

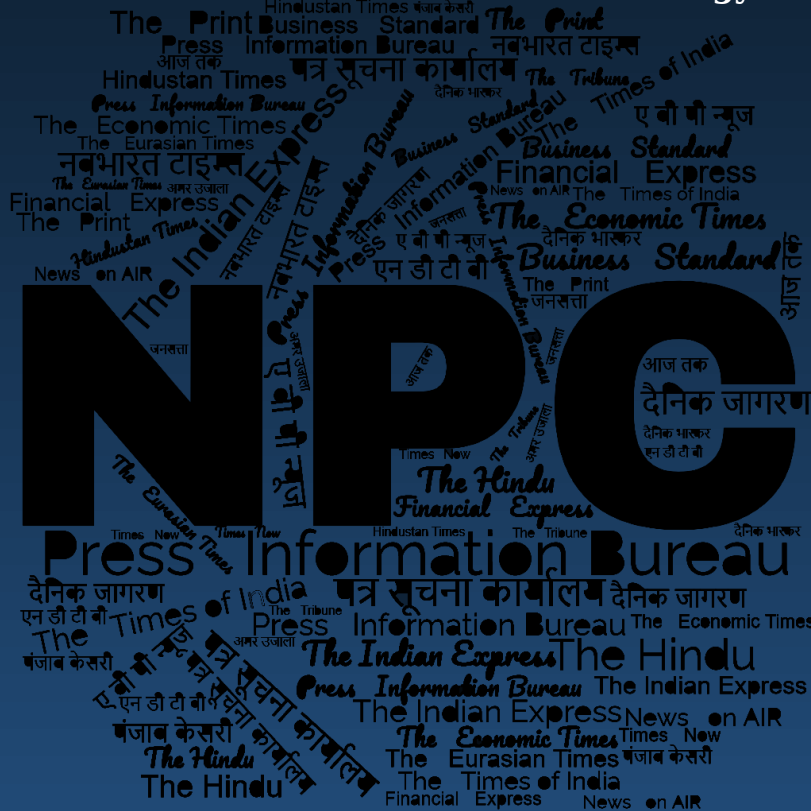
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Tue, 09 Apr 2024

Inauguration of Naval PIER and Residential Accommodations by Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff at Naval Base Karwar as Part of Project Seabird Phase IIA

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff inaugurated one major Pier and Residential Accommodations at Naval Base Karwar on 09 April 24 in the presence of Vice Admiral SJ Singh, C-in-C, Western Naval Command, Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, Rear Admiral KM Ramakrishnan, Flag Officer Commanding Karnataka Naval Area, Rear Admiral Cyril Thomas, Additional Director General Seabird and other senior officers.

The Pier 3 Offshore Patrol Vessel Pier is 350m long, capable of berthing OPVs, large survey vessels and Mine Counter Measure Vessels. The pier would also provide various shore based services, such as electrical power, potable water, chilled water for air conditioning, 30 ton mobile crane and other domestic services to the ships.

The residential accommodation consists of 2 towers of 80 flats for Married Officers (Lt Cdr to Capt) and 149 flats of Single Officers' Accommodation along with related amenities and external services. Further, 6 towers of Type-II accommodation consisting of 360 flats for Defence Civilians were also inaugurated.

These infrastructure developments are part of ongoing Phase IIA of Project Seabird which will accommodate 32 ships and submarines, 23 yard crafts, a dual-use Naval Air Station, a full-fledged Naval Dockyard, four covered Dry Berths and logistics for ships and aircraft. It will also house around 10,000 uniformed and civilian personnel with families, significantly boosting the local economy and industrial growth. The Naval Air Station with Civil Enclave is anticipated to enhance tourism in North Karnataka and South Goa. The ongoing construction of Phase-IIA of Project Seabird has created 7,000 direct and 20,000 indirect jobs. The Project aligns with 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', sourcing over 90% of materials domestically.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2017557>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Tue, 09 Apr 2024

Indian Coast Guard Vessel Samudra Paheredar Makes a Port Call at Muara, Brunei

Indian Coast Guard's Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) Samudra Paheredar made a port call at Muara, Brunei on 09 April 2024, as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to ASEAN countries. The visit of ICG specialized vessel to ASEAN countries is in pursuance of India ASEAN Initiative for Marine Pollution, as announced by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in the year 2022 in Cambodia during the ASEAN Defence Minister Plus Meeting.

During the three-day visit, the crew of ICGS Samudra Paheredar will engage in professional interactions focusing on Marine Pollution Response (MPR), Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR), and Maritime Law Enforcement. Activities include cross-deck training, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, and sports events with Brunei Maritime Agencies.

The visit aims not only to strengthen ties between the Indian Coast Guard and their Brunei counterparts but also to showcase India's shipbuilding capabilities, supporting the concept of "Aatamnirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India". Additionally, 25 National Cadet Corps (NCC) aboard ICGS Samudra Paheredar will participate in Beach Cleanup activities in collaboration with local youth organizations, contributing to the Government's initiative "Puneet Sagar Abhiyan".

This overseas deployment is a testimony to the Indian Coast Guard's commitment to bolster bilateral relationships and enhance international cooperation with Foreign Friendly Countries (FFCs). Before Muara, ICGS Samudra Paheredar visited Vietnam and the Philippines, demonstrating a seamless continuation of diplomatic maritime engagements in the ASEAN region.

ICGS Samudra Paheredar's deployment to the ASEAN region reflects India's shared concern and resolve towards Marine Pollution, promoting maritime safety and security through maritime cooperation, aligned with India's maritime vision encapsulated in SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region, Act East Policy and Indo Pacific Vision.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2017549>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Tue, 09 Apr 2024

'Wars are Changing': Army Chief and CDS Want Indian Forces to Adopt De-novo Mantra for Future Warfare

The Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan initiated 'Parivartan Chintan' in New Delhi, highlighting the need for developing a joint culture for the Armed Forces. He stated, "We need to distil the best of each service to give a de-novo approach to traditional concepts."

The conference focused on generating fresh ideas, initiatives, and reforms to propel jointness and integration among the three services. "Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan initiated the

'Chintan' by highlighting the need for developing a joint culture for the armed forces, which, while respecting the uniqueness of each service, distils the best of each service to give a de-novo approach to traditional concepts," the defence ministry said.

"He also stressed upon the need to integrate the capabilities of each service by creating structures that increase our efficiency and enhance our warfighting ability and interoperability," it said in a statement. The ministry said "jointness and integration" are the "cornerstones" of the transformation to joint structures which the Indian armed forces are progressing towards with the intention of being "future ready".

The 'Parivartan Chintan' conference in Delhi was attended by officers from all three services and Headquarters IDS, focused on initiating the next generation of reforms related to modernization, procurement, training, and collaboration, while considering emerging technologies and national strategic issues. Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Lt Gen JP Mathew expressed confidence that these interactions would guide the evolution of Joint Operational Structures towards a Future Ready Indian Armed Forces.

Key Points Addressed by Gen. Chauhan at the 'Parivartan Chintan':

The need for Jointness 2.0, reinforcing positives, and ensuring speed and momentum in the transformation to joint structures.

Larger-scale reforms aimed at developing a joint culture and quantifying integration efforts to increase efficiency, enhance warfighting ability, and ensure interoperability.

The importance of integrating the capabilities of each service through structured initiatives.

Deliberations on Theatre Commands:

The conference discussed how jointness and integration were essential for the implementation of theatre commands, a key part of the government's defence reforms.

Gen. Chauhan highlighted the need to distil the best of each service while respecting their uniqueness, to bring a fresh approach to traditional concepts.

Cornerstones of Transformation:

The defence ministry highlighted "jointness and integration" as the cornerstones of the transformation to joint structures, ensuring the Indian armed forces are "future ready."

The previous day, General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), had visited the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) in Wellington, Tamil Nadu, to engage in crucial dialogue on national security, emerging global trends, and the Indian Army's transformational initiatives.

His visit aimed to provide a comprehensive overview of the challenges and opportunities for the Indian Army in the realm of national security and technological advancements.

Key Dialogue Points:

General Pande addressed the faculty and officers of the 79th Staff Course, including 36 officers from friendly foreign nations, discussing a range of topics vital for today's dynamic security environment. He emphasized the necessity of cross-functional synergy among the three services, stating, "The three services must act together..We have to look at the entire spectrum of national security and then frame our responses accordingly."

Threat Assessment and Readiness:

He highlighted the importance of effectively assessing threats through various methods and identifying capabilities, then reaching readiness within the policies, and responding appropriately within the National Security Framework.

Technology and Strategic Competition:

General Pande called technology the new strategic competition arena, emphasizing its weaponization across various domains. He noted, "The nature of warfare is changing. The very character of warfare is becoming more complex and lethal. New domains of warfare such as space, cyber, the electromagnetic spectrum, and information have emerged."

Global Trends and India's Stature:

Discussing the geo-strategic landscape and emerging trends, he highlighted the unprecedented scale and speed of change in the current global arena. He pointed out the emergence of new trendlines triggered by this rapid change and stressed the importance of safeguarding India's interests across expanding strategic horizons.

Year of Tech Absorption:

General Pande gave a special focus on the "Year of Tech Absorption" in 2024, emphasizing the key areas of emphasis in this initiative, including aligning and synergizing technology at multiple levels, mapping futuristic technologies, strengthening the defence technology ecosystem, and ensuring seamless technology induction through acquisition and procurement processes.

India's Defence Capabilities and Self-Reliance:

General Pande stressed the importance of India being strong and self-reliant in its defence capabilities, achieving a strategic balance in the evolving geopolitical landscape. He stated, "We must remain strong and self-reliant in defence. Achieving strategic balance is critical in the evolving geopolitical landscape."

Closing Remarks and Vigilance:

In his closing remarks, the COAS urged the young officers to remain vigilant for "Black Swan" events, always expecting the unexpected in the dynamic world of national security. He emphasized bringing transformation within the Indian Army, maintaining the highest standards of professionalism, and prioritizing organizational interests.

The visit and conference underscored the commitment of the Indian Armed Forces to enhance jointness and integration, ensuring they are "Future Ready" to tackle modern challenges and safeguard India's interests effectively. There were overlapping themes of discussion between the two conferences, with India's future readiness at the crux of both.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/wars-are-changing-army-chief-and-cds-want-indian-forces-to-adopt-de-novo-mantra-for-future-warfare/articleshow/109152428.cms>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Tue, 09 Apr 2024

'If we Change China's...': Rajnath Singh Warns Beijing against Renaming Places in Arunachal

Union defence minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday fired off a stern caveat to China against renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh and reaffirmed India's stance to respond if its "honour is hurt".

During his public rally in Arunachal's Namsai, Rajnath Singh said "nothing is going to happen by changing the names".

He said if New Delhi decided to change the names of Chinese provinces, it would not become part of the Indian territory.

"China has changed the names of 30 places in Arunachal Pradesh and posted on its website. I want to tell my neighbour that nothing is going to happen by changing the names. If tomorrow we change the names of some provinces and some States of China, so by doing that will those areas become a part of India?" said the defence minister.

He said India aspires to maintain good relations with neighbours but not at the cost of honour.

"Atal Bihari Vajpayee used to say that friends change in life but neighbours do not change. India's thinking is that we want to maintain good relations with all our neighbours but if someone tries to hurt India's honour then today India has the power to respond to it," said Rajnath Singh.

Underlining Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat (developed India) goal, Rajnath Singh said it's not only a slogan but the BJP's commitment.

"Our Prime Minister has also pledged to make India a developed country by 2047. Viksit Bharat is not our slogan but our commitment. If today BJP-led is working to take the country forward, then it should have your full support," Rajnath Singh said.

The defence minister's remarks have come in the backdrop of China releasing a list of 30 places in Arunachal Pradesh in a bid to assert its claim over India's northeastern state.

However, the ministry of external affairs firmly rejected China's attempt to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh, saying assigning invented names will "not alter the reality that the state will always be an integral and inalienable part of India".

"China has persisted with its senseless attempts to rename places in the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh. We firmly reject such attempts. Assigning invented names will not alter the reality that Arunachal Pradesh is, has been, and will always be an integral and inalienable part of India," External Affairs ministry official spokesperson, Randhir Jaiswal said in an official statement.

According to a March 30 report in its state-run Global Times, the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs released a fourth list of standardized geographical names in Zangnan, the name that China uses for Arunachal Pradesh.

According to the official website of the ministry, 30 additional publicly used place names in the Zangnan region have been officially revealed, the Global Times report said.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/if-we-change-chinas-rajnath-singh-warns-beijing-against-renaming-places-in-arunachal/articleshow/109165737.cms>



Wed, 10 Apr 2024

Strategic Military Infra Upgrade in the Works for Andaman & Nicobar Islands

With revamped airfields and jetties to additional logistics and storage facilities, habitat for troops to a robust surveillance infrastructure, the strategic Andaman and Nicobar Islands are in the middle of a major military infrastructure upgrade, senior officials familiar with the developments have told The Indian Express.

The enhanced infrastructure is aimed to facilitate deployment of additional military forces, and facilities for larger and more warships, aircraft, missile batteries and troops.

The ongoing large-scale construction activities come amid growing Chinese attempts to expand its influence in the region, which includes the construction of a military facility at Myanmar's Coco Islands lying 55 km north of A&N Islands.

There are 836 Islands in A&N, of which only 38 are inhabited.

The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is the first and only tri-service command in the islands and was established in 2001.

Sources said there are plans to significantly enhance the surveillance infrastructure at one of the northern islands of A&N, and to construct a permanent habitat for troops there.

The sources said that work on increasing the length of an airstrip at a vital naval air station is being carried out in phases to enable landing of bigger aircraft like P8Is and fighter jets. Its jetty is also being expanded for use by larger ships.

As part of the infrastructure upgrade, a road from the north of the islands to Port Blair in the south is being improved for more traffic.

Other major infrastructure upgrades include upgrading an IAF station to hold fighter squadrons, and for longer durations. This includes plans to expand the runway to nearly 3,000 metres and the creation of infrastructure for the maintenance of assets.

The Centre is also working to construct a container transshipment terminal alongside associated infrastructure to support traffic and operations.

Last year, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan inaugurated a modern Hangar and Dispersal system at INS Utkrosh in Port Blair. In February this year, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar inaugurated a Precision Approach Radar (PAR) at INS Utkrosh to enable accurate horizontal and vertical guidance to land an aircraft safely in low visibility conditions as well as the Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System, the Navy said.

Admiral Kumar had also inaugurated the Naval Communication Network (NCN) Centres at INS Kohassa, INS Baaz and INS Kardi, designed to further augment the communication and operational capability of the ANC.

Earlier this month, the Centre is learnt to have asked the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) to increase its manpower to analyse satellite imagery, technical capacity of NRSC analysis and dissemination of analysed data to enhance surveillance of 55 inhabited islands in Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

The NRSC at Hyderabad is responsible for remote sensing satellite data acquisition and processing, data dissemination, aerial remote sensing and decision support for disaster management.

Last month, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) held a Multi-Agency Maritime Security Group (MAMSG)-Policy meeting with officials of coastal security of A&N and Lakshadweep, Navy, and NRSC to discuss the surveillance of uninhabited islands.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/strategic-military-infra-upgrade-in-the-works-for-andaman-nicobar-islands-9261093/>

Germany Fully Backs Submarine Negotiations with India, Wants to Offer Military Cooperation Alternatives to New Delhi: German Envoy

The German government is fully backing negotiations with the Indian Navy for its Project 75 India tender to build six new conventional submarines in which German firm Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems is partnering with Indian Mazgaon Dockyards Limited as one of the two competing industry teams, Germany's Ambassador to India Philipp Ackerman said.

In an interview over email, the German envoy said that New Delhi was at the forefront of Berlin's business strategy in Asia where it was strongly diversifying its business relations due to the "increasingly challenging behaviour of India's big neighbour in the North East" and other reasons.

"I can state that Germany is committed to team up with an Indian dockyard to build high-tech submarines in India and that my government is wholeheartedly supporting the ongoing negotiations. The process is still ongoing and the decision is for India to take. What we can say though is that this project already is accelerating our defence partnership and therefore works as a lighthouse for future cooperation," he said.

Project 75 India is an Indian Navy project where it wants to build six bigger conventional submarines with Air Independent Propulsion technology. German firm Thyssenkrupp and Spanish firm Navantia are partnering with MDL and Larsen and Toubro respectively for this project expected to be worth over six billion euros.

The German ambassador did not comment upon the recent issue where the German foreign office gave a statement about the arrest of the Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, which was strongly objected to by India as interference in its internal affairs.

Asked why India can count on Germany as its strategic partner, Ackerman said: "Because Germany's shift towards India and the Indo-Pacific is manifesting itself in very concrete actions: military visits and joint exercises, potential co-production of advanced military hardware, more collaboration in the area of cyber and strengthening our interoperability."

He said that Germany would be sending its fighters including the Eurofighter Typhoons and transport aircraft - A400M - to India and spearhead a European team together with France and Spain for an exercise near Coimbatore.

"We team up with the Indian Air Force to participate in the first phase of Tarang Shakti. It is the first time that Germany is sending his Air Force to India to participate in such a high scale exercise.. In October, two German ships, one frigate and one support ship, will come to Goa to show their presence and train together with our close partners and friends from the Indian Navy," he said while listing details of the engagement with the Indian military in near future.

The German envoy to India said that high-ranking visits from Germany are expected this summer and autumn to witness and politically support this joint exercise. "And I am very optimistic that from this year onwards, we will have joint exercises on a regular, annual," the German Ambassador said. Talking about the changed German foreign policy and attitude towards India, Ackerman said that there is an even bigger political will in Berlin to boost defence ties with India and build a long-term and substantial strategic partnership.

"That is why we push for a stronger German and European cooperation with partners in the Indo-Pacific. The German government did open its defence export policy and our collaboration with India in that regard is one of the most important examples of this shift. It is in our interest that India diversifies its military cooperation and together with our American and European partners, we want to offer alternatives to the Indian government," he said.

On the role of India in its Indo-Pacific strategy for 2020, the German Ambassador said that Germany as a trading nation with strong international links, has a great interest in free shipping routes and in the preservation of peace and stability in the region.

"As a result of Russia's war of aggression and the increasingly challenging behaviour of India's big neighbour in the North East, Germany is strongly diversifying its trade relations in Asia. India is on the forefront of this business strategy. That is also why we are seeing such a strong interest of German companies, big ones as well as many start-ups, to invest in India! That is one reason why the 18th Asia-Pacific Conference of German Business in October this year will happen in New Delhi," he said.

On Project 75 India, Ackerman said that the recent visit of Indian Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane in Berlin shows the continuation of high-level exchanges between our two democracies in order to strengthen defence cooperation.

"Germany is ready to supply aircraft, torpedoes and power packs for tanks to India - with substantial localization of production in India. Germany also did speed up its processes for export licenses: We are delivering more and faster because India is our prime security partner in the region. Together, we have invested already a lot in the freedom of this region and we are committed to strengthen that much more, he said.

The German firm Thyssenkrupp's Chief Executive Officer Oliver Burkhard said that TKMS was the only firm with a proven AIP system and "We just underlined the technical possibilities together with a delegation from the Indian and German Navies."

Asked about the planned work share between Indian MDL and TKMS for the P-75 India which has some stringent requirements for the transfer of technology and increased work share of Indian entities, Burkhard said that in the presence of the German Defence Minister, Thyssenkrupp Marine Systems and MDL have already signed a memorandum of understanding.

"As part of the letter of intent, we stipulated that, if awarded the contract, we would be responsible for the design of the submarines as well as playing an advisory role. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders would be responsible for the construction and delivery of the submarines," he said.

"I can assure you both companies have many years of experience, knowledge and expertise and we are engaging our key sub-suppliers in the process of indigenisation, including for example our own subsidiaries 'kta' and ATLAS ELEKTRONIK. The plan presented by MDL to the government includes already a percentage of indigenisation for the first boat which is significantly higher than the stipulated requirement," he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/germany-fully-backs-submarine-negotiations-with-india-wants-to-offer-military-cooperation-alternatives-to-new-delhi-german-envoy/articleshow/109161107.cms>

Israeli Strikes Drone Using Seaborne Missile Defence System for 1st Time

Israel for the first time used a seaborne missile defence system to shoot down a drone approaching from the Red Sea that had set off sirens in the port city of Eilat, the military said on Tuesday.

Eilat has been a frequent target for launches by Iran-backed Houthis in Yemen as a show of support for Hamas, the Palestinian group that rules Gaza and is also backed by Iran.

Israel positioned missile boats in the Red Sea after the start of the war in Gaza, the military said. One of those missile boats shot down the drone with the new system called the C-Dome.

"Overnight, for the first time ever, an IDF Sa'ar 6-class corvette missile ship successfully intercepted a UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) that had approached from the east and had crossed into the area of the Gulf of Eilat," the military said.

C-Dome, according to Israeli defence contractor Rafael, uses the same interceptors as the land-based Iron Dome that counters shorter range rockets and drones.

It bookends Israel's multi-tier air defence array opposite Arrow-3, which is designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside the earth's atmosphere.

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/israeli-strikes-drone-using-seaborne-missile-defence-system-for-1st-time-5407086>



US Plan to Link AUKUS Submarine Pact to Taiwan Riles China; Beijing to Oppose 'Resolutely'

China on Tuesday said it will resolutely oppose any plan by the Biden administration to connect the AUKUS pact between Australia, the UK, and the US to the Taiwan issue, saying it will risk nuclear proliferation and exacerbate the arms race in the Asia-Pacific.

Reacting to reports quoting US Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell's recent remarks suggesting linking the AUKUS pact to the Taiwan issue to deter any Chinese aggression, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning told a media briefing here that the American official's remarks fan the flames of conflict, and are malicious in intent.

"China is strongly dissatisfied with this and resolutely opposes it," she said, adding that it increases the risk of nuclear proliferation and exacerbates the arms race in the Asia-Pacific region, undermining regional peace and stability.

China claims the self-governing island of Taiwan as part of it and vows to integrate with its mainland.

The AUKUS submarine project could help deter any Chinese move against Taiwan, Campbell was quoted as saying at Washington's Centre for a New American Security think tank last week.

Campbell argued that the 2023 AUKUS pact involving Australia's acquisition of nuclear-powered attack submarines was part of efforts to counter China's growing power in the Indo-Pacific region.

He also made a rare linkage between Taiwan and AUKUS, saying that new submarine capabilities would enhance peace and stability, including in the Cross-Strait that separates China and Taiwan.

AUKUS' submarine capabilities "have enormous implications in a variety of scenarios, including in cross-strait circumstances," Campbell was quoted as saying.

Mao said Taiwan is an inalienable part of China's territory and Taiwan's issue is its internal affair, which no external force has the right to intervene.

"What is the intention of the US in trying to link the so-called 'trilateral security partnership' submarine plan with the Taiwan question?" Mao asked.

China's will to defend its national sovereignty and territorial integrity is unwavering, and no one should underestimate or misjudge it, she said.

Mao also said the US, the UK, and Australia are not direct parties to the South China Sea dispute and should not intervene in efforts by the relevant parties to resolve the issue through negotiation and consultation.

The recent tension in the South China Sea and increased regional confrontation are inseparable from the US actions in roping in its allies, she said, referring to Washington's backing to the Philippines which during the last few months trying to assert its claim over the Second Thomas Shoal in the South China Sea which is strongly resisted by China.

The coast guard ships of China and the Philippines jostled to assert their claim over the area. China claims most of the South China Sea. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan have counterclaims over the area.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/world/us-plan-to-link-aukus-submarine-pact-to-taiwan-riles-china-beijing-to-oppose-resolutely-2971221>

Science & Technology News

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, 10 Apr 2024

ISRO Chief S Somanath Explains Objectives of Chandrayaan-4 Mission: 'Intend to Land on Moon in 2040'

ISRO Chief S Somanath on April 09 shared details of Chandrayaan-4 mission and ISRO's lunar mission objectives. He was interacting with the media after attending the twentieth anniversary of the Sat Paul Mittal School. During the interaction with media ISRO Chief S Somanath said, "Chandrayaan-4 is the concept that we are developing as a continuation of the Chandrayaan series,

so all of you know that honorable Prime Minister has announced that we will be landing on the moon and intend to land on the moon in 2040. If that has to happen we have to have continuous moon exploration of various kinds. So Chandrayaan-4 is first step towards that to send a craft and collect sample and bring it back to earth. When we will be ready for humans' flight we will be sending Indian on Chandrayaan craft going to moon and land there and do experiments and comeback."

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/isro-chief-s-somanath-explains-objectives-of-chandrayaan-4-mission-intend-to-land-on-moon-in-2040/videoshow/109179531.cms>



Tue, 09 Apr 2024

Technical Problems Force Russia to Abort Angara-A5 Space Rocket Launch

Minutes before it was supposed to take off, Russia was forced to cancel the test launch of the Angara-A5 rocket on Tuesday due to a technical issue at the Vostochny Cosmodrome.

Russian Space Chief Yuri Borisov was quoted by the RIA news agency as saying that the pressurizing system of the oxidizer tank malfunctioned, leading to the decision.

The heavy booster rocket, the first to be designed in Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union, is intended to send satellites for the Russian navigation system, GLONASS, and modules for Russia's planned space station into orbit.

The launch, which was scheduled to be the first of its kind at Russia's new launch pad, was postponed by 24 hours, an announcement over the launch pad's loudspeakers stated.

Angara-A5 can launch a heavier payload into orbit from Vostochny, Russia's first and only post-Soviet satellite launch site, than from Plesetsk, a Soviet-era facility where it has successfully conducted three test launches, because of its location closer to the equator.

The setback on Tuesday comes after a Russian lunar mission that failed in August of last year, the country's first in 47 years, when the spacecraft collided with the moon.

The Russian Soyuz spacecraft, which had also had a launch delay owing to an issue, successfully launched with a crew of three last month and returned last week, somewhat regaining Moscow's position in the space race.

<https://www.firstpost.com/world/technical-problems-force-russia-to-abort-angara-a5-space-rocket-launch-13757961.html>

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