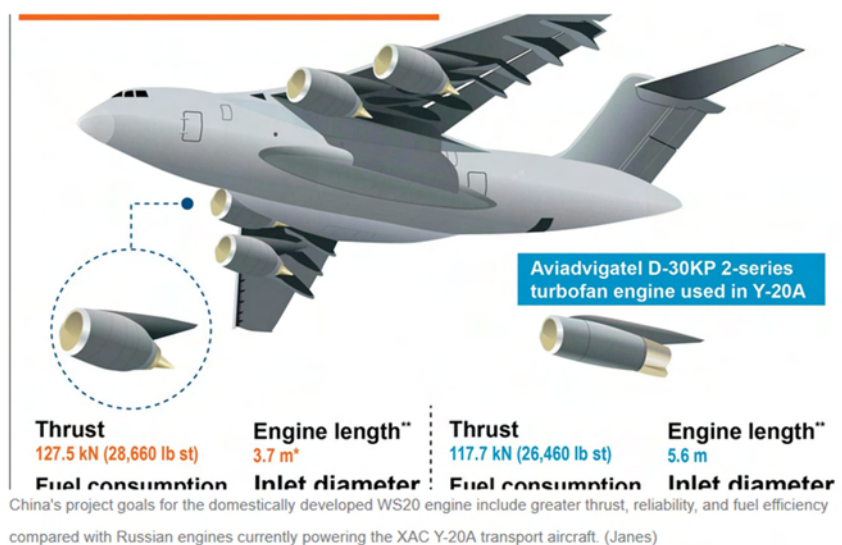
Notably, Ravi Chaudhary was appointed by President Obama on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, as per the statement. The Air Force's sustainability operational readiness, including the installations and basing plan, as well as the quality of military housing, fall under the purview of the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Energy, Installations, and the Environment.

<https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/jaishankar-meets-us-air-force-secretary-discusses-indo-us-defence-ties-world-strategy-articleshow.html>



Thu, 23 Mar 2023

Chinese WS20 Engine Likely Entering Operational Service



China's domestically developed Shenyang WS20 engine for the Xi'an Aircraft Corporation (XAC) Y-20 transport aircraft appears to be ready for operational service.

Images on Chinese social media in mid-March show an airborne Y-20 equipped with four WS20 two-shaft high bypass ratio turbofan engines. The aircraft, which was painted in the service colours of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), was photographed flying over Kaifeng city in China's Henan province. Previous examples of the new variant – commonly referred to as the Y-20B – have appeared in a primer yellow colour, indicating their testing status.

According to Janes data, Kaifeng Air Base, which is located south of the city, hosts the PLA Air Force's (PLAAF's) 37th Air Regiment. The unit operates a mix of Y-8C and Y-20A transport aircraft. The new aircraft did not appear to have a service number, which is a standard of operational aircraft. However, the aircraft was photographed with a low-observable version of the Chinese national emblem, indicating ownership by the PLA.

According to Janes data, the WS20 was being developed to have an increased level of efficiency and thrust compared with the existing Russian-made Aviadvigatel D-30KP 2-series turbofans that power the Y-20A aircraft. Janes assesses that if the project's aims are achieved, the WS20 will likely increase the load-carrying capacity and range of the Y-20.

The WS20 engine reportedly generates 28,660 lb (127.5 kN) of thrust. The engine differs in dimensions from the D-30KP 2-series. The engine inlet of the WS20 is wider than the D-30KP 2-series, and the engine itself is shorter.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/defence/latest/chinese-ws20-engine-likely-entering-operational-service>



Thu, 23 Mar 2023

Pursuing United Front against the West – Xi Jinping’s visit to Moscow

By Srikanth Kondapalli

Beginning his three-day state visit to Moscow on March 20, China’s President Xi Jinping stated that relations with Russia are based on “no-alliance, no-confrontation and not targeting any third party”, even though “in a world of volatility and transformation, China will continue to work with Russia to safeguard the international system”. The joint statement issued after talks stated that bilateral relations have “reached the highest level in history”. President Vladimir Putin and President Xi have met 40 times so far.

Two contrasting narratives were generated on the eve of Xi’s Moscow visit. One, that in the backdrop of foreign policy Czar Wang Yi’s European tour recently about a peace plan for the war on Ukraine that seemed to be never ending since its launch on February 24 last year. China had also come out with a 12-point position paper on the Ukraine conflict which emphasised on negotiations, protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity but also opposing the “Cold War mentality”.

The last one – that of opposing cold war mentality- is a code word for the Sino-Russian joint opposition to the western policies and has been cobbled up since July 2001 in strategic partnership that became recently a “comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination in a new era”. It manifested in a joint stance at the United Nations Security Council, emphasis on global governance rather than rule of law, opposing the United States and the NATO, G20, BRICS, SCO, on North Korean nuclear programme, Afghanistan, merger of China’s Belt and Road Initiative and Eurasian Economic Union and others. At the bilateral level, such coordination is reflected on counter-terrorism, cyber security, energy, outer space cooperation, defence cooperation and on joint military exercises. In reality, this aspect of furthering such coordination is the basis for Xi’ visit to Moscow.

Indeed, despite expectations that Xi would come out with an action plan on peace in Ukraine, there was no concrete statement in this regard, except to reiterate their respective known positions. For instance, the joint statement referred to “legitimate security concerns of all countries must be respected” and that a “responsible dialogue” should be carried forward. On the other hand, both expressed “firm support in safeguarding their respective core interests”. It is not clear how China’s support to Russia will manifest but consensus emerged between both to embark and strengthen their united front against the western countries.

Both reiterated their opposition to the NATO expansion, the Indo-Pacific strategy, AUKUS and other initiatives recently and termed these as “small circles targeting specific countries”. Both reiterated to work for a multipolar world. Xi’s statement at the October 2022 20th party congress and the recent plenary session earlier this month critical of the United States were well-timed for the current Moscow visit.

The focus of the visit was also on 14 agreements and memoranda of understanding on various bilateral issues like enhancing economic ties to over \$200 billion in trade, and other fields. However, the issues mentioned here make for no big-ticket items, but incremental rather than quantum jump in the bilateral relations.

As Russia is deeply entrenched in the Ukrainian conflict, China saw this as an opportunity and its Ministry of Natural Resources renamed Russian Far Eastern places like Vladivostok and Sakhalin into Haishenwai and Kuyedao respectively. As China is engineering demographic changes in Siberia, Russia’s Nelson Eye to such actions will be detrimental to its hold over the region. Earlier, China provoked India by changing the names in Arunachal Pradesh and began constructing 624 “well-off society villages”. Even though such measures are hollow in nature, these Chinese acts reflect irredentist claims.

Significantly, Xi appeared to be leaving the resolution of the Ukraine issue to Russia, despite donning “peace negotiator” clothes, while seeking Moscow’s blessings to invade Taiwan. Given the watered-down version of Xi’s Ukraine-related agenda, it is likely that a quid pro quo has emerged between Beijing and Moscow on these “core interests”.

However, China’s assiduously built narrative on sovereignty stands exposed. China’s position on Ukraine that the sovereignty of nations should not be violated only evokes its double standards. For instance, for decades China stated that the western sector of the border with India is a “disputed territory”, but changed its position in 2020 to claim “sovereignty” over the Galwan region that resulted in violence, blood and death of soldiers. Again, China mentioned in the joint statement with Russia that “dialogue rather than confrontation” should be practiced. However, even after 17 rounds of Corps Commanders level meetings and 26 rounds of Working

Mechanism for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs, no resolution in the border crises is visible.

China and Russia coming together has negative connotations for India. The joint statement mentions both as “priority cooperative partners”. While both have significant differences and even went to border clashes in 1969, China’s successful ability to exploit current Russian complications is likely to increase Russian dependence on China. Russia playing second fiddle to a rising China could restrict the strategic space for India in the coming years, including in cutting-edge arms transfers.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/pursuing-united-front-against-the-west-xi-jinpings-visit-to-moscow/3019658/>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Fri, 24 Mar 2023

North Korea says it Tested New Nuclear Underwater Attack Drone: KCNA

North Korean state news agency KCNA said on Friday it tested a new nuclear underwater attack drone under leader Kim Jong Un's guidance this week, as a U.S. amphibious assault ship arrived in South Korea for joint drills.

The North's state news agency also confirmed it fired cruise missiles during the weapon test and firing drill that took place from Tuesday to Thursday.

During the drill, the North Korean drone cruised underwater for over 59 hours and detonated in waters off its east coast on Thursday, the KCNA said. It did not elaborate on the drone's nuclear capabilities. The drone system is intended to make sneak attacks in enemy waters and destroy naval striker groups and major operational ports, the KCNA said.

"This nuclear underwater attack drone can be deployed at any coast and port or towed by a surface ship for operation," the news agency said.

In a separate firing drill, North Korea also confirmed it fired four cruise missiles on Wednesday to practice carrying out tactical nuclear attack missions.

The missiles were tipped with a "test warhead simulating a nuclear warhead," and flew 1,500 to 1,800 kilometres, it added.

The South Korean military has said North Korea fired four cruise missiles off its east coast on Wednesday.

The North said the latest weapon test and drills had no negative impact on security of the neighbouring countries.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/north-korea-says-it-tested-new-nuclear-underwater-attack-drone-kcna/articleshow/98955168.cms>

Germany Plans to Buy Australian-made Combat Vehicles

Germany plans to buy more than 100 Australian-made combat vehicles as it moves ahead with plans to modernize its armed forces, the government said Thursday.

German and Australian officials signed an agreement to cooperate on the procurement of the new combat reconnaissance vehicles, based on the Boxer family of armored fighting vehicles and equipped with a 30-millimeter gun. The aim is for deliveries to start in 2025, the Defense Ministry said.

It didn't give a price for the purchase. However, it said the money will come from a special 100 billion-euro (\$108 billion) fund for the modernization of the military that Germany approved after Russia invaded Ukraine last year. The new vehicles will replace the German army's Wiesel 2 armored vehicles, the Defense Ministry said.

Germany's military is widely acknowledged to be suffering from years of neglect and in particular from aging, poorly functioning equipment.

The German government has faced criticism for making a slow start to spending the special fund, but has said that 30 billion euros has already been committed to contracts.

In December, German lawmakers gave the go-ahead for a series of procurement projects including the purchase of Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jets.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/germany-plans-to-buy-australian-made-combat-vehicles/printarticle/98944005.cms>

Science & Technology News

Working on Possibility of Launching Joint Land-rover Moon Mission with Japan, says ISRO Chief

Even as Isro is in full gear to launch its lander-specific lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 by the middle of this year, the space agency is simultaneously working on a possibility of launching a joint Moon mission with Japanese space agency JAXA, its chairman indicated on Wednesday.

“We are also discussing a possible mission to the Moon with JAXA where the land rover will be built by them and they will launch it using a Japanese rocket,” said Isro chairman S Somanath while delivering a lecture at the 4th Indian Planetary Science Conference in Ahmedabad.

“It is very important that it will happen only when they have confidence in you and our instruments and measurement systems are complementary to their goals,” Somanath said. Though the talk of a tie-up with JAXA for a Moon mission has been in the agency’s pipeline, this is the first time the Isro chairman has openly talked of the joint mission.

On the Chandrayaan-3 mission, the Isro chairman said, “Spacecraft is fully ready and integrated. There is some correction work being done. We are building a lot of confidence in the mission through lots of simulations and tests. Possibly, the launch can take place by the middle of this year.” “The primary objective of Chandrayaan-3 is going to be a precise landing. For that, a lot of work is being done today, including building new instruments, better algorithms, taking care of the failure modes,” he said.

Regarding the Aditya L1 solar mission, which is also scheduled to be launched by the middle of this year, Somanath said, “This is going to be a very unique solar observation capability that we are building. Instruments for this have already been delivered, and we are in the process of integrating these instruments in the satellite.”

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/working-on-possibility-of-launching-joint-land-rover-moon-mission-with-japan-says-isro-chief/articleshow/98952147.cms>

The Statesman

Thu, 23 Mar 2023

NASA and ISRO Have jointly Manufactured Earth Science Satellite NISAR: Jitendra Singh

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) have jointly manufactured an earth science satellite named, NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar), Union Minister Jitendra Singh said today.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, he said the mission objectives of the satellite are- Design, Develop and launch a Dual Frequency (L and S band) Radar Imaging Satellite and to Explore newer applications areas using L & S Band microwave data, especially in surface deformation studies, terrestrial biomass structure, natural resource mapping and monitoring and studies related to dynamics of ice-sheets, glaciers, forests, oil slick etc.

The Minister said the satellite is configured with an I-3K bus and the instrument identified for SAR is based on the innovative Sweep SAR technique configured in both L and S bands in polarimetric configuration for wide swath and high resolution.

The spacecraft will orbit the Earth in a sun-synchronous orbit of 747 Km with an inclination of 98.4 degree for a 12-day repeat cycle.

Jitendra Singh said while NASA is delivering the L-Band SAR payload, high precision GPS and 12m unfurlable antenna, ISRO is delivering the S-band SAR payload, spacecraft bus and

facilitating a launch. The total expenditure incurred on realisation of the NISAR satellite by ISRO up to February 2023 is Rs 469.40 crore, excluding launch costs.

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/nasa-and-isro-have-jointly-manufactured-earth-science-satellite-nisar-jitendra-singh-1503165565.html>



Thu, 23 Mar 2023

India's Push for Semiconductors

By Aroon Deep

The Union Government has disbursed around ₹1,645 crore in performance-linked incentives (PLI) for electronics manufacturers so far, as part of its efforts to bring in more of the electronics supply chain to India. The push for semiconductors, or integrated circuits, is far more pressing now, as these chips are found in practically every modern electrical appliance and personal electronics devices. More and more nations are trying to turn away from China's dominance in the space, following geopolitical pressures to de-leverage themselves from supply chain vulnerabilities.

Why is the government encouraging semiconductor manufacturing?

Semiconductor fabrication units, or fabs, turn raw elements such as silicon into integrated circuits that are fit to be a part of practically all electronic hardware in the world. Fabs are highly capital-intensive undertakings, costing billions of dollars for large facilities.

Semiconductor fabs of today may still be building circuits, but they require highly reliable and high-quality supply of water, electricity, and insulation from the elements, reflecting the high degree of precision, cost and capital needed to make the sophisticated circuits.

Countries have spotted strategic value in cornering segments of the value chain for fabs, even as the sophistication and capital needed to run them have climbed to historic highs. China pulled ahead of Taiwan last year, in terms of share of global sales from fabs, according to a report by the Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA).

It's not just India that is wary of this dominance. The U.S. passed the CHIPS Act last August, providing upwards of \$280 billion in subsidies and investments to manufacturers opening fabs and making semiconductors in the U.S. This has been combined with restrictions and sanctions on the Chinese semiconductor industry.

Are fabs opening in India?

The government's Invest India agency estimates that electronics manufacturing as a whole will be worth \$300 billion by the financial year 2025–26.

While facilities for assembling finished products have been growing in number steadily, fabs for making chipsets and displays, which are crucial parts of the manufacturing process for many electronics, are rarer. Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the first semiconductor manufacturing fab would be announced in the coming weeks.

Can semiconductors and finished products both be made in India?

The SIA, which represents the bulk of semiconductor manufacturers in the U.S. and elsewhere, said in a report with APCO Worldwide in February that India should lean on its strength in the electronics manufacturing value chain.

So-called “foundry companies”, which turn silicon into semiconductors, require investments upwards of 35% of revenues, the SIA warned, and entry costs run into billions of dollars. But companies that specialise in Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test (OSAT) are less expensive to set up, and generate better margins, the SIA pointed out. The OSAT set-ups take care of the less capital-intensive parts of chipmaking, such as assembling the precise components that have already been manufactured, and running specialised tests to approve them.

A problem with many chip facilities in the traditional sense is that they tend to be captive units of large companies. While Foxconn’s assembly facilities are being touted as creating several jobs and inviting investment into India, some of its most valuable facilities globally are dedicated to building Apple devices, which account for a fraction of handsets sold in India.

What other advantage does India have?

A large part of semiconductor manufacturing involves design and intellectual labour. India has an advantage here, as a large portion of semiconductor design engineers globally are either Indian or Indian-origin; chipmaking firms such as Intel and NVIDIA have large facilities in India that are already flush with Indian talent working on design problems. This is an advantage that China is losing control over in the face of sanctions and an ageing population.

“Without a sustainable pipeline of high calibre talent, China’s goals for the semiconductor sector, especially in terms of further indigenising the industry, will be not achievable,” Dr. Denis Simon, a Clinical Professor of Global Business and Technology at the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School said in a testimony to the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

Will India’s semiconductor ambition be limited?

The opening of display and semiconductor fabs is one of the strategic and economic goals of India’s electronics manufacturing incentive programmes, and breaking new ground on ambitious plans connected to popular brands such as Apple is something that the Union government and States are equally eager to accomplish.

Overall, the government appears to be developing the parts of the ecosystem that have promise for sustainable growth and fiscal feasibility.

Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar said at the Raisina Dialogue earlier this month that the electronics value chain would have to be an international undertaking among nations with common values to be effective.

That is, if like-minded nations each specialise in different aspects of the semiconductor and electronics manufacturing process, and work together on assembly and distribution, that still solves the geopolitical problem of Chinese dominance without simply monopolising power with a different country. No country should “delude” themselves into thinking that they will be the “king of the hill,” Mr. Chandrasekhar said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/explained-indias-push-for-semiconductors/article66652916.ece>

Thu, 23 Mar 2023

Cyberabad Cops Bust Cyber Fraud that Exposes Data of 16.8 Crore People

Cyberabad police have arrested a group of cyber fraudsters that allegedly collected and sold personal and confidential data of 16.8 crore individuals.

“The accused have been found selling sensitive information of people belonging to 140 categories, including defence personnel, NEET students, PAN card data, information related to NEET students, and government employees,” a Cyberabad official said.

Data for sale

“The information that they are collecting and selling include consumer data and those who have applied for loans and bank accounts,” he said in a statement.

“The accused are selling the data through call centres and yellow pages services. The accused are found to be taking note of the details of those who call some toll-free numbers, seeking information about a service,” he said.

Using the numbers that they collected, fraudsters make calls to gullible people, entice them with offers, and make them share their bank credentials. He said the accused ran registered and unregistered companies to commit the crime.

“We found vast amounts of data about NEET students and PAN cards, email ids, phone numbers, and addresses of several people,” he said.

The police booked a case against seven people and seized 12 mobile phones and three laptops.

Advisory

The Cyberabad police have cautioned people against sharing their personal information with strangers or on websites.

“When you are downloading any app, you should read and understand the permissions that you are giving to the app providers. Fraudulent applications seek permission to access personal information like contact details and media files (images and videos). This information can be used to commit different kinds of cyber crimes,” he said.

“You must use unique, complex passwords for each of your online accounts and update them regularly to ensure your accounts remain secure,” he pointed out.

“You must also ensure your operating system, software, and applications are updated regularly, as software updates often include security patches to protect against cyber threats,” he said.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/cyberabad-cops-bust-cyber-fraud-that-exposes-data-of-168-crore-people/article66653194.ece>

