

नवंबर  
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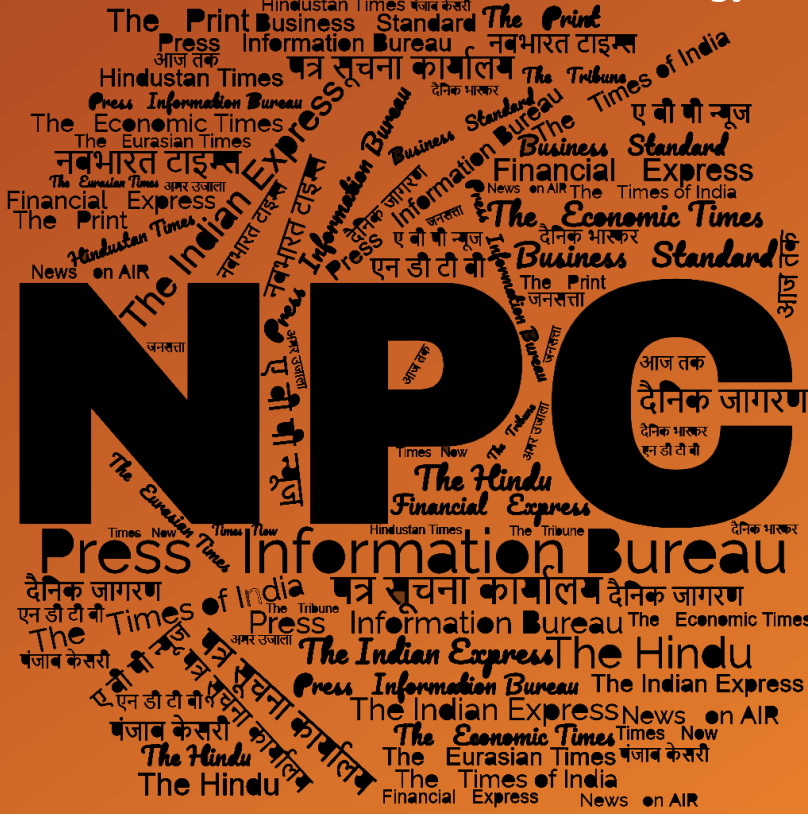
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# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

डीआरडीओ समुदाय को डीआरडीओ प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा प्रौद्योगिकियों, रक्षा नीतियों, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संबंधों और विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी की नूतन जानकारी से अवगत कराने हेतु दैनिक सेवा

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## NE India Broadcast

Tue, 31 Oct 2023

### DRL- DRDO Tezpur Organised Unity Run with a Great Zeal and Enthusiasm



India celebrates Rashtriya Ekta Diwas on October 31 every year to honour Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary. The "Run for Unity" event is an important part of the commemoration. DRL-DRDO Tezpur organized the event at Solmara Army Cantonment in Tezpur to pay tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's legacy. The participation of officers, staff, and scholars from DRL in this event reflects the commitment to promoting national unity and the spirit of togetherness in India. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel played a significant role in the integration of princely states into a united and independent Bharat, and his contributions are remembered and celebrated on this day.

<https://neindiabroadcast.com/2023/10/31/drl-drdo-tezpur-organised-unity-run-with-a-great-zeal-and-enthusiasm/>



**Press Information Bureau**  
**Government of India**

**Ministry of Defence**

*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

### **Raksha Mantri Presides over ‘Run for Unity’ Event in Lucknow on 148th Birth Anniversary of Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**

**National Unity Day is an occasion to pledge ourselves to unity & integrity of India: Shri Rajnath Singh**

**Appeals to the youth to join Mera Yuva Bharat Abhiyan being launched by PM Modi**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh presided over the ‘Run for Unity’ event, organised by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on the occasion of 148th birth anniversary of Iron Man of India Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31, 2023. The 1.5 km run was flagged off by the Raksha Mantri from Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Pratima, Hazratganj and it culminated at KD Singh Babu Stadium. Thousands of people, including school children, NCC cadets, sportspersons & running enthusiasts, and HAL personnel participated in the run.

Shri Rajnath Singh also paid floral tributes at the statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and administered the ‘National Unity Day’ pledge to the people present on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, he termed National Unity Day as an occasion to remember those who contributed to independence and nation-building. “National Unity Day gives us an opportunity to pledge ourselves to the unity of the nation and work towards building ‘Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat,’” he said.

The Raksha Mantri highlighted the role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in nation-building post-independence, applauding his vision & diplomatic skills in ensuring the integration of princely states with the Republic of India and other contributions such as building the steel frame of the Indian Civil Services. “Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s efforts ensured the unity and integrity of India. His role was not given due credit until our government came to power in 2014 and decided to celebrate his birth anniversary as National Unity Day,” he said.

On the ‘Mera Yuva Bharat Abhiyan’ being launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion, Shri Rajnath Singh said the initiative will provide the youth with an opportunity to come forward and take part in nation-building efforts. He called upon the people to come forward for this programme and work for national unity & integration.

The Raksha Mantri lauded Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's initiative of establishing the Statue of Unity, the world's largest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, at Kevadia in Gujarat. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel symbolises the unity of India and his efforts are an inspiration to the youth to take forward the message of national integration, he said.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath, Deputy Chief Ministers Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya & Shri Brajesh Pathak, Cabinet Ministers and Ministers of State of Uttar Pradesh government, Chairman & Managing Director, HAL Shri CB Ananthkrishnan and other officials of HAL and Central & state governments also attended the event.

Various departments under Ministry of Defence, including Department of Defence Production, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Indian Coast Guard (ICG), NCC, Directorate General Defence Estates as well as the three Services organised 'Run for Unity' and administered the 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' pledge at over 160 locations across the country, as part of the National Unity Day celebrations.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1973282>



**Press Information Bureau**  
**Government of India**

**Ministry of Defence**

*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

## **Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) – 2023 Concludes**

**Indian Navy's Out reach Initiative for 'Harnessing Maritime thought'**

### **Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Converting Common Maritime Priorities into Collaborative Mitigating Frameworks**

The fourth edition of the Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) was hosted by the Indian Navy from 29 – 31 Oct 23 under the aegis of the Naval War College, Goa. The conclave's theme "Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean Region: Converting Common Maritime Priorities into Collaborative Mitigating Frameworks" aptly highlights the present and necessary imperative for 'harmonising and collaborating capacities and capabilities' in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) towards realising our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region).

The event hosted Minister/ Chiefs of Navies/ Heads of Maritime Forces from 12 IOR countries comprising Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

On Day 1 of the interaction, the Keynote Address was delivered by the Chief Guest Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture Smt Meenakshi Lekhi delivered the Special Address.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1973007>

Congratulating the GMC initiative for offering a workable platform for meaningful dialogue towards developing mutual trust, a necessary condition for collaboration and growth, Raksha Mantri, emphasised that there is an indispensable responsibility for the countries of the IOR to synergise their efforts towards successfully combating the threats and challenges that manifest either at or from the sea.



The MoS for External Affairs and Culture highlighted the rich maritime history of India and the role of maritime commons in connecting different civilizations across the region, and called for cooperation and capacity building of stakeholders towards enhancing the resilience and prosperity of this region.

Adm R Hari Kumar, the Chief of the Naval Staff, spoke about the GMC evolving from a small construct of Principals of Maritime Security agencies to a functional construct that deals with transnational challenges on the Indian Ocean Region. Highlighting that “oceanic challenges that fester in the Region affect resident states the most” he stated that the idea is to take onus of resolving these issues in a cooperative manner. Thus, “in the last Edition of GMC in 2021, ‘Common Minimum Priorities’ were arrived at, and in this year the aim is to formulate ‘Collaborative Mitigation Frameworks’ to address these priorities”.

VAdm MA Hampiholi, the FOC-in-C Southern Naval Command delivered the initial welcome address wherein he thanked all the delegations for their participation in the Indian Navy’s initiative to harness the joint potential of all in the IOR towards a common future. He emphasised the persistent commitment of the Indian Navy towards a secure and inclusive IOR.

Adm Arun Prakash (retd), former Chief of the Naval Staff, while delivering the conclave address, highlighted the value of collaboration among the IOR countries in ensuring open and secure global commons. He further brought to the attention of the forum various Indian initiatives to enable constructive engagement with all partner nation in the region and also the need to progressively strengthen the existing cooperation mechanisms.

In line with the principal theme of the conclave, on the first day of the event, detailed deliberations were held on four sub-themes:

- Identifying Gaps in Regulatory and Legal Frameworks for Achieving Maritime Security in the IOR
- Formulation of a Common Multi-lateral Maritime Strategy and Operating Protocols for GMC Nations for Collective Mitigation of Maritime Threats and Challenges
- Identification and Establishment of Collaborative Training Programmes with Center of Excellence across the IOR
- Leveraging Activities Pursued Through Existing Multilateral Organisations in the IOR towards Generating Collective Maritime competencies

On the sidelines of the conclave, the Chief of the Naval Staff, the Flag Officers Commanding-in-Chief and the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff held bilateral interactions with their counterparts from the FFCs. In addition, Heads of Delegation/ Chief of Naval Staff from the participating countries also held bilateral interaction with their counterparts from other countries.

On the concluding day, the Chiefs of Navy/ Heads of Delegation shared their perspectives of the opportunities and threats in the IOR. There was a common thread of understanding among all the eminent speakers on the need for cooperation and collaboration in pursuing security and growth for all in the region.

As part of India’s AatmaNirbharta initiative, a “Make in India Exhibition” was organised on the sidelines of the conclave wherein India’s Indigenous shipbuilding industry’s potential was showcased. The dignitaries also visited indigenous warships and witnessed the capabilities of the Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV).

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1973395>



**Press Information Bureau  
Government of India**

**Ministry of Defence**

*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

## **IAF Fighter Squadron Converts from MiG-21 to Su-30 MKI**

The Number 4 Squadron (Oorials) of the Indian Air Force (IAF) based at Air Force Station Uttarlai (Barmer) is converting from the MiG-21 to the Su-30 MKI, marking a watershed moment in the history of the squadron which was operating the MiG-21 since 1966. The MiG-21 was the first supersonic fighter in service of the IAF and was inducted in 1963. It has participated in all major conflicts since then. This change signifies the unwavering commitment of the Indian Air Force to modernise and at the same time protect the skies of the nation.

The formal induction of the new aircraft was marked by a ceremony at Air Force Station Uttarlai on 30 October 23. The ceremony featured a combined flypast by the MiG-21 and Su-30 MKI, which marked the last MiG-21 sortie for the squadron. The ceremony was witnessed by the various military and civilian dignitaries in attendance. The conversion of this squadron to Su-30 MKI implies that the IAF now operates only two squadrons of the MiG-21. The IAF remains committed to phasing out the MiG-21 aircraft by the year 2025.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1973505>



*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

## **IAF Phases out MiG-21 Fighter Squadron Based at Uttarlai in Rajasthan**

The Indian Air Force (IAF), on Tuesday, phased out one more Mig-21 fighter squadron, No. 4 Mig-21 squadron based at Uttarlai and re-equipping it with SU-30MKIs, leaving two squadrons of the legacy jets in service. The Mig-21s will be entirely phased out by 2025 and will be replaced by the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-MK1A which the IAF will start receiving from February 2024 onwards.

“The squadron known as ‘OORIALS’ has been operating the MiG-21 since 1966 and is now being re-equipped with the Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft,” said Colonel Amitabh Sharma, PRO Defence Rajasthan, in a statement. “The MiG-21 Bison flew along side the Su-30 MKI to mark the occasion. During this ceremony, personnel from all the three services were present.”

The MiG-21 Squadron has served the country for approximately six decades and has significantly contributed to the war effort during Indo-Pak conflicts, Col. Sharma said adding that the end of an era the MiG-21 Bison aircraft were seen for the last time in the skies of Uttarlai in Barmer district.

Two Mig-21 squadrons now remain, based at Bikaner and Suratgarh in Rajasthan, which will be phased out by 2025, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari said recently. Each squadron has 16 to 18 fighter planes. Last year, the No. 51 Squadron based in Srinagar was phased out.

“We will stop flying the MiG-21 fighter aircraft by 2025 and we will replace the MiG-21 squadron with the LCA Mark-1A. The same proposal is in place. In another month or so, the second squadron will get number-plated and we will follow with the third one sometime next year. The induction of the LCA Mark-1A will fill the gap of these outgoing MiG-21s,” ACM Chaudhari had said.

The IAF has contracted 83 LCA-MK1A jets and has recently announced its decision to procure 97 additional MK1A jets.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/iaf-phases-out-mig-21-fighter-squadron-based-at-uttar-lai-in-rajasthan/article67479897.ece>

## नवभारत टाइम्स

Tue, 31 Oct 2023

### मिसाइल हमलों से क्या अपने शहरों के बचा सकता है भारत?

रंजीत कुमार

दुश्मन के लड़ाकू विमान, बैलिस्टिक और क्रूज मिसाइल, ड्रोन आकाशीय हमलों से आत्मरक्षा के लिए अमेरिका ने थाड, पेट्रियट, एजिस और इस्राइल ने आयरन-डोम और रूस ने एस-400 जैसी मिसाइल रक्षा प्रणालियों को तैनात कर दिया है। भारत में भी ऐसी ही स्वदेशी एंटी-मिसाइल प्रणाली के विकास पर इस सदी के शुरू से ही काम चल रहा है जिसका रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) ने पहला परीक्षण 2006 में कामयाब बताया था। लेकिन अब तक इसे जमीन पर तैनात करने लायक नहीं समझा गया। आखिरकार रूस से पांच S-400 एंटी मिसाइल सिस्टम खरीदने का फैसला हुआ जिनमें से तीन एंटी मिसाइलें चीन की सीमाओं पर तैनात की जा चुकी हैं।

#### प्रॉजेक्ट कुश

दिक्रत यह है कि इस तरह का एंटी-मिसाइल डिफेंस सिस्टम अत्यधिक महंगा होता है। पांच S-400 की लागत करीब सवा पांच अरब डॉलर यानी करीब 45, 000 करोड़ रुपये है। भारत की मौजूदा आर्थिक क्षमता इस बात की इजाजत नहीं देती कि ऐसी सैकड़ों रक्षात्मक मिसाइल प्रणाली की तैनाती पर हजारों करोड़ डॉलर खर्च किए जाएं। यही वजह है कि आत्मनिर्भर भारत के तहत प्रॉजेक्ट कुश शुरू किया जा रहा है। यह प्रॉजेक्ट कामयाब हुआ तो संभवतः भारत को रूस से और अधिक S-400 एंटी मिसाइलें आयात करने की जरूरत नहीं होगी। लेकिन यह भी देखना होगा कि इस तरह की रक्षात्मक एंटी मिसाइलों की कामयाबी-दर क्या है।

गाजा पट्टी के फिलिस्तीनी जेहादी गुट हमास के रॉकेट हमलों से बचने के लिए इस्राइल के आयरन-डोम नाम के मिसाइल चर्चा में रहे। आयरन-डोम होने के बावजूद 7 अक्टूबर को हमास ने इस्राइल पर हजारों रॉकेट गिरा दिए, जिससे 1400 से अधिक लोग मारे गए। बाद में जब इस्राइली सेना कुछ संभली और आयरन डोम को सक्रियता से तैनात किया तो गाजा पट्टी की ओर से आने वाले अधिकतर रॉकेटों को आसमान में ही रोका जाने लगा। फिर भी कुछ रॉकेटों को इस्राइली शहरों पर गिरने से नहीं रोका जा सका। इससे कुछ बातें बिल्कुल साफ हो जाती हैं।

किसी देश का मिसाइल रक्षा तंत्र झपकी लेते हुए पाया गया तो वह दुश्मन की मिसाइलों को गिरने से नहीं रोक सकेगा। हालांकि इस आशंका में किसी हवाई रक्षा तंत्र को चौबीसो घंटे सक्रिय नहीं रखा जा सकता।

यदि दुश्मन ने अचानक एक साथ सैकड़ों मिसाइलों की वर्षा कर दी तो बारिश की कुछ बूंदें जमीन पर तो टपक ही जाएंगी। इसके बावजूद दुश्मन के मिसाइली हमले से बचाव के लिए रक्षात्मक व्यवस्था की जरूरत से इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता।



दिल्ली, मुंबई जैसे राजनीतिक, आर्थिक महत्व के और घनी आबादी वाले शहर दुश्मन के निशाने पर हमेशा रहेंगे। इसलिए एंटी मिसाइल प्रणालियों को न केवल जमीनी सीमा पर बल्कि बड़े शहरों के इर्द गिर्द भी तैनात करना होगा।

जिस एंटी मिसाइल सिस्टम के विकास की जिम्मेदारी DRDO को सौंपी गई है, वह तीन स्तरों पर रक्षा कवच बना सकेगा। सतह से आसमान में मार करने वाली मिसाइल प्रणाली (एलआर-एसएएम) के लिए रक्षा मंत्रालय ने भारतीय वायुसेना को करीब 22 हजार करोड़ रुपये का बजट मंजूर किया है। इस प्रणाली के तहत 150, 250 और 350 किलोमीटर की दूरी तक हमलावर मिसाइलों को मार गिराने की क्षमता होगी।

इसमें दो राय नहीं कि दुनिया की सभी हवाई रक्षा मिसाइल प्रणालियों की कामयाबी-दर को लेकर सवाल उठाए जाते रहे हैं। मगर तमाम सीमाओं के बावजूद भारत को लंबी दूरी से आने वाली बैलिस्टिक परमाणु मिसाइलों से अपने बड़े शहरों को बचाने के लिए कोई इंतजाम तो भारत को करना ही होगा। ध्यान रहे, देश के बड़े और महत्वपूर्ण शहरों की रक्षा जितनी अहम है, इन शहरों में रह रहे लोगों को मिलने वाला यह मनोवैज्ञानिक भरोसा भी उतना ही जरूरी है। अपनी तमाम सीमाओं के बावजूद ये एंटी-मिसाइल सिस्टम लोगों में सुरक्षा का भरोसा पैदा करते हैं।

यह रखना होगा कि आज का युद्ध काफी जटिल हो गया है। इसमें नित नए रक्षात्मक और हमलावर तंत्र का समावेश हो रहा है। इसी के तहत ड्रोन को हमलावर युद्ध रणनीति में शामिल किया जाना दुनिया की हर सेना के लिए भारी चुनौती बन गया है।

बगैर पायलट के उड़ रहे इन ड्रोनों से बचाव में एंटी मिसाइल प्रणालियां भी कई बार कामयाब नहीं होतीं। ये ड्रोन सूक्ष्म, छोटे और बड़े आकार के होते हैं। मधुमक्खियों के झुंड की तरह इनसे दुश्मन पर हमला करवाया जा सकता है। ऐसी स्थिति में किसी भी रक्षा प्रणाली के लिए इन्हें आसमान में ही रोक देना कितना मुश्किल है, आसानी से समझा जा सकता है।

### क्या हैं सीमाएं?

कुल मिलाकर देखें तो मामला सीधा सादा नहीं लगता। भारत जैसे बड़े देश को अपने महत्वपूर्ण शहरों की हमलावर ड्रोनों या बैलिस्टिक मिसाइलों से सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए सैकड़ों हवाई रक्षा मिसाइल प्रणालियों की तैनाती करनी होगी, जिनके लिए लाखों करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करना होगा जो आसान नहीं है। फिर भी देश के हर शहर और सामरिक महत्व के हर ठिकाने पर एंटी मिसाइल प्रणालियां तैनात नहीं की जा सकती हैं। ऐसे में जब दुश्मन को पता होगा कि देश का कौन सा शहर या कोना असुरक्षित है तो वह उन ठिकानों को निशाना बना सकता है। ऐसे में इन सभी शहरों के लिए हमेशा जाग्रत अवस्था में तैनात रहने के लिए दस-बीस ही नहीं सैकड़ों एंटी मिसाइलों की व्यवस्था कैसे हो सकेगी?

<https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/navbharatgold/breaking-news-in-hindi/does-india-have-anti-missile-defense-system/story/104858146.cms>



Tue, 31 Oct 2023

## Project Kusha: Will it Become India's Own Version of Iron Dome Defence System?

By Aveck Banerjee

Amid the Israel-Hamas war, the Iron Dome air defence system has garnered much attention for its state-of-the-art defence capability and interception of rockets from a large distance. Now, a similar, if not better, project will be undertaken by India to build its first air defence system that is said to be deployed by 2028-29.

According to reports, India's own long-range air defence system, titled 'Project Kusha', is being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It will be capable of detecting and destroying enemy projectiles and armour, including cruise missiles, stealth fighter jets, and drones at long range.

The ambitious project is believed to not only perform better than Israel's Iron Dome system, but also rival the effectiveness of Russia's S-400 system and the 'Patriot' system of the United States. It will represent a significant milestone in India's pursuit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

### **How will it work?**

The indigenous long-range surface-to-air defence system (LR-SAM) includes long-range surveillance and fire control radars, along with interceptor missiles that can detect and strike hostile targets at the ranges of 150 km, 200 km, and 350 km. It will also be effective in providing strategic and tactical cover.

The system reportedly has a single-shot kill chance of at least 80% and over 90% when two missiles are fired after each other. The surveillance and fire control radars will enable the Indian Air Force (IAF) to effectively monitor the airspace and defend against enemy strikes.

Additionally, the firing units of the LR-SAM system will also be able to interact with the IAF's air command and control system to integrate a wide array of military radars. Overall, this desi version of the Iron Dome system will significantly boost India's defence capability and ensure the safety of Indian airspace by detecting and targeting hostile forces from a very long distance.

### **How much does it cost?**

It is worth mentioning that India already possesses Russia's S-400 air defence system. It has signed a contract with Russia for five squadrons of the S-400 air defence missile systems, out of which three units have been delivered on time while the remaining two have not been supplied yet due to complications following the Ukraine war.

'Project Kusha' received approval for funding amounting to an estimated budget of Rs 21,700 crore for five squadrons. The DRDO will spearhead the initiative with the involvement of both the public and private sectors.

If developed successfully, the ambitious project will launch India into an elite group of countries that possess indigenous capabilities to tackle aerial attacks over long distances.

### **Why do we need it?**

The need for such a project is quite high in current times with threats emerging from neighbourhood countries like Pakistan and China. The latter also uses Russia's S-400 missile system and has deployed several missile batteries across the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China has also accelerated the production of indigenous defence capabilities to strengthen its military. Although they are considered less capable than the S-400, nevertheless they represent a serious threat to India. Considering that China can fire missiles at India, it is pertinent that New Delhi arm itself with state-of-the-art air defence systems.

India's relations with China have nosedived following the Galwan Valley dispute in 2020, marking the most serious military conflict between both sides. India and China's strained relationship has been fueled by recent Chinese provocations, including releasing the 2023 edition of its "standard map", staking a claim over Arunachal Pradesh, Aksai Chin region and denial of visas to Indian athletes in the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Another thing to be taken into consideration is that China is an 'all-weather friend' to Pakistan, and might help Islamabad to strengthen the latter's defence capabilities to be used against India. Faced

with the challenges, 'Project Kusha' is another effort by India in deterrence against a two-front conflict.

### **About Israel's Iron Dome system**

Project Kusha is said to be comparable, if not better, than Israel's Iron Dome system. The Iron Dome is a ground-to-air defence system that comprises radar and interceptor missiles that are capable of tracking and neutralising any rockets or missiles fired towards targets in Israel.

It is particularly useful in defending against rockets, artillery and mortars, as well as aircraft, helicopters and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). The Dome has a range of close to 70 km and has three crucial components, Detection and Tracking radar, Battle Management and Weapons Control and the Missile Launcher armed with 20 Tamir Missiles.

The air defence system was long touted to be the best in business and providing ironclad security to Israel. However, it found itself overpowered when Hamas launched a barrage of rockets from the Gaza Strip, as Israel's robust intelligence security agencies were caught completely off-guard.

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/explainers/project-kusha-will-it-become-india-s-own-version-of-iron-dome-defence-system-china-pakistan-drdo-explained-2023-10-31-900550>



*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

## **India, Russia to Meet to Discuss Delivery of Last S-400 Missile Defence System Squadrons**

Indian and Russian officials will soon meet to discuss and decide about final delivery schedule for last two squadrons of Russian S-400 missile defence system. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has already operationalised three of these squadrons. The delivery of the last two was delayed due to the Russia-Ukraine war.

The Russian air defence missile system is considered to be one of the best in the world. In 2018-19, India signed a USD 4.2 billion contract with Russia for five squadrons of S-400 missiles.

"The three squadrons have already been operationalised in important sectors. While one unit is looking at both China and Pakistan, one each has been earmarked for China and Pakistan fronts," a report from ANI news agency said, citing defence sources.

The Russian side has reportedly not made it fully clear when the delivery for the remaining squadrons will take place, as the Ukraine war is still going on.

According to ANI, there were unconfirmed reports that the squadrons that were manufactured for the Indian Air Force were used by Russians.

The Indian Defence Acquisition Council recently cleared the procurement of Indian Long Range Surface to Air Missile system (LR-SAM). This is part of Project Kusha. The development project was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security.

The LRSAM is three-layered long-range surface-to-air missile defence system that is capable of striking down enemy aircraft and missiles from surface. The range of this system is 400 km.

India already has air defence systems. They are sure to complement LRSAM.

Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) is one such missile system that is used by all three defence services of India. The addition of S-400 will boost India's defence capabilities.

<https://www.wionews.com/india-news/india-russia-to-meet-to-discuss-delivery-of-last-s-400-squadrons-653318>

## THE TIMES OF INDIA

*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

### **National Cyber Security Awareness Month: Security Tools are No Longer a Choice, but Necessity**

Every year, October marks the National Cyber Security Awareness Month. Month-long awareness campaigns are organised across the country and ministries. The first-ever Cyber Security Awareness Month was observed in 2004 as a significant initiative launched by the US Department of Homeland Security and National Cybersecurity Alliance. Today, it is globally recognised in the cybersecurity community as an important month to reinforce the importance of safeguarding our digital lives and businesses. On the concluding day of the month, here are some quotes from experts.

#### **Pravir Dahiya, CTO, Tata Teleservices**

"Network security is the bedrock of digital trust and connectivity. As businesses embrace technology's transformative power, robust security practices are imperative. In a dynamic threat landscape, complacency is not an option, businesses need to take adequate cybersecurity measures. It goes beyond firewalls and encryption, entailing a proactive commitment to safeguard data, ensure uninterrupted operations, and uphold network integrity."

Vinod Nair, President - Noventiq India "In today's age of the digital economy, both in India and across the globe, it's no longer a choice but a necessity to not only embrace technological advancements but to champion security as our guiding principle."

Sujit Patel, MD and CEO, SCS Tech "October is recognised as Cyber Security Awareness Month. As we progress, we must understand what it means to be secure online. So much of our personal and professional lives take place on the Internet, and the majority of data breaches are the result of incorrectly exposed information. The best approach to promote awareness is that more organisations engage in cyber security. Employees are essential in day-to-day operations and deal more with sensitive data. They operate as the company's representative, engage with consumers, and handle sensitive information. Organisations must adopt cybersecurity awareness training to improve enterprise-wide threat awareness."

#### **Sandeep Peshkar, Senior Vice President, Arete**

"The intensifying cyber threats in India call for a proactive and comprehensive approach to cybersecurity. The rapid escalation of cyber threats in India from 2022 to 2023 is a pressing issue that demands our collective attention. Organizations must invest in robust threat detection, incident response, and employee training to stay ahead of cyber adversaries."

#### **Sunil Sharma, Vice President, Sales, Sophos India & SAARC**

"This month marks the 20th annual Cybersecurity Awareness Month with governments and industries worldwide coming together to increase awareness for cybersecurity challenges and threats. The 2023 theme for Cybersecurity Awareness Month is "Secure Our World" – emphasising

how individuals, families and small- to-medium-sized businesses can bolster cybersecurity through simple, but critical, measures. These include setting stronger passwords, activating multi-factor authentication, recognizing and reporting phishing attacks, and regularly updating software."

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/gadgets-news/national-cyber-security-awareness-month-security-tools-are-no-longer-a-choice-but-necessity/articleshow/104850261.cms>



*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

## **Crisis in the South China Sea: Rising Tensions and Regional Concerns**

As global attention remains fixed on the conflicts between Israel and Hamas and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine disputes, China continues to employ assertive tactics in the South China Sea.

On Monday, China mobilized its naval and aerial forces to intercept a Philippine warship attempting to enter the South China Sea. The South Theater Command of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) reported that a Philippine corvette had made an unauthorized attempt to breach the maritime border near Huangyan Island. In response, China's Southern Command dispatched both naval and air assets to intercept, closely monitor, issue warnings, and ultimately block the Philippine vessel.

China asserts territorial claims over a vast expanse of the South China Sea, which includes portions of the exclusive economic zones of neighboring countries such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.

Notably, the Philippines has refrained from an immediate response to China's actions in the South China Sea. This, however, is not an isolated incident in the interactions between Chinese and Philippine forces. In the previous week, a Chinese Coast Guard vessel intercepted and halted a supply boat from the Philippines, an action that the Philippines vehemently condemned.

The "Sierra Madre," a World War II-era Philippine warship, currently rests submerged in the Second Thomas Shoal within the South China Sea. The Philippines Navy repurposes this derelict ship as a makeshift naval base, and Chinese vessels frequently attempt to disrupt the logistical and resupply operations to the stationed soldiers.

China accuses the Philippine ship of trespassing in the vicinity of Scarborough Shoal. It has issued an official statement, urging the Philippines to immediately cease provocations.

This warning from the Chinese military is an unusual one, primarily targeted at the Philippines' actions in the territorial waters of the South China Sea. Previously, the majority of China's warnings were aimed at U.S. warships operating in the area.

Over time, China and the Philippines have found themselves engaged in numerous confrontations within the South China Sea, with recent incidents involving mutual accusations regarding the collision of a Philippine boat and a Chinese coast guard vessel.

Senior Colonel Tian Junli, the spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army Southern Theater Command, stated, "We are urging the Philippine side to immediately stop its infringement and provocations and earnestly avoid further escalation."



Furthermore, China, Taiwan, and the Philippines all stake claims to Scarborough Shoal, intensifying the ongoing disputes in the region.

Tensions have escalated due to various factors. Notably, China expressed its dissatisfaction with the Philippines' decision to purchase supersonic cruise missiles (BrahMos) from India in January of this year, a move aimed at bolstering its coastal defense.

Regarding the recent incident, China has criticized the Philippines for growing closer to the United States and holds the Philippines accountable for provocative actions. It suggests that the Philippines may be attempting to garner attention from the United States or be influenced by the nation.

China's state-run media outlet, 'Global Times,' even issued a warning, suggesting that such provocations could "backfire" because the United States might exploit the situation without necessarily defending the interests of the Philippines.

These developments coincide with a recent incident in which a Chinese J-11 fighter jet attempted to intimidate an American B-52 bomber by flying at high speeds and performing dangerous manoeuvres in the South China Sea airspace on October 24. The US Indo-Pacific Command released a video of this incident and issued a stern warning to China.

The Pentagon's China Military Power Report (CMPR) has also noted that Chinese fighter jets engaged in dangerous flights approximately 180 times since 2021. The report highlights "unsafe, unprofessional, and unproductive behaviour" by Chinese pilots, which poses risks to safe air operations by the United States and other countries in the East and South China Sea. Declassified photos and videos have accompanied this report, depicting instances of hazardous Chinese military activities in international airspace.

China's stance is unyielding: it prohibits foreign warships from entering the South China Sea, even as it permits military aircraft from various countries to navigate the airspace. China's claim extends to the entirety of the South China Sea, including exclusive economic zones belonging to neighbouring nations such as the Philippines, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. China refuses to acknowledge the 2016 ruling by the International Court that rejected its claims.

In response, countries like the United States and India have voiced strong opposition to China's assertive behavior. On Monday, India's Defense Minister, Rajnath Singh, explicitly emphasized the importance of a "free, open, and rules-based maritime order" for all nations.

Speaking at the Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC), hosted by India and attended by a dozen countries in the Indian Ocean region, including Bangladesh, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand, Rajnath Singh emphasized the need to adhere to international laws and agreements. He cautioned against jeopardizing established international law in pursuit of narrow, immediate interests, as such actions could harm civilized maritime relations.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-crisis-in-the-south-china-sea-rising-tensions-and-regional-concerns-3292170/>



*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

### **ISRO Receives Massive Response for its Innovative POEM Platform**

For scientists who want to conduct experiments in a microgravity environment or demonstrate new technologies developed for Earth orbit, there are only two options available. The first is to deploy the payload on a satellite, and find a suitable taxi to Earth orbit, preferably with a ridesharing agreement that is more affordable. The second option is to ferry the payload to one of the orbital platforms in Earth orbit, either the International Space Station or the Chinese Tiangong Space Station. ISRO is the only space agency that offers a third option, which is a bit of a hack, that maximises the returns from the spent or discarded upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), ISRO's workhorse rocket that is used for most of the satellite launches. The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module (POEM) can host scientific payloads, and provides support in the form of communication hardware, batteries, as well as deployable solar panels that act as an energy source. The best thing is that ISRO Chairman S Somanath has indicated that the platform is mostly going to provide access to space to Indian researchers, for free.

Previously, the single window clearing agency for all private spaceflight activities from India, IN-SPACe had announced an opportunity to host payloads on POEM. The Department of Space has now revealed that it has received 34 applications from 26 different entities, which are mostly private aerospace startups or academic institutions across the country looking to demonstrate or validate technologies that are currently in development.

The Department of Space has indicated that it is in the process of evaluating the proposals, to select the POEM payloads that will be included on two future PSLV flights. One of the biggest roadblocks for new companies when it comes to developing orbital technologies, is just the access to space. By providing affordable and sustainable access to Earth orbit, the PSLV has thrown open the gates to space.

<https://www.news9live.com/science/isro-receives-massive-response-for-its-innovative-poem-platform-2336591>

## **The Statesman**

*Tue, 31 Oct 2023*

### **ISRO Team Begins Badrinath Shrine Survey Following PMO Order**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has begun geological survey of Badrinath Shrine area, following an order from Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for a detailed report of the moraine

based Himalayan terrain before taking up the second phase of construction works in accordance with the newly prepared Master Plan.

The state government officials informed that PMO ordered a survey following objections raised by the Badrinath priests against the construction works nearly a month ago. As per the PMO order, the construction work within 70 meters radius of the Badrinath shrine will begin only after the survey report is submitted to the government for perusal and necessary instructions.

The Uttarakhand government officials have informed that a six-member team of ISRO's Hyderabad based National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC) began geological survey of Badrinath Shrine area and redevelopment site on Sunday. The ISRO team will assess if the ongoing first phase construction works in the shrine area have caused any damage to the revered 'Panch Dhara' (five water streams) and track route of hot water spring channel to find its destination.

When contacted, senior geologist and key member of the ISRO team, Prof MPS Bisht informed: "The survey works began on Sunday following direction from the PMO. The six-member team of ISRO is mainly focussing on geological study, thermal imaging and assessment of other topographical features at Badrinath reconstruction site."

It is worth noting that a Gujarat based construction firm working in Badrinath had started the drilling work close to the 'Panch Dhara' and hot spring reservoir area more than a month ago as per its construction plan.

However, the JCB was damaging the original structure of the site, angering local priests and others. They protested against the construction, demanding its immediate stoppage. The matter was brought to the knowledge of the PMO, resulting in a survey order.

<https://www.thestatesman.com/india/isro-team-begins-badrinath-shrine-survey-following-pmo-order-1503236536.html>

