

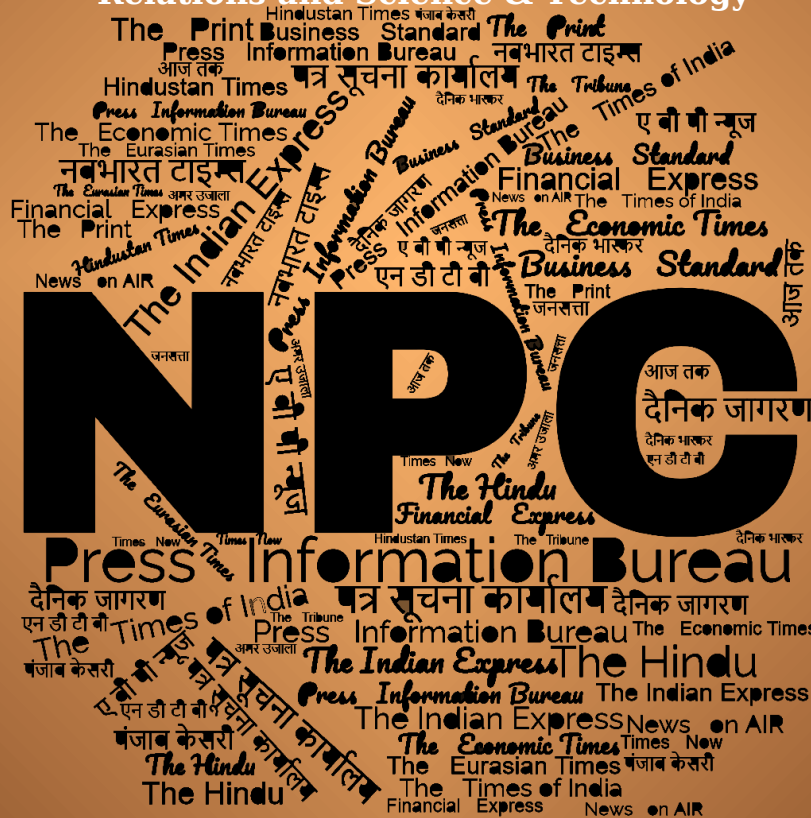
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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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अमरउजाला

Sat, 29 Apr 2023

DRDO: डीआरडीओ का चार दिवसीय सम्मेलन का हुआ समापन, प्रयोगशालाओं और शिक्षाविदों के कर्मी रहे मौजूद

रक्षा मनोवैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान संस्थान (डीआईपीआर)-डीआरडीओ द्वारा सशस्त्र बलों की मानव पूंजी का अनुकूलन: मनोवैज्ञानिक परिप्रेक्ष्य पर 4 दिवसीय सम्मेलन आज संपन्न हुआ। सम्मेलन का उद्देश्य सशस्त्र बलों के संबंध में मनोविज्ञान की हालिया प्रगति, उभरती प्रवृत्तियों और चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करना था। पैनल चर्चा की अध्यक्षता डॉ जी सतीश रेड्डी ने की। लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल राज शुक्ला (सेवानिवृत्त), सदस्य यूपीएससी ने डीजी लाइफ साइंसेज यूके सिंह सहित वैज्ञानिकों को संबोधित किया। प्रतिभागियों में 3 सेवाओं, डीआरडीओ प्रयोगशालाओं और शिक्षाविदों के कर्मी शामिल थे।

आत्मनिर्भर भारत : रडार से बचने में सक्षम

नौसेना के रडार से बचने में सक्षम तीसरा स्वदेशी विध्वंसक युद्धपोत इंफाल शुक्रवार को परीक्षण के लिए पहली बार समुद्र में खाना किया गया। प्रोजेक्ट 15 बी श्रेणी के तहत तैयार पोत को साल के अंत तक नौसेना में शामिल किया जा सकता है।

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/drdo-four-day-conference-ends-human-capital-of-armed-forces-psychological-perspective-2023-04-29>



The Sentinel
of this land, for its people

Sat, 29 Apr 2023

GOC 4 Corps Lt Gen Manish Erry Visits DRL DRDO in Tezpur

Lt Gen Manish Erry, AVSM, SM, GOC 4 Corps visited Defence Research Laboratory (DRL) DRDO, Tezpur on Friday. Director DRL, Dr Dev Vrat Kamboj briefed about various projects, products and technologies developed by DRL. GOC 4 Corps showed keen interest in DRL developed products and technologies such as Capsispray, Capsigranade, Biodigesters, Water Purification Systems etc. He was very enthusiastic and appreciated the R&D work of DRL, which provides technological solutions for the benefit of army personnel deployed in challenging terrains of Northeast India. This visit highlights the importance of interaction between the Army and DRL DRDO Tezpur in the development of products and technologies that can benefit the army personnel and improve their living and working conditions specifically in north-eastern region.

<https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/assam-news/goc-4-corps-lt-gen-manish-erry-visits-drl-drdo-in-tezpur-647573>

DRDO on Twitter

 **DRDO** ✓
@DRDO_India

#DRDOUpdates | The four-day International Conference on Optimising Human Capital of Armed Forces : Psychological Perspective organised by DIPR-DRDO concluded on 28 Apr 2023. A panel discussion was chaired by SA to RM Dr G Satheesh Reddy
[@DefenceMinIndia](#)
[@SpokespersonMoD](#)



9:25 PM · Apr 28, 2023 · 15.1K Views

 **DRDO** ✓
@DRDO_India

Lt Gen Raj Shukla (Retd), Member UPSC delivered a insightful keynote address. Distinguished luminaries including Lt Gen NS Sarna, DG Recruiting, Indian Army, Dr UK Singh, DG(LS), eminent academicians & researchers from all over the country participated in the valedictory event.



9:25 PM · Apr 28, 2023 · 6,113 Views



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Fri, 28 Apr 2023

Need to Root out Terrorism Collectively & Fix Accountability on its Supporters: Raksha Mantri to SCO Defence Ministers in New Delhi

India believes in maintaining peace & security based on UN Charter provisions, says Shri Rajnath Singh

Calls for concerted efforts to ensure ‘win-win cooperation for great gain’

“Secure, stable & prosperous region will improve the quality of life of people of each nation”

“PM Modi’s ‘SECURE’ vision reflects India’s commitment towards multi-dimensional welfare of the region”

Committed towards defence capacity building of SCO member states for shared security interests: RM

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has called upon the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to collectively work towards eliminating terrorism in all its forms and fix accountability on those who aid or fund such activities. Addressing the Defence Ministers of SCO member countries in New Delhi on April 28, 2023, Shri Rajnath Singh asserted that any kind of terrorist act or support to it in any form is a major crime against humanity and peace & prosperity cannot coexist with this menace.

“If a nation shelters terrorists, it not only poses a threat to others, but for itself too. Radicalisation of youth is a cause of concern not only from the point of view of security, but it is also a major obstacle in the path of socio-economic progress of society. If we want to make the SCO a stronger & more credible international organisation, our top-most priority should be to effectively deal with terrorism,” the Raksha Mantri said.

Shri Rajnath Singh added that India envisions a robust framework of regional cooperation which mutually respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all member states by taking care of their legitimate interests. He asserted that New Delhi strives to further bolster trust and cooperation among the members of the SCO as it believes in maintaining peace and security based on the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

Sharing his insights on the vision to ensure collective prosperity, the Raksha Mantri called for concerted efforts by the SCO member states, so that the region, with limitless possibilities in today's multilateral world, shifts to the mindset of '*great gain from win-win paradigm*' from '*great game of zero sum, win-lose paradigm*'. "India has always followed the principle of '*Let us walk together & move forward together*'. Every era has a zeitgeist (defining idea). The zeitgeist of the present era is '*Win-win cooperation for the great gain*,'" he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh also elaborated on the concept of 'SECURE' floated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the SCO summit in Qingdao, China in 2018. He stated that every alphabet of the word 'SECURE' reflects India's commitment towards the multi-dimensional welfare of the region.

S - *Security of citizens*

E - *Economic development for all*

C - *Connecting the region*

U - *Uniting the people*

R - *Respect for Sovereignty and Integrity*

E - *Environmental protection*)

Drawing the attention of the member states to various dimensions of 'SECURE', the Raksha Mantri stated that today a large part of the world is passing through a food crisis. He urged the SCO member countries to ensure food security under an integrated plan. This will establish SCO as a role model for the whole world, he said. To deal with the issue of climate change, he called for working on a common strategy, giving priority to mitigation and adaptation. Energy security should be a part of the common strategy, he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh also touched upon the two defence-related activities launched by India, as the SCO chair, to increase interoperability among member states. These are: a workshop on 'Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)' and a seminar on 'defence think-tanks of SCO countries'. Both the events witnessed enthusiastic participation from all SCO countries.

The Raksha Mantri voiced India's commitment towards defence capacity building of SCO member states through training and co-manufacturing & co-development of items. He stated that as security challenges are not limited to any one country, India is moving forward with a collaborative approach in the field of defence partnership, keeping in mind the shared interests.

Shri Rajnath Singh reiterated India's commitment to play the role of a first responder and preferred partner for any HADR operation in the region. "Be it the COVID-19 pandemic or the recent earthquake in Turkiye, India has always moved forward in line with its spirit of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' (Whole world is one family)," he said.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the Raksha Mantri described the SCO as an evolved & strong regional organisation, underlining that India views it as an important entity to promote defence cooperation among member states. He urged the member states to take forward the age-old cultural and civilisational linkages among the nations in line with changing times, emphasising that the ties have enriched the countries economically and culturally for centuries. He called for a secure, stable and prosperous region that helps in improving the quality of life of the people of each member nation.

At the end of the deliberations, all the SCO member countries signed a protocol, expressing their collective will to make the region secure, peaceful and prosperous. In his closing remarks, Shri Rajnath Singh called for joint efforts to ensure prosperity in the region while dealing with contemporary challenges. He stressed on the need to constantly make the SCO stronger and a more

vibrant & resilient organisation in line with changing times. “It is our moral responsibility to start a new journey of development in the region through mutual cooperation, harmony and respect,” he said. Addressing mediapersons after the meeting, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane stated that all the member nations arrived at the consensus on several areas of cooperation, including dealing with terrorism, security of vulnerable populations in various countries as well as HADR. He stated that all member states were unanimous in their statements that terrorism, in all its forms, must be condemned and eliminated. He exuded confidence that many areas identified for cooperation will be acted upon in the times to come and India, as the SCO chair, will lead from the front in ensuring a safe and secure future for the region and the world as a whole.

Defence Ministers of China (General Li Shangfu); Russia (General Sergei Shoigu); Iran (Brig Gen Mohammad Reza Gharaei Ashtiani); Belarus (Lt Gen Khrenin VG); Kazakhstan (Col Gen Ruslan Zhaxylykov); Uzbekistan (Lt Gen Bakhodir Kurbanov); Kyrgyzstan (Lt Gen Bekbolotov Baktybek Asankalievich) and Tajikistan (Col Gen Sherali Mirzo) attended the meeting. The Ministers discussed issues of common concern including issues of regional and international security under charter of SCO during the meeting.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1920488>



Fri, 28 Apr 2023

Rajnath Sends Tough Message on Terrorism at SCO Meet

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Friday asked the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) regional bloc to work towards eliminating terrorism and hold those who aid it accountable at the defence ministers’ meeting of the grouping, even as Pakistani defence minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif skipped the event, officials familiar with the matter said.

Asif was supposed to attend the meeting virtually.

However, Islamabad was virtually represented by Malik Muhammad Ahmad Khan, special assistant to the Pakistan prime minister on defence, the officials said.

Singh’s call for clamping down on terrorism comes days after five Indian soldiers were killed in a terror ambush in the Rajouri sector on April 20. The spot where the terrorists ambushed the army truck is 7km from Bhimber Gali at the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan.

Addressing his SCO counterparts, Singh said any kind of terrorist act or support to it is a crime against humanity, and peace and prosperity cannot coexist with the menace.

“If a nation shelters terrorists, it not only poses a threat to others, but to itself too,” Singh said, without naming Pakistan. However, while addressing the army’s top brass at the Army Commanders’ Conference on April 19, Singh said that proxy war by the adversary was continuing.

“Radicalisation of youth is a cause of concern not only from the point of view of security, but it is also a major obstacle in the path of socio-economic progress of society. If we want to make SCO a stronger and more credible international organisation, our top-most priority should be to effectively deal with terrorism,” he said. SCO has eight members: India, China, Russia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Iran and Belarus are taking part in this year’s meeting as observers. Singh on Thursday raised the issue of the lingering border row with China in eastern Ladakh with his Chinese counterpart General Li Shangfu while stressing that the violation of existing agreements had eroded bilateral relations, and the development of India-China ties was based on peace and tranquillity at the borders. He also told Li that all issues at the Line of Actual

Control (LAC) should be resolved in accordance with existing bilateral agreements. India and China have been locked in a border row for almost three years.

On Friday, Singh said India envisions a robust framework of regional cooperation which mutually respects the “sovereignty and territorial integrity” of all member states by taking care of their legitimate interests. He said New Delhi strives to bolster trust and cooperation among the SCO members as it believes in maintaining peace and security based on the Charter of the United Nations. He said India was committed to defence capacity building of SCO member states through training and co-manufacturing and co-development of military hardware, while stressing that security challenges were not limited to any single country. India is moving forward with a collaborative approach in the field of defence partnership while keeping shared interests in mind, he said. Singh also reiterated India’s commitment to play the role of a first responder and preferred partner for any humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operation in the region. “Be it the Covid-19 pandemic or the recent earthquake in Turkiye, India has always moved forward in line with the spirit of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ (the world is one family),” he said.

In his opening remarks, Singh described the SCO as an “evolved and strong” regional organisation, while underlining that India views it as an important entity to promote defence cooperation among the member states. At the end of the deliberations, the SCO countries signed a protocol, expressing their collective will to make the region secure, peaceful and prosperous. “It is our moral responsibility to start a new journey of development in the region through mutual cooperation, harmony and respect,” Singh added.

Later, defence secretary Giridhar Aramane said all the member nations reached a consensus on several areas of cooperation, including dealing with terrorism, security of vulnerable populations in various countries, and HADR activities. He said that all members of the bloc were unanimous in their statements that terrorism - in all its forms - must be condemned and eliminated.

Experts said that India has used the platform to assert itself and highlight terror as an instrument of state policy. “India is asserting itself in the diplomatic and security domains by highlighting terror as an instrument of state policy. The minister’s comments are significant in the backdrop of the April 20 terror attack in Poonch,” said military affairs expert lieutenant general Vinod Bhatia (retd).

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/rajnath-singh-urges-sco-to-eliminate-terrorism-hold-perpetrators-accountable-in-defence-ministers-meeting-pakistan-skips-event-101682706232456-amp.html>



Press Information Bureau
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Ministry of Defence

Fri, 28 Apr 2023

Raksha Mantri Holds Bilateral Meetings with his Uzbek, Belarusian & Kyrgyz Counterparts on the Sidelines of SCO Defence Ministers’ Meeting in New Delhi

**Focus on identifying avenues for further strengthening bilateral ties
India committed to implement SCO mandate: Shri Rajnath Singh during meeting with SCO Secretary General**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held bilateral meetings with Minister of Defence of Uzbekistan Lieutenant General Bakhodir Kurbanov, Minister of Defence of Belarus Lieutenant General Victor Khrenin and Minister of Defence of Kyrgyzstan Lieutenant General Bekbolotov B Asankalievich on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in New Delhi on April 28, 2023.

The entire gamut of defence cooperation with the three countries was reviewed during the meetings, with a focus on identifying beneficial avenues for furthering bilateral ties. Issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

Secretary General of SCO Mr Zhang Ming also called on the Raksha Mantri upon the completion of the SCO Defence Minister's meeting. Various activities undertaken by India under its chairmanship were discussed. Shri Rajnath Singh informed the Secretary General that India is committed to contributing constructively to the implementation of the mandate of SCO.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1920533>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Fri, 28 Apr 2023

Raksha Mantri & his Russian Counterpart Hold Bilateral Talks on the Sidelines of SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi

Discuss regional peace & security and defence cooperation, including ways to increase Russian industry's participation in 'Make in India'

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Defence of Russia Army General Sergei K Shoigu on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in New Delhi on April 28, 2023.

The two Ministers discussed wide-ranging issues of bilateral defence cooperation, including military-to-military ties as well as industrial partnership. They also discussed the Russian defence industry's participation in the 'Make in India' initiative and ways to provide further impetus to it.

The two Ministers also discussed matters on regional peace and security. They expressed satisfaction over the continued trust and mutual respect between the two countries, particularly in defence and reiterated their commitment towards strengthening the partnership. They acknowledged the unique, long-lasting and time-tested relationship between India and Russia.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1920528>

Rajnath Singh Holds Bilateral Talks with Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Defence of Russia Army General Sergei K Shoigu on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in New Delhi.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the two ministers discussed wide-ranging issues of bilateral defence cooperation, including military-to-military ties as well as industrial partnership.

They also discussed the Russian defence industry's participation in the 'Make in India' initiative and ways to provide further impetus to it, it added.

"The two ministers also discussed matters on regional peace and security. They expressed satisfaction over the continued trust and mutual respect between the two countries, particularly in defence and reiterated their commitment towards strengthening the partnership," the ministry said.

It added that they acknowledged the unique, long-lasting and time-tested relationship between India and Russia.

Rajnath Singh also held a separate bilateral meeting with his Uzbek counterpart, Lieutenant General Kurbanov Bakhodir Nizamovich.

"Delighted to meet the Defence Minister of Uzbekistan, Lt. Gen. Kurbanov Bakhodir Nizamovich on the sidelines of SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in New Delhi," the defence minister said in a tweet.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/rajnath-singh-holds-bilateral-talks-with-russian-defence-minister-sergei-shoigu-11682691072884.html>

अमर उजाला

IAF प्रमुख बोले- आत्मनिर्भर भारत की दिशा में रखरखाव यूनिटों का सकारात्मक योगदान, जानें और क्या कहा

एयर चीफ मार्शल विवेक राम चौधरी ने शुक्रवार को महाराष्ट्र के नागपुर के वायुसेना नगर में आयोजित रखरखाव कमान कमांडरों के सम्मेलन की अध्यक्षता की। सम्मेलन में अपने संबोधन में वायुसेना प्रमुख ने विभिन्न बेड़ों और प्रणालियों के निर्वाह की दिशा में मेंटनेंस कमांड के मुख्यालय और इसकी इकाइयों द्वारा निभाई गई महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका की सराहना की। एक अधिकारी ने यह जानकारी दी।

एक रक्षा विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया है कि एयर चीफ मार्शल चौधरी ने 'आत्मनिर्भरता' की ओर बढ़ने की जरूरत पर जोर दिया, जिसके लिए मेंटनेंस कमांड इकाइयों द्वारा सकारात्मक योगदान दिया जा सकता है। उन्होंने गुरुवार से शुरू

हुए दो दिवसीय सम्मेलन में मेंटनेंस कमांड इकाइयों को ट्राफियां सौंपीं। रक्षा विज्ञप्ति में कहा गया है कि मेंटनेंस कमांड के एयर ऑफिसर कमांडिंग-इन-चीफ एयर मार्शल विभास पांडे ने यहां उनकी अगवानी की।

नौसेना के स्टील्थ डेस्ट्रॉयर ने भरी पहली समुद्री उड़ान

भारतीय नौसेना के प्रोजेक्ट 15 बी श्रेणी के तीसरे स्वदेशी स्टील्थ डेस्ट्रॉयर ने आज अपनी पहली समुद्री उड़ान भरी। जहाज में कई आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी और उच्च स्वदेशी सामग्री शामिल है। इसे नौसेना के वारशिप डिजाइन ब्यूरो के द्वारा स्वदेशी रूप से डिजाइन किया गया है। मझगांव डॉक लिमिटेड द्वारा निर्मित किया गया है। इस प्रोजेक्ट को इस साल के अंत तक चालू करने की योजना है।

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/chief-of-air-staff-presides-over-maintenance-command-commanders-conference-in-nagpur-2023-04-28?pageId=1>

अमरउजाला

Sat, 29 Apr 2023

IAF प्रमुख बोले- हमारी वायुसेना ने कठिन परिस्थितियों में किया बेहतर प्रदर्शन, जानें और क्या कहा

वायुसेना प्रमुख एयर चीफ मार्शल विवेक राम चौधरी ने कहा भारतीय वायुसेना की तारीफ की। उन्होंने सूडान में वादी सीदना बचाव अभियान को लेकर कहा कि हमारी वायुसेना ने सबसे कठिन परिस्थितियों में अपनी मूल क्षमता का प्रदर्शन किया है।

वायुसेना हमेशा करेगी अपनी शक्तियों का प्रदर्शन

उन्होंने इस मिशन को अंजाम देने वाले एयरक्रूज को बधाई दी। साथ ही कहा कि मुझे लगता है कि भारतीय वायुसेना ने सबसे कठिन परिस्थितियों में हमारे संचालन को अंजाम देने में सक्षम होने की अपनी मूल क्षमता का प्रदर्शन किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि मैं राष्ट्र को आश्चस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि जब भी समय आएगा हम हमेशा अपनी शक्तियों का इसी तरह प्रदर्शन करके दिखाएंगे। **क्या है वादी सीदना अभियान**

गौरतलब है, हिंसाग्रस्त सूडान में फंसे भारतीयों को सुरक्षित निकालने के लिए भारत सरकार की ओर से चलाया जा रहा 'ऑपरेशन कावेरी' सफलता के साथ आगे बढ़ रहा है। इस बीच, भारतीय वायुसेना ने सूडान में सबसे खतरनाक और साहसिक मिशन को सफलतापूर्वक अंजाम दिया था। दरअसल सूडान में 27 और 28 अप्रैल की दरम्यानी रात को चलाये गये साहसिक अभियान के दौरान वायुसेना के C-130J विमान ने वादी सीदना में एक छोटी हवाई पट्टी से 121 लोगों को बचाने में सफलता हासिल की।

अंतरिक्ष पर जाने वाली पहली वस्तु V-2 रॉकेट

वहीं, पत्रकारों से बात करते हुए अधिकारी ने अंतरिक्ष में शस्त्रीकरण को लेकर कहा कि अंतरिक्ष पर जाने वाली पहली वस्तु V-2 रॉकेट था। जर्मन V-2 रॉकेट अंतरिक्ष को छूकर वापस आ गया। तभी से ही अंतरिक्ष पर लोगों के पहुंचने के साथ-साथ सैन्यीकरण की शुरुआत हो गई थी।

उन्होंने कहा कि सोवियत संघ द्वारा पहले कुछ अंतरिक्ष मिशन को देखकर लगता है कि वह रक्षा मंत्रालय द्वारा नियंत्रित थे। इन मिशन को इस बात में ध्यान रखकर चलाया गया था कि अनुप्रयोगों का उपयोग रक्षा उद्देश्यों के लिए किया जाएगा

एयरोस्पेस फोर्स के निजी क्षेत्र में बढ़ते भविष्य पर बात

एयरोस्पेस फोर्स में निजी क्षेत्र के भविष्य पर भारतीय वायु सेना प्रमुख एयर चीफ मार्शल विवेक राम चौधरी ने कहा कि पिछले एक-दो वर्षों में जारी की गई नई नीतियों के माध्यम से अंतरिक्ष का लोकतंत्रीकरण हमारे पर्यावरण में हुई सबसे बड़ी क्रांति है। इसलिए इसने निश्चित रूप से निजी लोगों के आने के रास्ते खोल दिए हैं।

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/air-chief-marshal-vr-chaudhari-said-the-iaf-displayed-its-core-capability-of-being-able-to-carry-our-operation-2023-04-29>

ThePrint

Sat, 29 Apr 2023

Self-Reliance in Defence Important for India to Maintain Strategic Autonomy, Shoulder New Responsibilities: CDS

Achieving self-reliance in defence and reducing import dependency for military hardware is important for India to maintain its strategic autonomy and shoulder new responsibilities commensurate with its emerging stature, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said on Saturday.

In an address at a think-tank, Gen Chauhan noted that India's economic growth coupled with its soft power, technological advancements and ability to stand up to coercion and intimidation to defend its territory are contributing to the rise of its comprehensive national power.

His reference to India's ability to stand up to coercion and intimidation came in the backdrop of a three-year border row with China in eastern Ladakh.

"Our economic growth coupled with our soft power, technological advancements, demographic dividend, democratic and inclusive governance, acceptability at international and regional forums, ability to stand up to coercion and intimidation to defend our territory and consolidation of our diplomatic, information, military and economic instruments of national power are contributing to the rise of India's comprehensive national power," Gen Chauhan said.

The Chief of Defence Staff was speaking at the 'Chanakya Dialogue'.

Gen Chauhan also highlighted the importance of self-reliance in defence, saying that reducing import dependency of the armed forces is important for India to maintain its strategic autonomy and shoulder new responsibilities commensurate with its size and economy.

"Our armed forces depended heavily on foreign OEMs (original equipment makers) for military hardware. I believe such a situation is not sustainable in the emerging geo-political environment," he said.

Elaborating on the global geopolitical turmoil, Gen Chauhan said countries like Japan, the UK, Russia, China, Germany, Poland, South Korea and many others are significantly increasing their defence budgets and the situation could lead to a huge disruption in the global supply chains of military hardware.

He said there is an opportunity for Indian defence manufacturers to take advantage of the situation.

"I can visualise a huge demand for military equipment and hardware not only in Asia but also Europe. In such a situation, the indigenous defence ecosystem is the safest bet for us as it guarantees assured supplies," he said.

There is a big opportunity for Indian companies to become part of the global defence supply chain, he added.

The Chief of Defence Staff said the remit of 'Atma Nirbharta' in defence should be the only mantra to deal with conventional and unconventional challenges facing India and that the approach of self-reliance is beyond "production, procurement and supplies" of military hardware.

It is about an Indian thought process, Indian ideas, Indian concepts and Indian strategy to meet challenges specific to India.

Gen Chauhan also spoke extensively on the global security environment.

"The global security environment currently is in a state of flux and the new order is yet to crystallise. New alignments, new alliances, new linkages, new partnerships are on the anvil which give rise to a sense of uncertainty among nations, among global and regional institutions, and even economic unions and alliances," he said.

"Post World War II, the Trans-Atlantic Anglo-Saxon lands could not unite around Europe, the way actually the Russian invasion of Ukraine has done. On the other hand, Russia and China are getting closer with Iran, actually joining this particular bandwagon," he said.

<https://theprint.in/india/self-reliance-in-defence-important-for-india-to-maintain-strategic-autonomy-shoulder-new-responsibilities-cds/1546596/>



Sat, 29 Apr 2023

Large Presence of Chinese Vessels in Indian Ocean Region, India Keeping Close Watch: Navy Chief

There is a "large presence" of Chinese vessels in the Indian Ocean Region and India keeps a "very close watch" on the developments in the region to protect and preserve its national interests in the maritime domain, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar said on Saturday.

During an interaction at a conclave here, he also said that the Indian Navy is seized of the docking of various PLA Navy ships at ports in Pakistan, and it is "keeping a watch on it".

Asked about the threat aspects, the Navy chief spoke of both conventional and non-conventional threats, besides those emerging from what he described as "silent and inclusive paradigm" resulting in a "web of threats" that are emerging.

The Indian Navy's role is to protect, promote and preserve national interests in the maritime domain, wherever they are, and it assesses the threats and challenges.

On a daily basis, it is being seen that there is a certain amount of contestation happening at sea. It is well below the threshold of conflict, but possibility of a full-fledged cannot be ruled out, the Navy chief said.

On a question on PLA Navy ships docking at ports in Pakistan, he said, these ships are docking at ports in various countries, and not just in Pakistan.

As far as their visit to ports in Pakistan are concerned, "we are ceased of it, and keep a watch on", he said.

Admiral Kumar said the Pakistan Navy is modernising itself at a good pace and seeks to become a 50-platform force in 10-15 years, and they are adding new corvettes and frigates to their fleet.

As far as China is concerned, in the last 10 years, a large number of ships and submarines have been Commissioned by it in the last ten years, the third aircraft carrier is under construction, and much larger destroyers they are working on, he said, adding, “we feel this will plateau at some time”.

“We are keeping a very close watch in the Indian Ocean Region... and effort is to know whose presence is there and what are they up to, monitoring it 24×7 and we deploy aircraft, UAVs, ships, submarines, etc.,” the Navy chief said.

“There is a large presence of Chinese vessels. At any point of time, there are 3-6 Chinese warships in the India Ocean Region,” he said, adding some are close to the Gulf of Oman, and some in the eastern part of the IOR, among other places.

Chinese research vessels are ever present, numbering from 2-4 and Chinese fishing vessels as well. So, there is a large presence of Chinese vessels in the Indian Ocean Region, and India Navy keeps track of it, the Navy chief said.

“So, we refine our plans, actions that are required to be taken, and this also feeds into our capability development,” the Navy chief said.

Later, in response to a query from audience on Chinese research vessels, Admiral Kumar said, these vessels have the ability to track and collect electronic signals.

When they operate, close to “our areas of national interest”, the Indian Navy keeps an eye, and it has its ships which “monitor them very, very closely” On a question on whether modernisation and capability development has any link with threat assessment, he said, modernisation is part of the process and not threat-driven.

And, a Navy has to be a “well-balanced force”, so, it’s not about nuclear submarine vis-a-vis aircraft carrier, as each of the two bring their own capabilities and they are “not either/or”, Admiral Kumar said.

On Atmanirbhar Bharat, he reiterated that the Indian Navy has “committed to the national leadership that we (Navy) will be fully Atmanirbhar by 2047”.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-large-presence-of-chinese-vessels-in-indian-ocean-region-india-keeping-close-watch-navy-chief-3068584/>



Mon, 01 May 2023

Express View on India-China Defence Ministers’ Talks: A Fragile Peace

The meeting between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Chinese counterpart Li Shangfu saw both sides reiterating their positions, highlighting the persisting gap in the respective perceptions about what went wrong in Ladakh in 2020, its resolution, and how to move forward peacefully from there. This was the first meet between the defence ministers of the two sides since September 2020 when Singh met Li’s predecessor in Moscow. Singh’s sternly worded message to Li was spelt out in a Ministry of Defence statement: He “categorically conveyed that development of relations between India and China is premised on prevalence of peace and tranquility at the borders”; “all

issues at the LAC need to be resolved in accordance with existing bilateral agreements and commitments”; “the violation of [these agreements] has eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations”; “disengagement at the border will logically be followed with de-escalation”. In tone and substance, it was a strong assertion of India’s position that matters had not been resolved yet, that the resolution had to come through the comprehensive set of agreements on border management arrived at after painstaking negotiations that Beijing had signed on to but violated. It also made clear that unless there was de-escalation following disengagement — the deployment on the Chinese side is now at permanent levels with infrastructure and hybrid villages — the situation could not be normalised.

For his part, Li brought the message that as far as China was concerned, the situation at the LAC has been resolved and it is time to move on to normalise bilateral relations. According to a statement from the People’s Liberation Army on the talks, the Chinese defence minister said “the situation on the China-India border is generally stable”; “the two sides are in communication via military and diplomatic channels”; they “should take a long-term view, place the border issue in an appropriate position in bilateral relations and promote the transition of the border situation to normalised management”. Stable is not the word to describe the situation at the LAC, going by the continued barring of Indian patrols in the strategic Depsang Plains and in Demchok by China, its attempt to take territory in Tawang through a midnight raid last December, and its renaming exercise of places in Indian territory. “Fragile”, as External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar described the situation recently, seems to be more appropriate.

It now seems that India-China positions on the border issue are frozen along these two irreconcilable positions. [Delhi](#) no longer uses the words “return to status quo April 20, 2020” in formal communication, but Beijing needs to realise that the creation of buffer zones at the so-called friction points in eastern Ladakh was not a resolution, but a step to prevent unintended consequences. India may be trading more with China than it has done in the past, but that should not be misunderstood by Beijing as “normalisation” of bilateral relations.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/editorials/express-view-on-india-china-defence-ministers-talks-a-fragile-peace-8581883/>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Sun, 30 Apr 2023

Defence Minister Rajnath to Visit Maldives to Bolster Defence Ties, IAF Chief Heads for Sri Lanka

Defence minister Rajnath Singh will embark on a two-day visit to the Maldives next week, while IAF chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari will head to Sri Lanka, to bolster defence and strategic ties with two nations amid China’s expanding inroads in Indian Ocean Region. Both Singh and ACM Chaudhari will leave for their official visits to the key maritime neighbours on Monday. Singh is expected to meet Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, foreign minister Abdulla Shahid and defence minister Mariya Didi during the trip.

With an eye firmly on China, India has been helping Malé with the capacity-building of the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF), military aid and training, EEZ surveillance and hydrographic surveys.

Defence secretary Giridhar Aramane had visited Maldives last month for the bilateral defence

cooperation dialogue, under which the two countries had decided to further boost bilateral military ties, especially in the maritime domain, engagements and the complexity of joint exercises.

India has stepped up its diplomatic and military engagement with Maldives, which included assistance during the Covid pandemic, especially since the government led by President Solih came to power in 2018.

The two nations share common perspectives on maritime security issues in the IOR and have been working together closely in several bilateral, mini-lateral and multilateral fora such as the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and the Colombo Security Conclave, an official said.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/defence-minister-rajnath-to-visit-maldives-to-bolster-defence-ties-iaf-chief-heads-for-sri-lanka/articleshow/99878872.cms>



Sat, 29 Apr 2023

In Historic First, Five Women Cadets Commissioned into Army's Artillery Regiment

Five cadets of the Officers Training Academy, Chennai made history on Saturday when they became the first women inducted into the Indian Army's Regiment of Artillery at their passing out parade. These women cadets will receive the same opportunities and challenges as their male counterparts, marking a transformation in the Army.

eral Adosh Kumar, colonel commandant and director general of Artillery (Designate) called it a momentous occasion and said that the regiment had full confidence in the Women Officers (WOs). "More than 20% of the officers commissioned into the Regiment today are women and this is yet another step in a series of transformational initiatives taken by the Indian Army," he told journalists.

He added that the WOs would be posted to all types of artillery units, where they will receive necessary training and exposure to handle rocket, medium, and field artillery, and surveillance and target acquisition (SATA) in challenging conditions. Three of the WOs have been posted to units along the northern border, and the other two to locations in the western theatre.

Lt. Mehak Saini has been commissioned into a SATA regiment, Lt. Sakshi Dubey and Lt. Aditi Yadav into field regiments, Lt. Pious Mudgil into the medium regiment, and Lt. Akanksha into the rocket regiment.

"We are in the midst of a modernisation drive through indigenous development of our guns, equipment, ammunition and vehicles, so these WOs will be exposed to niche technologies in future," said the DG Artillery.

On Saturday, the Parameshwaran Drill Square witnessed the passing out parade of 186 officers of the batches SSC-115 and SSC(W)-29 and equivalent courses, and a total of 121 Gentlemen Cadets and 36 Women Cadets were commissioned into various arms and services of the Indian Army. Five GCs and 24 WCs from Bhutan also completed their training.

The parade was reviewed by General S.M. Shafiuddin Ahmed, the Bangladesh Chief of Army Staff, who also presented the Sword of Honour and gold medal to ACA Ajay Singh Gill, silver medal to SUO Ajay Kumar A. and the bronze medal to BUO Mehak Saini.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/in-a-first-5-women-army-officers-commissioned-into-artillery-regiments/article66792443.ece>

Nearly Month After Two Successive Crashes of Coast Guard, Advanced Light Helicopters Back in Flight Mode

The fleet of indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) has started flying operations again, nearly a month after two successive crashes of coast guard and naval variants of the aircraft. Extensive checks on the entire fleet of helicopters, also in service with the Army and Air Force, were undertaken and no signs of any deep-rooted issue with the aircraft were found.

It is learnt that both accidents that took place in March were related to a control failure. No aircrew had suffered fatal casualties and the helicopters could be recovered fully to study the reasons behind the technical faults. The initial probe has found that the reasons behind the failure were maintenance related.

In one case, the fault appears to have occurred due to the improper fitment of washers, while in the other, two similar rods were interchanged during the maintenance process. Following the crashes, the entire fleet was assessed by technical teams and no red flags have been raised after thorough checks. Additional training is being given to crews to ensure such issues do not come up again.

A workhorse for the armed forces that operates in diverse environments from warships to high altitude areas like the Siachen glacier, the ALH fleet has undertaken over 3.9 lakh flying hours till now. The armed forces, as well as some export customers, are flying 338 helicopters of the type, with orders for several dozen more in the pipelines.

Internal records seen by ET show that the accident rate has sharply declined in the past five years. The average rate since 2018 has been 5.5 accidents per one lakh flying hours. Prior to 2018, this rate was 9.5 per lakh flying hours.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/advanced-light-helicopters-back-in-flight-mode/articleshow/99894171.cms>

ThePrint

How Indigenous is ‘Indigenous’ in India’s Defence Production? Lines are Blurred in Globalised World

Over the last few years, there has been an institutional pivot towards prioritising indigenous military manufacturing and procurement in India. Two large-scale commissions in 2022 of the country’s first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS *Vikrant*, and the first indigenous attack helicopter, LCH Prachand, have epitomised this philosophical change.

In April this year, the Army announced that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and private firm Larsen and Toubro (L&T) would manufacture the prototype for another indigenous system— the Zorawar light tank.

However, an analysis by ThePrint has highlighted that these indigenous weapons systems do include imported components that are integrated and are not exclusively made in India — a logical and valid reality. Even major defence producers such as the United States and France import weapons systems.

This points to a larger question — how indigenous is ‘indigenous’ in India’s defence production?

“While the government has done well to promote domestic military manufacturing, there is also an acknowledgement within the establishment that everything cannot be manufactured domestically. There will have to be some imports,” Anit Mukherjee, associate professor at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore, told ThePrint.

“As a result, even if you see the positive military indigenisation lists issued by the government, they make provisions for certain imports. At times, the economies of scale do not allow domestic manufacturing of weapons systems; in these times, you have to import,” Mukherjee added.

Alluding to the above sentiment, a Delhi-based defence analyst said, “It’s rather hard to develop an advanced weapons system with only technology and components from one country. Imports of the best technologies help make the system more efficient.”

“In a globalised economy with deep supply-chain linkages, some components will invariably be imported. This can be either due to better efficiency in procuring it from abroad or unavailability in the manufacturing country,” the analyst, who did not wish to be named, told ThePrint.

<https://theprint.in/defence/is-indigenisation-the-only-path-for-indias-military-ah-accidents-spur-debate/1504649/>

The Tribune

Mon, 01 May 2023

Diplomatic Shadow over LAC Impasse

By C Uday Bhaskar

The meeting between defence minister rajnath singh and his chinese counterpart gen li shangfu on april 27 in new delhi and the gist of their deliberations are of considerable significance for a number of reasons. The first is the form and content of the meeting and the divergent positions that the two ministers took on the most contentious issue in the troubled bilateral relationship — the long-festering territorial dispute that flared up in Galwan along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in June 2020.

It is instructive to note that while India and China have held 18 rounds of talks at the Corps Commander level, the April 27 meeting is the first such interaction between the Defence Ministers of the two nations since the Galwan clash of mid-2020. The relationship between the two Asian giants has become so brittle that the Singh-Li bilateral meeting was scheduled under the larger umbrella of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Eurasian security grouping whose rotating chairmanship was assumed by India in September 2022.

The Defence Ministry press release issued after the meeting was terse and noted that “the two ministers had frank discussions about the developments in the India-China border areas as well as bilateral relations” and added that, “The Raksha Mantri categorically conveyed that the development of relations between India and China is premised on prevalence of peace and tranquillity at the borders. He added that all issues at the LAC need to be resolved in accordance

with the existing bilateral agreements and commitments. He reiterated that violation of the existing agreements had eroded the entire basis of bilateral relations and disengagement at the border will logically be followed with de-escalation.”

This is indeed a ‘frank’ statement by the Indian Defence Minister and the use of the phrase ‘categorically conveyed’ also seeks to reiterate the message of a resolute government that will not be cowed down by a larger neighbour. The local media played up the stern message that was ostensibly conveyed to Beijing, and the fact that Rajnath Singh did not shake hands with his interlocutor was emphasised by a section of the media. This was a petulant interpretation which tried to muddy the reality that appropriate courtesies were indeed exchanged — even if they may not have exuded warmth and bonhomie.

The Indian position on Galwan, often articulated by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, is that this incident has led to a ‘disturbed’ bilateral relationship that is not normal and that the onus lies on China to restore the pre-Galwan status quo. To that extent, Rajnath Singh was conveying the same message to his guest, though the return to the pre-Galwan situation was not mentioned in the official statement. However, the view from Beijing is very different.

The 18th round of India-China military talks concluded on April 23 with no breakthrough of any kind, but for an anodyne reference by India in a statement which referred to ensuring ‘security and stability’ along the LAC. The fact that there was no joint statement, unlike after the 16th and 17th rounds of talks, is an indicator that the bilateral relationship remains brittle. In Beijing, the foreign office made a bland reference to an in-depth exchange of views and expediting resolution of relevant issues.

It is relevant to note that the Chinese government conveyed its assessment of the Singh-Li talks through social media, where it was stated that the Chinese Defence Minister termed the LAC situation as ‘generally stable’ and that from Beijing’s perspective, the bilateral relationship was normal. Thus, the inference is that China is now sanguine about the new post-Galwan status quo, having tactically consolidated its position along the LAC and India is expected to accept the new normal along the LAC.

The Modi government adopted a position of deliberate ambivalence in the immediate aftermath of the Galwan clash and tried to assert that India had not lost any territory to China; it had also not acknowledged the reality that India had forfeited certain patrolling access in the Ladakh region. This obfuscation and reticence by Delhi have emboldened Beijing, which is also aware that notwithstanding Galwan and calls from some Indian quarters to minimise trade and ties with China, bilateral trade has increased in absolute numbers; the trajectory remains robustly positive and the imbalance is in China’s favour.

It is evident that India, having assumed the charge of two global groupings, the G20 and the SCO, has prioritised the current diplomatic compulsion, which is to ensure that nothing rocks the boat and that both summit-level meetings scheduled for later in the year proceed in a satisfactory manner.

If domestic political objectives dictated the immediate post-Galwan narrative that no territory had been lost along the LAC, the current reticence not to call out Beijing for its aggression is being shaped by a seemingly larger diplomatic objective — burnishing the ‘brand India’ image.

It merits recall that Rajnath Singh addressed the Army Commanders on April 19 and made a brief reference to the ‘current situation’ on the northern border. He added, “It is our ‘whole-of-government’ approach to ensure availability of best weapons, equipment and clothing to our troops, braving extreme weather and hostile forces to defend our territorial integrity.”

Alas, this commitment to ensuring the availability of 'best weapons' to the troops is not borne out by the budgetary support; the inventory gaps in all three services are glaring. The inadequacies were brought out in an objective manner in the Khanduri report (2018), but there has been no credible attempt to effectively redress the gaps. The war in Ukraine has only exacerbated the inventory gaps and this is a cause for concern.

A comprehensive White Paper on the Chinese challenge to India's core security interests and the policies that need to be adopted by the 'whole of government' is imperative before the bugle is sounded for the 2024 General Election.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/diplomatic-shadow-over-lac-impasse-503492>



Fri, 28 Apr 2023

Japan-South Korea Ties on the Road of Improvement

By Simran Walia

Japan and South Korea, the two East Asian neighbours have shared a hostile relationship for decades due to their historical issues. Both nations are economically advanced and are also strong US allies, however, their relations have been strained due to Japan's colonisation of the Korean Peninsula and the comfort women issue. The recent summit between Japan and South Korea in March 2023 was the first summit between the leaders of both countries. The summit was widely focused on discussing the security threats by North Korea and China's growing assertiveness.

The US and South Korea have also focused on strengthening the extended deterrence emphasizing the US military capabilities to deter attacks on its strong allies. Both nations have focussed on deterrence over increased apprehension regarding North Korea's growing capabilities which is also one of the key agendas in the recent US-South Korea summit.

Background of Japan-South Korea Relations

Japan and Korea have been engaged in disputes over Japanese colonisation from 1910-1945 of the Korean Peninsula along with atrocities faced during World War II. The atrocities included forced prostitution for Japanese soldiers, known as the 'comfort women' issue. Several protests were held within Japan due to which it was further made evident that both nations resolved their wartime issues in their 1965 normalisation treaty. However, on the other hand, South Korean rulings believe that the victims were not compensated for the torture and emotional pain they suffered.

The 'comfort women' issue has been one of the major reasons for their hostile relations as hundreds of Korean women were used as Japan's wartime sexual slavery. Furthermore, in 2015, both nations reached an agreement under which Japan provided \$9.3 million to compensate for this issue and former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also apologised for the same. The relations between South Korea and Japan aggravated in 2018 when the South Korean court ordered several Japanese companies to offer compensation for the Korean victims and in return, Japan imposed several trade sanctions on Korea. The Japanese government also restricted exports of materials that were important to South Korean manufacturers.

Summit meeting

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol visited Tokyo to meet his Japanese counterpart, Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in an attempt to improve their ties. This meeting is seen as a big step to rebuild the security and economic ties between the two nations as both are US allies and further

seek to form a united front also driven by mutual concerns regarding North Korea's nuclear ambitions and China's behaviour. Both leaders affirmed that regular visits and meetings should be resumed and both leaders also agreed to resume their defence dialogue and vice-ministerial strategic talks.

The North Korean threat of its nuclear missile program poses a great threat to stability and peace in East Asia as well as the international community due to which it is vital for Japan and South Korea to work together to be able to counter this threat. Both Yoon and Kishida believe that cooperation between Japan and South Korea could prove to be beneficial in countering such security threats. Both leaders aim to increase their cooperation in areas of security, economy, culture and people-to-people exchanges. The US too supported this summit meeting between two of its close and strong allies and the US wishes for enduring progress in their relationship. The meeting further focussed on strengthening the US-Japan-South Korea trilateral as it also has a positive impact on the US and Japan's Indo-Pacific Strategy and vision.

Moreover, before the summit, Japan had agreed to lift the export controls on South Korea and it was remarked by South Korean Trade Minister Lee Chang-Yang that South Korea would withdraw its complaint to the World Trade Organisation after the curbs were removed.

US-Japan-South Korea trilateral

Washington has welcomed better Japan-South Korea ties as their historical issues have been an obstacle in embracing its alliances in Asia. China's aggressive behaviour and North Korea's rampant missile tests have led to a heightened need for cooperation between Japan and South Korea. The trilateral military exercise among the US, Japan and South Korea in February 2023 was a ballistic missile defence drill which reflected shared values and their commitment to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. These three countries issued a joint statement too which outlined a vision including a partnership for the Indo-Pacific. Furthermore, the trilateral arrangement focused on economic security to promote cooperation on critical technologies.

The United States, Japan and South Korea should work together on accelerating their trilateral arrangement. The three nations can work on expanding as well as institutionalizing trilateral military exercises along with deepening information sharing tactics through the Ministry of Defence in Tokyo. Moreover, Japan and the US should work on involving South Korea in the regional efforts for supporting the rules-based international order in order to work to secure a free and open Indo-Pacific (FOIP) vision. Since South Korea released its Indo-Pacific strategy at the end of 2022, there is a potential for further cooperation between Japan, South Korea and the US in the fields of climate change, development finance and emerging technologies. Japan's alliance with the US and South Korea being a strong US ally will prove to be beneficial for embracing this trilateral mechanism. The US, Japan and South Korea recently announced to hold defence exercises along with regularisation of missile defence and anti-submarine drills to deter North Korea's nuclear and military advancements.

South Korea is further attempting to balance between the US and China, its largest trade partner. However, President Yoon believes that the Taiwan Issue is a global issue and also opposes any change in the status quo by force. Therefore, this trilateral could perhaps be embraced and these three nations could cooperate regarding the Taiwan Issue.

Way Forward

This recent summit between Japan and South Korea is a significant step in resolving their bilateral ties. Regular defence dialogues and strategic talks between the two nations would further lead to the restoration of the general security of military information agreement which Japan and South Korea signed in 2016. The improved security partnership between the two nations will depend on defence and deterrence capabilities on the Korean Peninsula.

Japan should work on organising more regular and multi-layered bilateral consultations with South Korea along with the 2+2 foreign ministerial meeting that Japan has been conducting with the US and India as well. The leadership of Yoon and Kishida has led the two nations to reach an important point in their bilateral relations, however, historical issues may still linger on in their ties. Nevertheless, the diplomatic efforts between the two countries provide an opportunity to deepen cooperation between Japan and South Korea in the Indo-Pacific. This recent concord between the two nations has been widely driven by the adverse security environment including North Korea's missile tests and China's increasingly aggressive behaviour.

(The author is a Research Associate at the Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi, pursuing a PhD In Japanese Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi (JNU). She has worked at Observer Research Foundation, in Delhi. Her research interests include Japanese politics and foreign policy, and Indo-Pacific and East Asian foreign policy too.)

<https://www.financialexpress.com/world-news/japan-south-korea-ties-on-the-road-of-improvement/3067456/>



Sun, 30 Apr 2023

Quad, Aukus Aim to Contain China, Says Russian Defence Minister

Taking aim at the United States and multilateral groups like the Quad and Aukus, Russian Defence Minister Sergei K Shoigu said they attempted to contain China. It may be noted that Quad, a strategic defence cooperation group, includes India and Russia's fresh salvo at the US may pave the way for speculation in New Delhi, especially in the wake of tightening Moscow-Beijing ties.

At the defence minister's meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Russian minister said that the US and its allies constantly opposed the formation of a multipolar world in the Asia-Pacific, with "counter-measures" through military alliances such as Quad and Aukus.

"The concept of a free and open Indo-Pacific region is now promoted...In order to contain China, a front is forming," he said, stressing that the US and "its enablers" are pushing a strategic agenda to provoke a military confrontation with Russia and China. "The conflict in Ukraine is a clear demonstration of this criminal policy. Its real aim is to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia, threaten China, and maintain its monopoly position in the world," Shoigu said.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/quad-aukus-to-contain-china-says-russian-minister-2366449-2023-04-30>



Fri, 28 Apr 2023

Poland Announces \$2.4 Billion Air Defence Deal with Europe's MBDA

Poland's armament agency on Friday announced it had signed a £1.9-billion (\$2.4-billion) air defence deal with the UK arm of Europe's MBDA, which will provide missiles and missile launchers.

The government agency said the deal concerns "the supply of 44 iLaunchers and several hundred CAMM missiles as well as accompanying equipment".

The value of the order is around £1.9 billion... Deliveries of the military equipment will take place in 2025-2029," it added.

Missile maker MBDA also announced the deal, calling it "the largest European short-range air defence acquisition programme in NATO".

The missiles and missile launchers will go "to support Poland's modernisation and manufacture of a total of 22 PILICA+ air defence batteries", it added. A Downing Street press release said British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hailed the "landmark deal... as major boost for Euro-Atlantic security". It added that Poland already uses MBDA's CAMM .

"It is already deployed to Poland with the British Army to protect its airspace following (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's barbaric invasion of Ukraine" last year, Sunak's office said. Polish Defence Minister Mariusz Blaszczak tweeted that the deal would "reinforce Poland's aerial defence capacity".

The EU member had spent the equivalent of 2.4 percent of its GDP for the military in 2022, the third-highest percentage among NATO countries, according to figures from the transatlantic alliance.

This year, Poland's military spending is due to reach three percent of GDP.

The country has recently signed a batch of deals to boost its defence capabilities, including with the United States and South Korea.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/poland-announces-2-4-billion-air-defence-deal-with-europes-mbda/articleshow/99850422.cms>

Science & Technology News

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Sat, 29 Apr 2023

India and Britain Ink Pact on Science, will Create 'Net Zero' Innovation Hub, Collaborate on Space Parks: Jitendra Singh

India and Britain have signed an agreement to collaborate on science & innovation and also announced a partnership to boost ties in the space sector. Space, science and technology minister Jitendra Singh, who is leading a high-level delegation to Britain, announced that New Delhi and London will jointly create an India-UK 'net zero' innovation virtual centre and that two sides will also have a partnership in space parks. Singh also said that India will collaborate with Britain in enhancing the facility at premier Rutherford Appleton Laboratory.

The MoU signed on research will enable quicker, deeper collaboration on science between the two science powerhouses that will drive economic growth, create skilled jobs and improve lives in two nations and worldwide, UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology said in a release.

Singh's UK counterpart minister George Freeman said the agreement is part of a programme of deepening UK collaboration with other "global superpowers" on innovation and research to help tackle shared global challenges like climate change and pandemic preparedness. He further said, "India is rapidly building on its phenomenal software and innovation sectors to become a global powerhouse in science and technology."

While addressing a meeting of the UK Science and Innovation Council, Singh said the countries will jointly create the 'net zero' innovation virtual centre, which will facilitate cooperation between stakeholders of the two countries to work on focus areas such as decarbonisation of manufacturing processes, transport systems and green hydrogen as a renewable energy source.

The minister appreciated the work done by the Satellite Applications Catapult at Oxford and said that Isro is looking forward to collaborating with the catapult centre and wider space sector of the UK. The Oxford catapult is one of the nine catapults established to transform the UK's capability for innovation in specific areas and to help drive future economic growth.

Singh on Friday also visited Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) and met researchers, including those working on the UK- India iSiS project. He said the Department of Science & Technology (DST) has a major collaborative project under the nano mission, which enables Indian researchers to pursue collaborative research with the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source and to have access to all of the neutron and muon beamlines of the facility at Rutherford. He appreciated DST for contributing to the construction cost of a new beamline ZOOM dedicated to small-angle scattering in TS2 of the ISIS facility. The tenure of the project is up till 30th Sept 2023 with total project cost of £ 2.5 million.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/india-and-britain-ink-pact-on-science-will-create-net-zero-innovation-hub-collaborate-on-space-parks-jitendra-singh/articleshow/99857854.cms>

ThePrint

Fri, 28 Apr 2023

Need to Bring Down Cost of Access to Space: Secy in Dept of Space

A top official in the government's department of space on Friday emphasised the need to bring down the cost of access to space and augment the demand for application creation.

He made the remarks during India – DefSat 2023, an international defence and space conference and expo at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.

"Full potential of space for strategic purposes was not recognised earlier, as it was primarily utilised for public good and civilian use," S Somanath, Secretary, Department of Space, and ISRO's Chairman was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the organisers.

He acknowledged that the realisation of the importance of space capabilities for national security has become "more evident" and stressed the need to enhance power and scale up capabilities through collaboration. Somanath emphasised "the need to bring down the cost of access to space and augment the demand for application creation".

He urged decision-makers to come forth and provide the necessary impetus for the growth of the industry. The space department official said India has the capability to launch in a reasonable

manner, but further scaling up and building up demand is essential as space investment is capital-intensive.

Organisers said the event is inspired by the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Defence, the Department of Space, and the encouragement of stakeholders in the defence and space industry. The conference focussed on the intersection of strategy and industrialisation for space applications in national security, the statement said.

The conference kick-started with India's first industrial space wargame, the 'IndSpace Exercise', which is a simulated, scenario-based, interactive tabletop exercise that tests the capability of the space industry to respond to contingency situations, it said.

This is the first in a series of many such exercises to be unfolded periodically. The DefSAT initiative aims to establish a common roadmap for the space and defence sectors. This effort will be achieved through cyclic debates that will be held every six months, to ensure continuous progress towards the goal, organisers said.

G Satheesh Reddy, Advisor, Scientific Adviser to the Minister of Defence emphasised that there has been a "significant increase" in the development of space technology for defence purposes globally, including image intelligence, electronic intelligence, signal intelligence, and communication intelligence.

In particular, Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and hyperspectral technology are critical for the Indian defence, especially in border areas, he said.

There is also a need to develop space-based electronic warfare capabilities both in and from space. High-power laser and High-Power Microwave (HPM) technology also require further development, with a focus on miniaturisation and increased power, he was quoted as saying in the statement.

Air Marshal Surat Singh, Director General Air (Operations), noted that the recently released space policy would give a boost to the industry.

"The recently released space policy is a significant boost for the Indian space industry. The Indian Air Force needs to transform into an Indian airspace force, leveraging space for ISR, navigation, targeting, SSA, and meteorological operations," he said.

"We need to develop offensive and defensive technologies with space capabilities to augment our readiness. To keep up with China and address the vulnerabilities of the battlespace, we must be well-prepared and pre-emptive, he was quoted as saying in the statement.

<https://theprint.in/india/need-to-bring-down-cost-of-access-to-space-secy-in-dept-of-space/1545201/>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Sun, 30 Apr 2023

BARC Director A K Mohanty Appointed as New Atomic Energy Commission Chairman

Renowned physicist and director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) Ajit Kumar Mohanty has been appointed as the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and the secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy.

Mohanty succeeds K N Vyas to the posts that oversee India's nuclear programme and forays into harnessing atomic power for civilian needs.

"The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Dr Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, as Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy and Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission for a tenure up to the age of 66 years i.e. till 10.10.2025 or until further orders, whichever is earlier," said a government order issued late on Saturday.

Mohanty was appointed as the BARC director in March 2019.

Born in Odisha in 1959, Mohanty completed his graduation in 1979 with Honours in Physics from the MPC College in Baripada and post-graduation from Cuttack's Ravenshaw College.

In 1983, he joined the Nuclear Physics Division of the BARC after graduating from the 26th batch of the BARC Training School. He obtained his doctorate from the Mumbai University.

Mohanty worked in several areas of nuclear physics, covering collision energy from the sub-Coulomb barrier to the relativistic regime using the Pelletron accelerator at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), PHENIX and CMS experiments at the Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) in the United States and CERN, Geneva.

Mohanty held several honorary positions in various organisations. He served the Indian Physics Association (IPA) as its general secretary and later, as its president. He was the spokesperson for the India-CMS collaboration, director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, and director, Physics Group, BARC. He has twice been the CERN Scientific Associate, first during 2002-2004 and again during 2010-2011.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/barc-director-a-k-mohanty-appointed-as-new-atomic-energy-commission-chairman/articleshow/99882259.cms>

