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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Sat, 26 Aug 2023

Younger Generation should Work Hard to Position India as a Global Leader, Says DRDO Chief Kamat

The chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Samir V Kamat, on Friday said India could achieve the status of developed nation only if the younger generation worked hard and helped the country.

Participating in the foundation day celebrations of PSG College of Technology here, he said the past and present generations had brought the country to the current level through their hard work. "It is now up to the new generation to transform the country into a global leader. This will be possible only if the young generation dedicates themselves to the country's growth, participates and leads the transition of our economy into a manufacturing one."

Kamat said the nation was now at the cusp of transformation. "We are moving towards a multipolar world and this is a unique opportunity to transition from a middle-income country to a developed nation. Our Prime Minister has set us a goal to become a developed country in the next 25 years. It will be possible only if the present generation can lead the transformation."

The DRDO chairman said the rate at which technology was changing was increasing dramatically. "Several new disruptive technologies, including quantum technology, artificial intelligence, machine learning and smart manufacturing, have emerged. They will revolutionize the way business is being done."

Pointing out that a lot of PSG alumni had made significant contributions to the DRDO, he said, "They have led several critical programmes and labs in the organization. As a chairman, I am grateful for what the PSG alumni have done for us."

At the DRDO, Kamat said, they were striving hard to play a role in ensuring a strong defence ecosystem in the country for the economy to flourish. "We have created an ecosystem where the industry, academia and the DRDO can work together to develop new technologies and systems that will make us leaders in the defence technologies."

He said they had a centre of excellence at the Bharathiar University in Coimbatore. "In the coming years, we wish to have 2D centres of excellence. We will create a full ecosystem, where we will be developing first of its kind defence technologies in the world that will give our armed forces a decisive edge whenever they fight a battle."

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/coimbatore/younger-generation-should-work-hard-to-position-india-as-a-global-leader-says-drdo-chief-kamat/articleshow/103078514.cms>

Fri, 25 Aug 2023

Fellowship for Defence Research and Development Laboratory Programme Director

Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) programme director and outstanding scientist Jaiteerth R. Joshi has been conferred the prestigious Fellowship of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS), the U.K., and Indian Institute of Metals (IIM) for his contribution towards skill development of technicians and engineers in aerospace systems, material engineering and non-destructive testing technologies. The Institute for Administration Safety Security Inspection Science & Technology (IASSIST) has also felicitated the scientist, said a press release on Friday.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/fellowship-for-defence-research-and-development-laboratory-programme-director/article67235590.ecec>



Sat, 26 Aug 2023

DRDO Headed for Revamp, to Focus on Futuristic Military Technologies

By Pradip R. Sagar

With an aim to attain high-end futuristic technologies for future wars, the Union government has set up a high-powered committee, comprising officials from the ministry of defence (MoD), the three services, industry and academia, to redefine the role of India's premier defence research agency, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The DRDO, which has a budget of Rs 23,264 crore in budget estimate (BE) 2023-24, has often been criticised for delayed projects and cost overruns. Incidentally, the DRDO, with massive manpower and infrastructure, currently does not have any major new project in its hands.

The nine-member committee, headed by former principal scientific advisor to the government Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan, will submit its report within three months. Defence sources claim the move to revamp the DRDO is driven by the Prime Minister's Office. The PMO is reportedly also considering bifurcating the post of DRDO chairman and secretary-research and development in the MoD. This is to ensure that the DRDO chief, with lesser responsibility, is able to devote more time and energy to defence programmes. The view is that a bureaucrat holding the post of secretary-R&D can manage administrative and financial tasks better than a scientist.

A top defence official said the DRDO should be focusing only on high-end futuristic technologies foreseen in air, ground, maritime and space systems. This would come at the cost of offloading some of its ongoing 'redundant' tasks, which perhaps the academia or industry can do. For several years, the DRDO was mandated to work to only meet the immediate demands of the armed forces and indigenise existing weapon systems even as other countries concentrated on future technologies.

As per the terms of reference of the Raghavan-led committee, while it will suggest inputs to maximise academia and start-up participation in the development of cutting-edge technologies, the panel will also look into the restructuring and redefining the role of the Department of Defence (R&D) and DRDO, as well as their relationship with each other and with the academia and industry.

Military analysts believe most of India's defence manufacturing achievements are limited to the production of outdated tanks, guns, helicopters and weapons platforms, or the setting up of manufacturing units producing foreign weapons after technology transfer. However, the DRDO has done tremendously well in missile and radar technologies.

With this revamp, the Union government intends to follow the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) model of the United States for the DRDO. DARPA and DRDO were born in the same year, 1958. According to its website, DARPA works on the principle that the US should be "the initiator and not the victim of strategic technological surprises". DARPA is merely a funding agency with no laboratories or research staff, and all research is conducted through contracts with universities, industry and government R&D institutions. On the other hand, the DRDO has a staff strength of about 30,000, of which only 30 per cent are from the scientific community.

In the 2022-23 Union budget, 25 per cent of MoD's R&D budget was earmarked for private industry, start-ups and academia. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, while presenting the budget, had said that "private industry will be encouraged to take up design and development of military platforms and equipment in collaboration with the DRDO and other organisations through the strategic partnership model". However, the DRDO has not been able to share its R&D budget with any academia.

Last year, the government opened the DRDO's doors to private players wherein they could use government assets for projects, thus sparing them the need to invest in land, machinery or other support infrastructure. The Narendra Modi government has taken several measures to boost indigenous defence manufacturing, through initiatives like Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and boost defence exports. The MoD has set an ambitious defence exports target of Rs 35,000 crore by 2025.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india-today-insight/story/drdo-headed-for-revamp-to-focus-on-futuristic-military-technologies-2426953-2023-08-26>



Fri, 25 Aug 2023

India Approves AoN to Acquire Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile

India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Minister of Defence Rajnath Singh, has accorded an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to procure the Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) for the Indian Air Force.

The AoN is the sixth step in Indian defence procurements after identifying the project, approving it in principle, consulting the industry, carrying out a feasibility study of the project, and formulating Preliminary Services Qualitative Requirements (PSQRs) specifying essential and desirable parameters.

Under the 'Make-I' category, following AoN, the development and procurement process consists of 14 extensive steps, beginning with an expression of interest through to the development of a prototype, multiple trials, and the contract award.

The LRLACM is being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO's) Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), which is situated in Bangalore.

The missile is a replacement for the Nirbhay missile and will be developed for all land, air, and marine formations, a DRDO official earlier told Janes.

The DRDO unveiled the LRLACM concept at India's Defexpo 2020. According to the DRDO, the nuclear-capable LRLACM would weigh one tonne and have a length and diameter of 6 m and 0.52 m respectively.

The missile is designed to have two tapering-chord fold-out wings with a span of 2.7 m, the DRDO said. The missile would be equipped with Small Turbofan Engines (STFEs), upgraded radio frequency (RF) seekers, and other subsystems.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/india-approves-aon-to-acquire-long-range-land-attack-cruise-missile>

Defence News

Defence Strategic: National/International



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Sat, 26 Aug 2023

Conclave-Cum-Symposium on Self Reliance in Missile Technology Held at Visakhapatnam

The Missile Technology Conclave-cum-Symposium themed 'Aatmanirbharta in Missile Repairs & Indigenisation Technologies (AMRIT-2023)', was organised by INS Kalinga at Samudrika Auditorium, Naval Base, Visakhapatnam on 23 Aug 23. The event was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, AVSM, NM, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command. Dr Y Srinivas Rao, DS, DG NS&M and Shri GA Srinivasa Murthy, DS, Director DRDL delivered special address during inaugural session. Papers were presented and technical talks were held by personnel from varied organisations leading to an effervescent exchange of ideas. Academia partners from Military Institute of Technology, Pune and National Research and Development Corporation (NRDC), also actively engaged in the discussions, drawing vital inputs for their work.

The Symposium received an overwhelming response from viz. DRDO, PSUs, DPSUs, Indian Private Defence industries, MSMEs/ Start-ups, representatives from State Government and Society

of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM). Exhibition stalls were also set-up during the event, wherein the DRDO labs, DPSUs and private defence firms showcased their expertise and capabilities in Missile Repairs and Indigenisation.

The seminar provided and fostered a symbiotic environment for all stakeholders viz. Indian Public & Private Industries, DRDO Labs, Academia and Indian Navy in line with the Government of India's initiative - 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' mission. Going forward it is envisaged to benefit the Indian Navy in particular and the Armed Forces in general to minimise dependence on Foreign OEMs and also strengthen the core competencies of our Defence Industry and ultimately lead the nation towards Aatmanirbharta.

The Chief Guest congratulated all the participating agencies to have partnered in the journey towards 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and in making AMRIT-23 a grand success. Cmde CS Nayar, Commanding Officer, INS Kalinga delivered the vote of thanks. The exhibition stalls were also visited by naval personnel, Subject Matter Experts, local firms, technical institutes and engineering colleges.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1952382>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Fri, 25 Aug 2023

Big Boost to 'Aatmanirbharta' in Defence: MoD Inks Rs 19,000 Crore Contract with HSL for Five Fleet Support Ships for Indian Navy

Ministry of Defence, on August 25, 2023, signed a contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam for acquisition of five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at an overall cost of approx. Rs 19,000 crore. It would be a major boost towards achieving the goal of self-reliance in defence manufacturing as these ships will be indigenously designed and constructed by HSL, Visakhapatnam. The Cabinet Committee on Security had approved the acquisition of these ships during its meeting on August 16, 2023.

The FSS will be employed for replenishing ships at sea with fuel, water, ammunition and stores, enabling the Indian Naval Fleet to operate for prolonged periods without returning to harbour. These ships would enhance the strategic reach and mobility of the Fleet. The induction of these ships will significantly enhance the blue water capability of the Indian Navy. The ships can also be deployed for evacuation of people and human assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

The Fleet Support Ships of 44,000 Tons will be the first-of-its kind to be built in India by an Indian Shipyard. This project will generate employment of nearly 168.8 lakh mandays over a period of eight years. The construction of these ships will provide a new dimension to the Indian shipbuilding Industry and encourage active participation of associated industries, including MSMEs. With majority of the equipment and systems being sourced from indigenous manufacturers, these vessels will be a proud flag bearer of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in consonance with the 'Make in India' initiatives of the Government.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1952073>



**Press Information Bureau
Government of India**

Ministry of Defence

Sat, 26 Aug 2023

5th Edition of AUSINDEX-23 at Sydney

5th edition of biennial AUSINDEX maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was conducted from 22-25 August 23 at Sydney, Australia. INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata participated in the exercise along with HMAS Choules and HMAS Brisbane from RAN. Besides ships and their integral helicopters, the exercise also witnessed participation of fighter aircraft and maritime patrol aircraft.

Conducted over 4 days, AUSINDEX included a series of complex exercises in all three domains of maritime operations. The exercise ended on a high note revalidating the common procedures and reaffirming the close linkages and interoperability between Indian Navy and RAN.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1952521>



**Press Information Bureau
Government of India**

Ministry of Defence

Sun, 27 Aug 2023

Participation of Indian Air Force in Exercise Bright Star-23 at Cairo Air Base, Egypt

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent departed today, for participating in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise scheduled to be held at Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt from 27 August to 16 September 2023.

This is for the first time that IAF is participating in Ex BRIGHT STAR-23 which will also see participation of contingents from the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar. The Indian Air Force contingent will consist of five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130 and two C-17 aircraft. Personnel from the IAF's Garud Special Forces, as well as those from the Numbers 28, 77, 78 and 81 Squadrons will be participating in the exercise. The IAF transport aircraft will also provide airlift to approximately 150 personnel from the Indian Army.

The objective of the exercise is to practice planning and execution of joint operations. Besides leading to the formation of bonding across borders, such interactions also provide a means to further strategic relations between participating nations. IAF contingents to flying exercises abroad are thus no less than Diplomats in Flight Suits.

India and Egypt have had exceptional relationship and deep cooperation wherein the two jointly undertook development of aero-engine and aircraft in 1960s and training of Egyptian pilots was done by Indian counterparts. The relationship between the two civilizational countries was further strengthened with the recent visits by Chief of Air Forces of the two countries and Indian Defence

Minister and Prime Minister to Egypt. The two countries have also enhanced their joint training with regular exercises between their Armed Forces.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1952602>



Sun, 27 Aug 2023

IAF Banking on Indigenous Fighter Aircraft to Prevent Numbers Going Below Current Level

The Indian Air Force (IAF), which has put its weight behind the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project, is hoping for expedited deliveries and gearing up to place additional orders.

The move is to arrest the IAF's fighter strength falling further, from the current 31 squadrons, in the medium term. By 2030, the IAF would have 32 or 33 fighter squadrons and would have 35 or 36 fighter squadrons by 2040 if the indigenous fighters meet the induction timeline, a Defence official said.

The IAF has a sanctioned fighter strength of 42 squadrons.

“An important lesson from the LCA programme is that support equipment is as important as the platform, if not more. LCA trainers are urgently required. We are expecting to receive eight LCA trainers by the end of this financial year,” a source said. IAF has inducted 32 LCA-Mk jets from earlier orders and deliveries of the 83 LCA-Mk1A ordered in 2021 are scheduled to begin in February 2024. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) officials said that the delivery of LCA trainers will be on track.

As reported in The Hindu earlier, IAF is looking to order an additional 90 LCA-Mk1A fighter jets or four squadrons. The additional jets are likely to be inducted from 2027-28 till 2031-32 by which time induction of the larger and more capable LCA-Mk2 is expected to commence, the official stated. This is on the basis that HAL would ramp up production rate to 24 aircraft per year and the additional order will ensure that assembly lines keep running before the LCA-Mk2 production goes into full swing. HAL has already set up two additional assembly lines.

As per the ₹47,000-crore deal with HAL signed in 2021 for 83 LCA-Mk1A, three LCA-Mk1A are scheduled to be delivered to the IAF at the end of this financial year and 16 aircraft per year for the subsequent five years.

Testing of equipment

The development of the LCA-Mk1A is on track, officials said. While the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) is providing software, the IAF is assisting HAL with testing crew as well as test and range equipment. Two LCA jets from the IAF are with HAL flying with all the systems for testing incorporated into them, the official cited above said.

The IAF is taking a leap of faith in the development process, an IAF official said. “The indigenous Uttam radar under development and the indigenous Electronics Warfare suite, we want it in the LCA-MK1 itself. We are leaning on the DRDO and HAL that they be incorporated within this contract as it progresses,” the official said. For this, another contract has been given to DRDO. At each stage, the plan is to indigenise a component, the official said, and the ‘radar base plate’ is being indigenised right now.

Legacy fleets

As the new aircraft come in, several legacy fleets which are the mainstay will start phasing out. The three remaining MiG-21 squadrons will be phased out by 2025 and will be replaced with the LCA-Mk1A. In addition, the Jaguars, Mirage-2000s and MiG-29s will begin going out by the end of the decade. For instance, by 2027-28 the first of the MiG-29s, inducted in the late 1980s, will start being phased out and by the early 2040s, some of the earlier batch of SU-30 will also start being phased out. However, the SU-30 fleet which forms the bulk of the fighter fleet currently will remain relevant for the next 25 years up to 2050-55, officials said.

The LCA-Mk2 project received sanction from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in September 2022 at a total cost of ₹9,000 crore and the first flight is expected in three years. It will have canards and be 1,350 mm longer, and can carry a payload of 6,500 kg compared to the 3,500 kg capacity of the Mk1. It will be powered by the General Electric F-414 engine, which produces 98 kN thrust compared to 84 kN thrust of the GE-404 engine powering the LCA-Mk1 and Mk1A. For Mk2, the IAF has asked HAL for certain modern technologies to be incorporated, especially related to sensor fusion and networking, officials said.

The fifth-generation fighter, Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), is currently awaiting CCS sanction, officials added and the development is expected to take a decade after that.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iaf-banking-on-indigenous-fighter-aircraft-to-prevent-numbers-going-below-current-level/article67238895.ece>



Mon, 28 Aug 2023

CRPF to Roll out New Psych Evaluation Plan for its Personnel Deployed for VVIP Security

Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel will soon be required to clear a new psychological assessment before they can be deployed to protect VIPs, officials aware of the matter have said, calling it the first time such a test will be expanded for use outside of the elite Special Protection Group (SPG).

The CRPF's VIP protection wing gives personnel for Z and Z+ category security, which dignitaries such as former prime ministers, the President, incumbent home minister Amit Shah, and prominent opposition leaders such as Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi have been accorded by the government.

“Only those IAF banking on indigenous fighter aircraft to prevent numbers going below current level who are in dignitary protection teams will have to take the test. We have started using it,” a CRPF officer said, asking not to be named. “The current officers are also taking the test.”

The test is based on the Vienna Test System, a suite of psychological assessment developed by a private company that is used as the basis for assessments by SPG and other elite forces around the world.

The test assesses a person's stress level and ability to handle tricky situations, decision-making abilities and other issues related to protection of dignitaries, he added.

“In the SPG, the VIT test is mandatory and only people who clear the test get inducted in the PM's protection team. The CRPF will follow a similar pattern. Physical fitness is an important aspect in the security protection teams but with the emerging challenges, we decided to adopt for this module to get a psychological profile and review mental health of the officers,” the officer said. “This is the

first time that the CRPF has adopted such a module. It will help us select the best candidates for the highly sensitive job.”

According to the person quoted above, DRDO has handed over the necessary software -- called the Computerised Psychological Screening System (COPSYSS) -- to the central paramilitary force.

“COPSYSS is a psychological evaluation of an individual. The test was prepared by the DRDO’s Defence Institute of Psychological Research. It will help us analyse the mind of the person we have posted to protect people with high levels of threat,” the officer said.

“The SPG has been using the Vienna Test System, believed to be one of the toughest psychological tests in the world, for almost a decade now.”

The training will apply to the roughly 1,100 CRPF personnel on VVIP duty at present.

The CRPF has seen its VVIP protection responsibilities rise significantly since 2019, when the government changed protocols to whittle down the number of dignitaries protected by the SPG --- these responsibilities then fell on the CRPF.

Until November 2019, SPG handled the security of Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi --- who were accorded the security after the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991 --- and former Prime Ministers up till 10 years after they left office. All of these people are now protected by the CRPF.

The contingent protects around 25 dignitaries who have been assigned Z plus security.

Since 2020, the CRPF’s VIP security unit is headed by an inspector general. Earlier, the unit was led jointly by inspectors general who also headed the force’s intelligence unit.

“With the CRPF protecting more people with Z and Z-plus category security, such a psychological test will ensure that only the most suitable people are selected for the job,” Retired IPS officer, K Durga prasad, who served as the chief of SPG (2011-2014) and CRPF (2016-2017).

“Protecting dignitaries is a very sensitive job. The test will ensure that people with the same wavelength, team spirit and the ability to do that top job are selected. Sometimes even the best and brilliant officers would not be selected because they are best suited for jobs that need them to work as individuals rather than as team members,” said, adding: “Security is a team job. Team spirit is of great significance. If the CRPF is adopting a DRDO-prepared module, then this is a good move and a welcome move. It will bring a great sense of comfort not only to the protectee but also the to all members of protection team”.

For the upcoming G20 summit, the CRPF has selected around 700 personnel who have previously served in the SPG and the National Security Guard. They have been drafted to take charge of the security of 43 heads of state expected to attend various events in New Delhi.

Parts of the national capital are expected to turn into a fortress on September 9-10, with exclusive traffic corridors to facilitate movement of cars carrying the leaders and delegates from hotels to the meeting venue.

The 700 CRPF personnel will be in the innermost cordon of the state heads, officials said. They will coordinate with foreign counterparts of the respective heads of state from the time they land in India.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/crpf-personnel-to-undergo-new-psychological-assessment-for-vip-protection-duty-first-test-outside-of-spg-101693161997945.html>

India and Greece to Boost Defence Cooperation, Finish Migration Pact

India and Greece have decided to forge a stronger defence partnership and finish work on a migration and mobility pact.

During his one-day visit to the nation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, “In the areas of defence and security, India and Greece have agreed on strengthening defence industrial cooperation apart from military ties. We have also decided on an institutional India-Greece dialogue framework at the level of National Security Advisors (NSAs).”

Both the countries have decided to elevate their ties to the level of strategic partnership.

“Today, India and Greece are cooperating on geopolitical and regional issues,” Modi said at a joint press conference with his Greek counterpart Kyriakos Mitsotakis in Athens.

Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour, Greece’s second highest civilian honour, by the country’s President Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou.

The discussions covered various dimensions of bilateral partnership, including trade and investment, defence, technology, infrastructure, digital payments, shipping, pharma, agriculture, migration and mobility, among other areas, the ministry of external affairs said.

This is the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Greece in 40 years.

Both the leaders also discussed regional and multilateral issues, including those in the European Union (EU), Indo-Pacific and the Mediterranean.

Both the countries recently held one of their largest-ever naval joint exercises in Greece. Meanwhile, Greece’s air force chief visited India in June 2023 and met the military brass here.

Modi said the migration and mobility partnership will facilitate skilled worker migration between the nations.

“As leaders of two ancient seafaring nations with a long-standing maritime outlook, they shared their vision of a free, open and rules-based Mediterranean Sea and Indo-Pacific. This is in accordance with the law of the sea, in particular the provisions of the UNCLOS and with full respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and freedom of navigation for international peace, stability and security. The Ukraine issue also found its way into the discussions. India and Greece support dialogue and diplomacy on the issue of Ukraine,” Modi said.

Business roundtable

Both sides also held a joint India-Greece business roundtable, with participation from leading Indian and Greek chief executive officers (CEOs) from diverse sectors, including shipping, infrastructure, and energy, among others.

During his remarks, the Prime Minister highlighted India’s progress in areas such as renewables, startups, pharma, IT, digital payments and infrastructure.

He acknowledged the role of these industry leaders in promoting economic cooperation between India and Greece. Modi also paid tributes at the ‘Tomb of Unknown Soldier’ in Athens.

https://www.business-standard.com/economy/news/india-and-greece-to-boost-defence-cooperation-finish-migration-pact-123082501101_1.html

Indian Defence Industry Delegation to Head for London for B2B Engagements

A 19-member Indian defence industry delegation is travelling to London for three days from September 11 to enhance B2B engagements and have working group meeting even as the Central government is still trying to allay British concerns over certain aspects of Defence Acquisition Policy (DAP) 2020.

Industry sources aware of the developments told businessline that during the second meeting of UK-India Joint Working Group (JWG), held in March in London, to enhance defence industrial collaboration, some of their companies representatives had flagged DAP issues such as on indigenous content under Indian Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (Indian-IDDM), the most preferred category to process defence procurement. Besides that, they also showed reservation over 49 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in case of IDDM procurements and Strategic Partnership (SP), supposed to be the route for manufacture of large platforms like aircraft, tanks and submarines. This, they were of the view, was the biggest hindrance to investments by British origin original equipment manufacturers.

IP protection

Similarly, their articulation was also around IP protection and “March-in-Rights” of government of India. The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) had submitted “advocacy paper” to Ministry of Defence after the joint working group meeting but a “representation” from them on the same issue, sought by the government, is still to come despite the next joint working group will be held in London again on September 13.

People aware of these negotiations stated that many of their apprehensions are unfounded and the UK industry has been told that countries like France, US and Russia have participated in the defence sector here without much policy hassle, be it on transfer of technology or any other investment aspects fostering self-reliance in military domain. In fact, sources elaborated, MoD’s DDG (Exports) Sanjay Mehrishi assured assistance and advised it would be easier for foreign original equipment manufacturers (FOEMs) to first setup manufacturing in India for their global supply chain and once established, they can consider catering to the Indian demand as well. Some of them, it is learnt, had shown interest in knowing the process for manufacture of 123 mm guns and hovercrafts.

Eleven UK defence and aerospace companies such as BAE Systems and MBDA, have presence here, with Rolls-Royce hunting for a collaboration on jet engine technology, UKIBC Chief Executive Richard McCallum had stated in April while exhibiting keenness in exploring opportunities in Aatmanirbhartha in defence sector here. The Indian industry is looking for opportunities in UK defence supply chain through such openings.

The Indian defence industry delegation -- led by Neeraj Gupta, Chairman, Society for Indian Defence Manufacturer (SIDM) International and Exports Committee and MD of MKU Ltd, will participate in UK Defence & Security Exports International exhibition at London -- have interaction with UK defence minister after British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak concludes his G20 summit in Delhi. Other members of the Indian delegation, though does not have big defence companies representatives, are Sachin Agarwal, Chairman SIDM Uttar Pradesh state chapter and CMD of PTC Industries Ltd, Avnish Patnaik, Lead-International, SIDM, Anant Defence Systems

Pvt Ltd's Director Mohan Chetan Dharia and Shanmugam Madhiyan, MD of Aerosky System Pvt Ltd.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/indian-defence-industry-delegation-to-head-for-london-for-b2b-engagements/article67241361.ece>

GADGETS NOW

by THE TIMES OF INDIA

Sat, 26 Aug 2023

Cyberattacks on the Rise: Hackers are Using AI to Target Organisations

Check Point Research has revealed that there has been an 8 per cent surge in global weekly cyberattacks. As per the report, this is the “most significant increase in two years”.

The report also reveals that attackers have combined next-gen AI technologies with long-established tools like USB devices to conduct disruptive cyberattacks.

India also sees an increase in cyberattacks

According to Check Point Research, the average number of attacks per organisation reached 2152 attacks in H1 2023, reflecting a significant YoY increase of 20%.

Ransomware groups, as per the report, are exploiting vulnerabilities in commonly used corporate software and shifting their approach from data encryption to data theft. Also, state-affiliated groups and cybercriminals deploying USB drives as vectors for infecting organisations globally, noted the report. The use of AI has also been amplified, with generative AI tools being used to craft phishing emails, keystroke monitoring malware, and basic ransomware code, calling for stronger regulatory measures.

“Criminal activities have continued to rise in the first half of the year, with an 8% surge in global weekly cyberattacks in the second quarter marking the highest volume in two years. Familiar threats such as ransomware and hacktivism have evolved further, with threat groups modifying their methods and tools to infect and affect organisations worldwide. Even legacy technology such as USB storage devices, which have long been gathering dust in desk drawers, have gained popularity as a malware messenger,” said Maya Horowitz, VP Research at Check Point Software.

“Organisations need to build a cyber resiliency strategy and strengthen their defences by adopting a prevention-first, integrated approach to cyber security. Cyberattacks are inevitable but can be largely prevented by proactive measures and the right security technologies”.

<https://www.gadgetsnow.com/tech-news/cyberattacks-on-the-rise-how-hackers-are-using-ai-to-target-organisations/articleshow/103067377.cms>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Sat, 26 Aug 2023

Taiwan Reports 20 Chinese Military Aircraft Entered Defence Zone

Taiwan's defence ministry said on Saturday morning that over the past 24 hours it had detected 20 Chinese air force planes entering the island's air defence zone.

That included fighter jets and drones that crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, previously an unofficial barrier between the two sides but which over the past year Chinese aircraft have routinely crossed.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/taiwan-reports-20-chinese-military-aircraft-entered-defence-zone/articleshow/103076672.cms>



Sun, 27 Aug 2023

After 2 Years, Tech is Fully Integrated into Israel's Newest Spy Plane, Says Defence Ministry

Israel's Defense Ministry and the Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) announced on Sunday that they completed two years of outfitting an aircraft with advanced intelligence gathering technology, and that test flights have already begun.

The spy plane, known as the ORON, is a Gulfstream G550 Aerospace equipped with state-of-the-art sensors, cameras, artificial intelligence, and advanced Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) systems.

Israeli authorities displayed the plane for the first time at the Paris Air Show in June. It operates at an altitude of up to 40,000-50,000 feet with a flight range of 1,000 km.

The ministry said the ORON's real-time monitoring capabilities will provide larger amounts of intelligence than unmanned aerial vehicles.

Installing the technology on the plane took two years, the ministry said.

The Defense Ministry said test flights have already begun under the joint efforts of the ministry's Directorate of Defense Research and Development (DDR&D), the Israel Defense Forces, and IAI.

The ORON will be operated by the Israeli Air Force's "Nachshon" 122nd squadron out of the Nevatim Air Base near Beer Sheva.

"ORON is a joint multi-domain, multi-sensor solution which will provide the IDF with game-changing capabilities to counter threats far and near," said the aircraft's head, Lt Col Yoed.

The system's ability to accurately track multiple targets over vast distances and challenging conditions will enable a prompt and precise response to threats, he stressed.

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/middle-east/after-2-years-tech-is-fully-integrated-into-israels-newest-spy-plane-says-defence-ministry20230827222524/>

Chandrayaan-3 Probe Shows 50°C Difference Between Moon's Surface and 10 cm Below

On August 27, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) released a graph of the temperature variation between the moon's surface and a point around 8 cm below as measured by an instrument named ChaSTE onboard the lander module of the Chandrayaan-3 mission.

According to ISRO, ChaSTE – short for 'Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment' – measured the temperature profile of the lunar topsoil around the south pole to understand its thermal behaviour.

ChaSTE is a temperature probe that can be driven into the moon's surface using a motor to a depth of up to 10 cm. It has 10 sensors. The probe ... is mounted on the side of the lander," according to a NASA catalogue entry.

ChaSTE was developed by a team led by the Space Physics Laboratory of ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), together with the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad. Based on one insertion, ISRO said the data recorded by ChaSTE's sensors yielded the graph shown above.

Scientists have known from past studies and missions that the moon's south pole hosts a variety of temperatures. The sides of some craters never receive any sunlight and can be as cold as just 40 degrees C above absolute zero.

Other parts, like the parts of some craters that frequently receive sunlight, can get up to more than 50 degrees C.

ChaSTE's findings reflect this variation between the moon's surface – which is covered by a patina of loose rocks and dust called the lunar regolith – and 10 cm under it.

Its data show that at the moon's surface (where the lander is located, a point between the craters Manzinus C and Simpeliuss N), the temperature is 40-50 degrees C. But just under 80 cm under, it plunges to around -10 degrees C.

Given Chandrayaan-3 is the first mission to have soft-landed a robotic instrument in the moon's south pole area, ChaSTE's data is also the first such from this place. "Detailed observations are underway," ISRO said in a tweet.

The temperature variation indicates that the moon's topsoil is a powerful thermal insulator, in keeping with previous findings, and adds credence to the idea that it can be used to build habitats for humans to shield them from frigid conditions and harmful radiation.

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/isro-releases-graph-of-temperature-variation-on-lunar-surface-measured-by-chandrayaan-3s-payload/article67241209.ece>

