

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 43 No. 159 21 July 2018



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
Defence Science Library
रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केन्द्र
Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre
मैटकॉफ हाऊस, दिल्ली 110054
Metcalf House, Delhi- 110054

पिच ब्लैक युद्धाभ्यास में पहली बार भाग लेगी वायुसेना

आस्ट्रेलिया की वायुसेना द्वारा आयोजित बहुराष्ट्रीय वायुसैनिक अभ्यास पिच ब्लैक-2018 में भारत पहली बार भाग लेने जा रहा है। 24 जुलाई से 18 अगस्त तक आयोजित होने वाले इस वायुसैनिक अभ्यास में भारत अपना लड़ाकू विमान सुखोई-30 एमकेआई के अलावा हक्र्यूलस और ग्लोब मास्टर विमानों को भी उतार रहा है।

हर दो साल में आयोजित होने वाले इस बहुराष्ट्रीय वायुसैनिक अभ्यास में दुनिया भर की दर्जन से अधिक वायुसेना भाग ले रही है। इस अभ्यास में आस्ट्रेलिया के अलावा कनाडा, अमेरिका, फ्रांस, जर्मनी, इंडोनेशिया, नीदरलैंड, न्यूजीलैंड, सिंगापुर, थाईलैंड की वायुसेना शामिल होंगी।

युद्धाभ्यास में भाग लेने जा रही भारतीय सैन्य टुकड़ी में 145 हवाई योद्धा होंगे जिसमें वायुसेना की गरुड़ कंमाडो टीम भी शामिल होगी। इस अभ्यास में भाग ले रहे वायुसेना के चार सुखोई-30 एमकेआई विमानों के अलावा एक सी-130 हक्र्यूलस और एक सी-17 ग्लोब मास्टर विमान आस्ट्रेलिया के लिये रवाना हुए हैं।

अभ्यास में भाग ले रही भारतीय टीम की अगुवाई ग्रुप कैप्टन सीयूवी राव कर रहे हैं। आसमानी युद्ध का अभ्यास एक नियंत्रित माहौल में आयोजित होगा और इस दौरान विभिन्न वायु सेनाएं एक दूसरे की प्रक्रियाओं से सीखेंगे और इसे साझा करेंगी। इस अभ्यास से भारतीय वायुसेना की समाघात रणनीति को अधिक धारदार बनाने का मौका मिलेगा।

अभ्यास की खास बात यह होगी कि सुखोई-30 एमकेआई विमान कलाईकुंडा वायुसैनिक अड्डा से उड़ान भर कर सीधे आस्ट्रेलिया पहुंचेंगे और इस दौरान उन्हें ईंधन की सप्लाई वायुसेना के टैंकर विमान आईएल-78 द्वारा की जाएगी। आस्ट्रेलिया के डारविन वायुसैनिक अड्डे से इंडोनेशिया के सुबांग वायुसैनिक अड्डे के लिये जब वापसी की उड़ान भरेंगे तब आस्ट्रेलियाई वायुसेना के केसी-30ए टैंकर विमान सुखोई-30 विमान में ईंधन भरेंगे।

आस्ट्रेलिया जाते और लौटते वक्त भारतीय वायुसैनिकों को मलेशियाई और इंडोनेशियाई वायुसेना के साथ भी अपने अनुभव साझा करने का मौका मिलेगा।



India-US '2+2' talks on Sept 6

Smita Sharma

The inaugural 2+2 format dialogue between India and the United States has now been rescheduled for September 6 following postponements on two earlier occasions. US Defence Secretary James Mattis and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo will travel to New Delhi to hold discussions with their Indian counterparts Nirmala Sitharaman and Sushma Swaraj.

“The 2+2 meeting will cover a broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues of shared interest, with a view to strengthening strategic and security ties between the two countries,” said MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar.

Interestingly, though the US chose to highlight “challenges in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond” as issues to be jointly addressed in its formal statement on talks that were first proposed during PM Modi’s DC visit to meet President Trump in June 2017.

The new dates have been announced close on the heels of Defence Minister Sitharaman informing that India will go ahead with S-400 long-range air-defence systems acquisition from Russia regardless of the sanctions heat it faces from the Trump administration under the stringent CAATSA law.

“The S-400 deal has been on for a very long time and we have reached the final stage of negotiations,” Sitharaman said in June. The US demand of reducing oil imports from Iran to zero following Trump’s withdrawal from the nuclear deal also looms large in bilateral ties among other major issues. This will be a

high-level dialogue between Delhi and DC weeks after a new government is expected to take shape in Pakistan following general election on July 25.

The talks that were earlier scheduled in April were postponed after Trump replaced Rex Tillerson with former CIA chief as his Secretary of State and senate confirmation was awaited for Pompeo.

Subsequently, the talks rescheduled for July 6 in DC were derailed again as Pompeo headed to Pyongyang instead to take forward the North Korean denuclearisation talks following the summit meeting between Trump and Chairman Kim. Both Delhi and DC had clarified that the postponement was only because of scheduling issues and must not be read as a drift in ties.

What's on Agenda

- A broad range of bilateral, regional and global issues of shared interest
- The focus will be on strengthening strategic and security relations
- US Defence Secretary James Mattis and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo will hold dialogue with Nirmala Sitharaman and Sushma Swaraj in Delhi
- The two sides are also expected to talk about US President Donald Trump's South Asia strategy focusing on Afghanistan and New Delhi's role.



Sat, 21 July, 2018

‘Rent-a-lab’ policy to bring revenues to institutions

The government has proposed a new policy that could transform scientific instruments in government labs into lucrative assets generating a steady rental income. It plans to hire out to researchers all lab equipment that cost more than ₹10 lakh. This would also reduce the amount of time such expensive instruments remain idle.

“To promote ease of access, sharing and monitoring, the granting agencies will henceforth tabulate and put all equipments funded by it costing more than ₹10 lakh on the Internet, to be accessed by researchers,” says a note on the website of the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

The policy, called the Scientific Research Infrastructure Management and Networks (SRIMAN), wouldn't, “for the present,” apply to strategic sectors. The policy is open to public comments for a month.

Explaining the policy's rationale, the government noted that it was “common” to find in Indian laboratories, expensive equipment lying idle. A “large number” are not shared and are plagued by issues such as maintenance and availability of spares.

“This adds to the burden of research infrastructure costs,” the document noted.

The new system, according to the policy, envisages institutions declaring on a website how often their instruments would be available for use by those outside the department or university. Those who would like to use, for example, a DNA-sequencing machine, would have to pay a fee and specify the purpose and time they would want it for.

Currently, the practice of researchers bidding for time-slots to use lab instruments is typically seen more with very expensive equipment, such as radio telescopes and particle-accelerators, which cost crores of rupees. A biologist with a government lab, who didn't want to be identified, said the policy had set a “low bar (₹10 lakh) for instruments” and that could mean that the government could potentially deny funds to buy equipment to researchers. “₹5-10 lakh is no longer a prohibitive cost for the kind of research and results expected today. Because the bar is so low, a researcher could be asked to spend time scouring for minor equipment [to lease],” he said.

“There are several universities that cannot afford expensive equipment. At the same time, these aren't used beyond 20%-30% of their life time,” said Ashutosh Sharma, Secretary, DST. The larger plan is to develop “clusters” of instrumentation facilities.

NASA launches tools to increase commercial use of satellite data

NASA has launched an online toolkit to make it easier for users to find, analyse and utilise the most relevant satellite data for their research, business projects or conservation efforts. The "Remote Sensing Toolkit" provides a simple system that quickly identifies relevant sources based on user input, NASA said in a statement on Thursday. The toolkit is designed to help users search for data, as well as ready-to-use tools and code to build new tools. "This new tool makes finding and using NASA satellite data easier than ever before, and we hope it sparks innovation among the entrepreneurial community and leads to further commercialisation of NASA technology and benefits people across the world," said Daniel Lockney, NASA's Technology Transfer programme executive. "Our mission to bring NASA technology down to Earth is expanding with the release of this remote sensing toolkit," Lockney said. Through its constellation of Earth observation satellites, NASA collects petabytes of data each year.

The variety of open source tools created to access, analyse and utilise the data from these satellites is familiar to millions of science users, but accessing and utilising this data remains daunting for many potential commercial users. For example, NASA's remote-sensing data and tools are spread out across dozens of sites. The NASA Technology Transfer programme reviewed more than 50 websites and found that no source provided a comprehensive collection of information or a single access point to begin a search. This prompted the US space agency to introduce the Remote Sensing Toolkit. "Remote Sensing Toolkit will help grow the number of users who put NASA's free and open data archive to work for people," said Kevin Murphy of NASA's Earth Science Division in Washington.