

अक्टूबर
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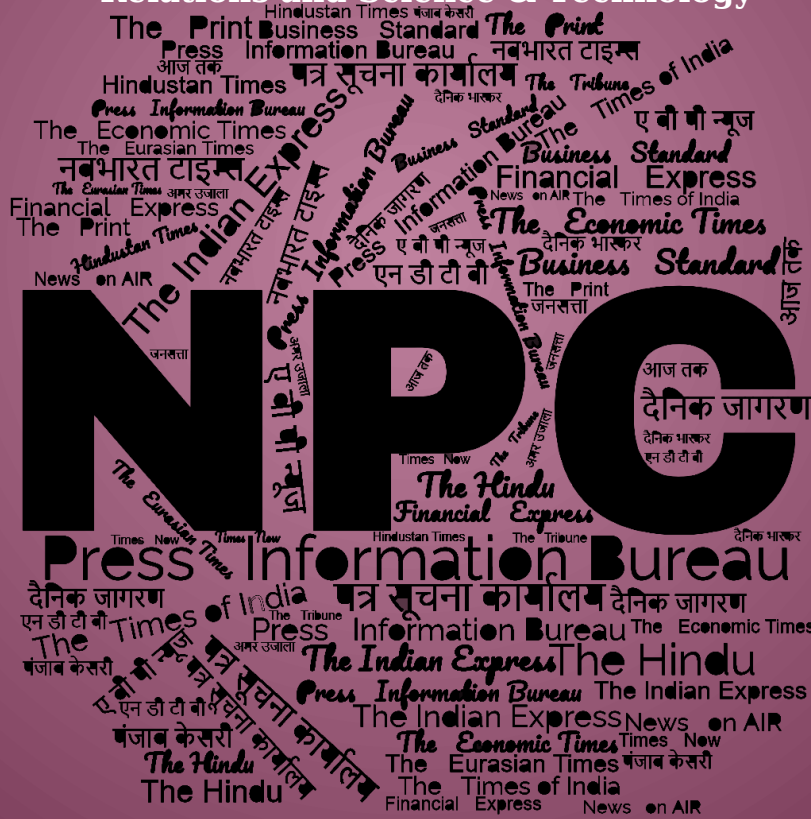
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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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**Press Information Bureau
Government of India**

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 12 Oct 2023

DRDO's Oceanographic Research Vessel 'INS Sagardhwani' Embarks on Sagar Maitri Mission-4 to Establish Long-term Scientific Partnerships with Indian Ocean Rim Countries in 'Ocean Research & Development'

INS Sagardhwani, an oceanographic research vessel of Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO, embarked on a two-month long Sagar Maitri (SM) Mission-4 from South Jetty, Southern Naval Command (SNC), Kochi on October 12, 2023. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat flagged-off the ship in the presence of Officiating Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (South) Rear Admiral Upal Kundu and other senior officials of DRDO & Indian Navy.

Sagar Maitri is a novel initiative of DRDO that supports the broad objective of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's policy declaration 'Safety and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' to promote closer cooperation in socio-economic aspects as well as more significant scientific interaction, especially in ocean research among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries. Under the aegis of this policy, DRDO initiated a scientific component named 'MAITRI (Marine and Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative)', which focuses on establishing long-term collaboration with IOR countries in the field of 'Ocean Research and Development'.

In the SAGAR MAITRI programme, INS Sagardhwani will retrace the tracks of INS Kistna, which participated in the International Indian Ocean Expedition during 1962-65. The missions aim to establish long-term scientific partnerships and collaborations with Oman, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Myanmar — the eight IOR countries.

In earlier SAGAR MAITRI missions, the delegation visited Yangon (Myanmar) in April 2019, followed by the second mission (SM-2) to Klang (Malaysia) in August 2019 & Singapore in September 2019, including the conduct of one-day scientific seminars in all three countries. In February 2020, the NPOL conducted oceanographic studies in the Southern Indian Ocean, including an equatorial transect, as part of the third mission (SM-3).

The current mission (SM-4) plan includes scientific deployments onboard INS Sagardhwani in the Northern Arabian Sea and initiating collaborative research programmes with the Department of Marine Sciences & Fisheries at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. These missions give the

scientists an opportunity to cooperate and build strong working relationships with their IOR counterparts studying the oceans.

INS Sagardhwani is a marine acoustic research ship designed and developed by NPOL, Kochi and constructed indigenously by GRSE Ltd. It was launched in July 1994. The NPOL is involved in studying the ocean environment and other related fields. The vessel has been engaging in extensive oceanic observing missions and research for the last 25 years.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1967131>

हिन्दुस्तान

Fri, 13 Oct 2023

बंदूकों के लिए धातुतैयार करेगा डीआरडीओ केंद्र

आईआईटी बीएचयूमेंस्थापित डीआरडीओ का उत्कृष्टता केंद्र देश मेंबननेवाली बंदूकों के लिए धातुतैयार करेगा। इसके अलावा सामरिक दृष्टि सेमहत्वपूर्णतकनीकी और नए आविष्कारों पर भी केंद्र का जोर रहेगा। डीआरडीओ प्रमुख नेइस केंद्र को उन तकनीकों के विकास की जिम्मेदारी दी हैजिनका अब तक देश आयात कर रहा है। फिलहाल उत्कृष्टता केंद्र मेंचल रहे 12 प्रोजेक्ट्स इन्हीं सेसंबंधित हैं।

डीआरडीओ नेआईआईटी बीएचयूके उत्कृष्टता केंद्र को तीन विषयों पर अनुसंधान की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी है। इनमेंपाउडर धातुविज्ञान, कार्यात्मक इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स सामग्री और उच्च शक्ति माइक्रोवेव स्रोत और उपकरण शामिल हैं। केंद्र के उद्घाटन के दिन ही डीआरडीओ प्रमुख समीर वी. कामत नेकहा था कि उच्च शक्ति माइक्रोवेव भविष्य की तकनीकी के रूप मेंविकसित होनेवाली है। रक्षा क्षेत्र मेंकई जगह इनका इस्तेमाल होगा।

उसी दिन की बातचीत मेंकेंद्र प्रभारी डॉ. तापस कुमार नंदी नेबताया कि यहां ऐसी धातुऔर सामग्री तैयार करनी हैजो स्वदेशी बंदूकों और तोपों मेंइस्तेमाल हो सके। जिनकी क्षमता ज्यादा हो और लगातार फायरिंग मेंदेर तक टिक सकें। इसी तरह उच्च शक्ति माइक्रोवेव स्रोत और उपकरणों का इस्तेमाल बचाव और हमलेदोनों के लिए किया जाएगा। आनेवालेसमय मेंइसेमिसाइलरोधी के साथ ही दुश्मन के टोही विमान और ड्रोन को नाकाम करनेके लिए किया जाएगा। आनेवालेसमय मेंडीआरडीओ के आईआईटी बीएचयूस्थित उत्कृष्टता केंद्र मेंपूर्वाचल के सभी संस्थानों और युवा वैज्ञानिकों को भी शोध के लिए आमंत्रित किया जाएगा।

<https://www.livehindustan.com/uttar-pradesh/varanasi/story-drdo-center-will-prepare-metal-for-guns-8841851.html>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Thu, 12 Oct 2023

Raksha Mantri & French Minister of Armed Forces Hold 5th Annual Defence Dialogue in Paris; Focus on Enhancing Defence Industrial Cooperation

Potential collaboration in niche domains such as space, cyber & Artificial Intelligence also discussed

Shri Rajnath Singh concludes his two-nation Europe visit

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh conducted the 5th Annual Defence Dialogue with French Minister of Armed Forces Mr Sebastien Lecornu in Paris late on October 11, 2023, before concluding his two-nation Europe tour. The two Ministers discussed a wide range of topics from the assessment of regional situation to the ongoing military-to-military engagements, with a focus on enhancing defence industrial cooperation.

The Ministers reviewed the ongoing defence projects and discussed ways to deepen the collaboration between the defence industries of both the countries. They also discussed potential collaboration in niche domains such as space, cyber and Artificial Intelligence. The meeting was preceded by a Guard of Honour at the French Ministry of Defence.

Earlier in the day, Shri Rajnath Singh visited the Safran Engine Division's R&D Centre at Gennevilliers near Paris and witnessed the latest developments in aero-engine technology. He also met with the CEOs of the top French defence companies with a focus on their plans for collaboration with India. Shri Rajnath Singh highlighted the advantages of co-development and co-production in India, including possibilities of exports to third countries. He underlined the inherent advantages of the Indian market such as a large, skilled HR base, world-class infrastructure and a strong legal architecture. Following his arrival in Paris on October 10, 2023, the Raksha Mantri interacted with the Indian community there.

In the first leg of his two-nation tour, Shri Rajnath Singh held talks with Italian Defence Minister Mr Guido Crosetto in Rome. An Agreement on Cooperation in the field of defence was signed after the talks to promote bilateral collaboration in varied defence domains, such as security and defence policy, R&D, education in military field, maritime domain awareness, sharing of defence information and industrial cooperation, including co-development, co-production & setting up of joint ventures. He also met with the CEOs and other top industry leaders of Italian defence companies in Rome, as part of his visit.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1966922>

Thu, 12 Oct 2023

India, France Looking for Defence Collaboration in Space, Cyber and AI

India and France discussed potential collaboration in niche domains such as space and artificial intelligence, with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh saying the two friendly nations are looking to take the strategic partnership to “newer heights”. The efforts to magnify bilateral military ties were witnessed at the 5th Annual Defence Dialogue where Rajnath Singh met with French Minister of Armed Forces, Sebastien Lecornu, in Paris, late on Wednesday.

“Had an excellent meeting with the French Minister for the Armed Forces, Sebastien Lecornu in Paris. India-France strategic partnership has deepened over years and is more relevant today than ever. We look forward to taking this partnership to newer heights,” Rajnath Singh posted on X (formerly Twitter).

The two Ministers discussed a wide range of topics from assessment of regional situation to the ongoing military-to-military engagements, with a focus on enhancing defence industrial cooperation, the Ministry of Defence stated as Singh’s two-nation official tour came to an end. He was in Rome before landing at Paris on October 10 .

In France, “the Ministers reviewed the ongoing defence projects and discussed ways to deepen the collaboration between the defence industries of both the countries. They also discussed potential collaboration in niche domains such as space, cyber and Artificial Intelligence,” the MoD officially stated.

The Minister, before the dialogue, also visited Safran Engine Division’s R&D Centre at Gennevilliers near Paris, signalling developments in the talks between the two sides to co-develop combat fighter aircraft engine in India.

During his visit to the Centre, Rajnath Singh witnessed latest developments in aero-engine technology and a detailed briefing from Olivier Andries, Global CEO Safran, who also “expressed interest in being a part of the Indian growth story by working with its counterparts on mutually agreed joint projects,” the MoD earlier said. The engine development for which the talks are going on between the two countries are for twin-engine advanced multi-role combat aircraft (AMCA) and the twin-engine deck-based fighter for Navy’s aircraft carriers.

Safran and Defence Research and Development Organisation are supposed to prepare a roadmap for engine development project by the end of this year. Besides, the Safran has also offered support for industrial cooperation in the manufacture of heavy lift Indian multi-role helicopter (IMRH).

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Singh, said the MoD, also met CEOs of the top French defence companies with a focus on their plans for collaboration with India. Eric Trappier, CEO Dassault; Pierre Eric Pommellet, CEO Naval Group; Guillaume Faury, CEO Airbus; and Olivier Andries, CEO Safran Group were present during the interaction.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-france-looking-for-defence-collaboration-in-space-cyber-and-ai/article67412742.ece>

Two Mega Proposals for Aircraft Carrier, LCA-MK1A Jets Lined up for DAC Approval

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by the Defence Minister has two mega proposals lined up from the Navy and the Air Force, estimated to cumulatively cost over ₹1 lakh crore, as it is expected to meet at the end of this month. The Navy's proposal for a repeat order of a Vikrant-like aircraft carrier, estimated to cost approximately ₹40,000 crore, and 97 additional Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-MK1A fighters for the Indian Air Force (IAF), estimated to cost around ₹67,000 crore, are lined up for approval from the DAC, according to defence sources.

Another proposal for major upgrade of 84 SU-30MKI fighter jets at a cost of just over ₹6,000 crore in service with the IAF is set to be taken up by the Defence Procurement Board (DPB), which is scheduled to meet on Friday.

Both the proposals, for a second Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC)-II and 97 LCA-MK1A, have already been cleared by the Defence Procurement Board (DPB) and are expected to be taken up by the DAC at its next meeting, two sources, with knowledge of the matter, independently confirmed to The Hindu.

The Sukhoi upgrade proposal is before the DPB which is scheduled to meet on Friday while the DAC is expected to meet on October 29 or 30, one of the sources said.

The proposal for IAC-II was cleared by the DPB in mid-September, one of the highly-placed sources said. The IAC-II displacing 45,000 tonnes will see some modifications and newer technologies incorporated in the original design of the country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) INS Vikrant, which was commissioned in September 2022 and will also be manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL).

Additional jets

Last week, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) Vivek Ram Chaudhari announced that they have moved a case for 97 additional LCA-MK1A jets in addition to the 83 jets on order with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which would cumulatively cost around ₹1.15 lakh crore. This would eventually make 180 LCA-MK1A jets and 220 jets of the MK1 variant.

In 2021, the Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000-crore deal with the HAL to supply 83 LCA-Mk1A, a more capable fighter than the current LCA-MK1 in service. As per the contract, three LCA-MK1A are scheduled to be delivered to the IAF in February 2024 and 16 aircraft per year for subsequent five years. Officials said the deliveries of the larger LCA-MK2 jets were expected to commence from 2032 by which time the deliveries of all LCA-MK1A were expected to be completed with the HAL eventually ramping up production to 24 aircraft per year.

Sukhoi upgrade

The long-pending Su-30MKI upgrade will be initially rolled out with 84 jets and will largely be an indigenous effort, sources said. ACM Chaudhari has said that the 84 jets will see the upgradation of 51 systems with an indigenous content of 78%.

A source said that the original equipment manufacturer Russia would be involved in upgrading the fly-by-wire system, integration of systems among others and majority of the upgrades, including radar and avionics, will be indigenous. As part of this, the indigenous Uttam Advanced

Electronically Scanned Array (AESAs) radar being developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is expected to be integrated on the jets, sources said.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/two-mega-proposals-for-aircraft-carrier-lca-mk1a-jets-lined-up-for-dac-approval/article67412463.ece>



Thu, 12 Oct 2023

Eight Foreign Nations Take Part in Annual Joint HADR Exercise in Goa

Eight foreign countries - Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Tanzania - participated in the annual Annual Joint HADR Exercise, which concluded in Goa. The exercise was hosted by the Indian Navy from October 9-11 and dwelled upon many aspects of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR). The AJHE-2023 'Chakrawat', as the exercise is known, saw participation of multiple agencies. The event concluded with a multi-agency capability demonstration at Mole Berth, within the Port of Mormugao, to showcase drills on rescue and relief.

The participating agencies included National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), National Institute for Disaster Management (NIDM), Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Coast Guard, India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Remote Sensing Agencies (NRSA), State Disaster Management Agency (SDMA) and State Fire Services, Goa, District Disaster Management Agency (DDMA) of North and South, Goa, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Central Water Commission (CWC), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and representatives from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

The AJHE-23 commenced with a seminar to discuss synergy in response to climate change and associated disaster adaptation and mitigation.

On October 10, a Table-Top Exercise with reps from all participating agencies and delegates from eight foreign countries was conducted as a capstone event of AJHE-23 at INS Hansa.

The exercise deliberated a scenario of cyclone making landfall at Goa resulting in flooding and widespread destruction of infrastructure upto 100 km hinterland from the coast. Participating agencies discussed and presented joint plans for rendering humanitarian assistance.

An Industrial Display was also organised by FICCI coordination with the Indian Navy to showcase ready to export HADR equipment manufactured by both public and private sectors.

The event concluded with a Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration at Mole Berth, within the Port of Mormugao, to showcase drills on rescue and relief. Teams from NDRF, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard and State Fire Services, Goa participated in the demonstration.

"The discussions amongst the participants over the three days of the exercise enabled improved understanding of the capabilities of each organisation and paved a path for better coordination between various agencies during an HADR scenario," an Indian Navy spokesperson said.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/goa/eight-foreign-nations-take-part-in-annual-joint-hadr-exercise-in-go-2723197>

Hamas Attack on Indian Intel's Radar: NSG Chief

National Security Guard (NSG) director general MA Ganapathy said on Thursday that anti-terrorism professionals must examine the unprecedented attacks in Israel. He said it could never have been envisaged that terrorists could get under the radar of extremely sophisticated technological infrastructure and perpetrate the ghastly act on such a scale and proportion.

He was speaking at the NSG raising day seminar with state special forces organised at DRDO Bhawan in New Delhi. The two-day seminar, focusing on 'Sub-conventional threats: challenges and prospects for definite and enduring solutions', will conclude on Friday.

Ganapathy outlined two key lessons for all anti-terrorism professionals participating in the seminar, underscoring the importance of recognising that, ultimately, it is the combination of the human element and weaponry that makes the decisive difference in counterterrorism efforts.

"We need to have a framework of crisis management response at the national level for extreme terrorist scenarios. And two, that the reliance on technology, while very imperative, has to be complemented by highly skilled personnel who are at the pinnacle of the craft. We all need to constantly invest in skill upgradation of our personnel who are the ultimate redeemers in a terror response mechanism," he said. "We should always remember this lesson that ultimately it's the man and the weapon which makes the final difference."

The NSG director general further said the intelligence agencies have the ever-present challenge of being one step ahead of the intentions and activities of terrorist groups, which continue to evolve as a result of support rendered externally or internally through an array of networks, technological exploitation and opaque funding methods.

To comprehensively understand the entire spectrum of terrorist networks and chalk out future operational and training strategies, it is necessary for all the stakeholders to come together and respond collectively in a coordinated and synergised manner, said Ganapathy.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/hamas-attack-on-indian-intels-radar-nsg-chief/articleshow/104380963.cms>

We Need to have Framework for Response at National Level for Extreme Terrorist Scenarios: NSG Chief

Describing the terror strikes against Israel as "unprecedented" and "of a scale and proportion that could never have been envisaged", National Security Guard (NSG) chief M A Ganapathy on Thursday said they are a reminder that a crisis management framework for "extreme terrorist scenarios" should be in place at the national level and that highly-skilled anti-terror professionals remain as crucial as technological innovations in the fight against terrorism.

"The terrorists (waging war on Israel) could get under the radar of the extremely sophisticated technological infrastructure and perpetrate the ghastly attacks," noted Ganapathy while addressing

the inaugural session of the two-day NSG Raising Day counter-terrorism seminar here on Thursday.

Summarising the two lessons to be learnt from the events in Israel, he said: “We need to have a framework of crisis management and response at the national level for extreme terrorist scenarios. The reliance of technology, while imperative, has to be complemented by highly skilled personnel who are at the pinnacle of their craft. We all need to constantly invest in skill upgradation of our personnel who are the ultimate redeemers in a terror response mechanism,” he said.

“Ultimately, the man behind the weapon makes the final difference,” underlined Ganapathy. The observation was later endorsed by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, chief guest at the NSG event being attended by special anti-terror forces of the states/UTs and special units of the Army and Navy. Experts, practitioners and leaders from various special counter-terror forces, including of other countries, will discuss sub-conventional threats and solutions, issues relating to Left-wing extremism and the challenge from IEDs.

Speaking to reporters later, Ganapathy said a special breakout session has been included for the first time in the NSG annual seminar, as part of an effort to prepare the various special forces for “any unprecedented, extreme terrorist scenarios”. “NSG regularly conducts multi-city, multi-state, multi-target mock drills (to enhance preparedness for terror situations). NSG thought it should get all state special forces on one forum to discuss preparedness for extreme terrorist scenarios. The framework and modus operandi will be discussed and efforts made to draw up an SOP such that each component (of the counter-terror mechanism) can discharge their clearly defined responsibility”.

The chief of the anti-terror crackforce clarified that the special session to deal with “extreme terrorist scenarios” was planned much before the strikes in Israel. “The timing is a coincidence,” he said.

Ganapathy, in his address, said that NSG, though a predominantly urban anti-terror force, has raised a jungle warfare task force which has lately been deployed in certain operations. Drones, which act as force multipliers in urban and rural scenarios, will also form part of the discussion. The counter-IED session will focus on the latest trends and strategies to be adopted for better detection, identification and neutralisation of IEDs.

The NSG chief shared that the force is in the process of developing a national-level IED management software known as the National IED Data Management System (NIDMS), which will facilitate national and state agencies and also select international partners dealing with IEDs to be connected and share relevant inputs in real time.

Ganapathy said the security forces and intel agencies face a constant challenge to be one step ahead of the intentions and activities of terror groups, which continue to evolve as a result of support rendered externally and internally to an array of networks, technological exploitation and opaque funding methods. “To comprehensively understand the entire spectrum of terror networks and chalk out our future operational and training strategies, it is necessary for all the stakeholders to come together and respond collectively in a coordinated and synergised manner. The objective of the seminar is understanding of these challenges, sharing of ideas and experiences as also the innovations that will be required by the security forces to operate at a tactical level,” he stated.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/we-need-to-have-framework-for-response-at-national-level-for-extreme-terrorist-scenarios-nsg-chief/articleshow/104379784.cms>

Defence Ministry Asks Officials to Strictly Follow Secrecy Protocol

After a series of leaks and unauthorised disclosure of official information, the defence ministry has sent a warning to personnel that the Official Secrets Act (OSA) needs to be strictly followed, reminding its staff about stiff penalties under the law.

In a letter to all departments - the department of military affairs, defence production, ex servicemen welfare, finance and DRDO - the ministry has asked senior officials to sensitise staff on the provisions under OSA as well as the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules.

The letter sent by the ministry to sensitise officials on the salient provisions of OSA does not mention particular incidents but says there have been a "a number of incidents of leakage or unauthorised disclosure of official information, which are in violation of the provisions".

Reminding officials that the Act extends to the whole of India, including government departments, the letter said a guilty person will face a jail term of up to 14 years. "Engaging in activities such as accessing forbidden areas, creating sketches or plans for the benefit of enemies, collecting and sharing secret codes, passwords, documents, or notes that could aid enemies and likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India and compromise the safety and security of the country, is punishable with imprisonment up to 14 years," it read.

The missive comes after a series of cases have been registered by investigative agencies on unauthorised disclosure of information. In one of the cases, a top scientist of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has been booked for allegedly passing on secret information to a suspected Pakistan-based spying ring.

According to a charge sheet filed by the Maharashtra ATS, the scientist allegedly shared information on surface-to-air missile systems and even nuclear capable missiles with a woman based in Pakistan, who was posing as a software engineer based in the UK.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/defence-ministry-asks-officials-to-strictly-follow-secrecy-protocol/articleshow/104380832.cms>

ThePrint

Thu, 12 Oct 2023

India & China to Cut LAC Troops in Ladakh for Winter, Aim not to Bring Back Troops in Summer

India and China have agreed to carry on with winter deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, which will see reduction in troops, and aim to work out a plan ahead of the summer so that there is no surge in soldiers and equipment then, ThePrint has learnt.

Sources in the defence and security establishment said that during the 20th round of military talks held 9-10 October, both sides also agreed to not carry out any provocative action during the winter months and to be in close communication with each other.

The sources said that one more round of talks will be held during the winter to cater to the summer deployment plans.

Owing to the extreme climate in winters, they said, the number of troops deployed in the region are scaled down by both countries with minimum troops at the front. While some are pulled back to depth areas, others move out completely. During the summer, troops are brought back into operational areas.

“The plan is to reach an understanding during the next round of talks to not bring back additional troops during summers,” a source said.

At present, both India and China have nearly 50,000 troops and equipment deployed on each side. During winters, the number of deployed soldiers comes down drastically.

As reported by ThePrint earlier, the Indian Air Force (IAF) ferried in over 68,000 additional troops along with nearly 90 tanks and over 300 infantry combat vehicles into the icy heights of Ladakh after the Galwan clash of 2020.

Since then despite disengagement from the Galwan Valley, Pangong Tso, Gogra (PP-17A) and Hot Springs (PP-15), the two armies continue to maintain thousands of troops and equipment along the LAC.

“The plan is to reach an understanding during the next round of talks to not bring back additional troops during summers,” a source said.

India has been seeking restoration of status quo as of April 2020 in areas which saw tensions beginning May 2020, besides resolution of earlier disagreements including those over Depsang Plains.

<https://theprint.in/defence/india-china-to-cut-lac-troops-in-ladakh-for-winter-aim-not-to-bring-back-troops-in-summer/1800069/#lno3sqr1ln2e0ede2p>



Fri, 13 Oct 2023

Amid War, US Defence Chief to Visit Israel Today to Meet Benjamin Netanyahu

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin will visit Israel Friday and meet with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as the country reels from a devastating attack by Hamas militants that has left thousands dead, an American defence official said.

Austin's trip -- which follows a visit to Israel by Secretary of State Antony Blinken -- will also include meetings with defence officials and the country's emergency government, the US official said Thursday.

Hamas gunmen killed 1,200 people in Israel and took about 150 hostages in their surprise onslaught from Gaza on Saturday. Israel has retaliated by raining air and artillery strikes on Hamas targets in Gaza for six days, claiming over 1,350 lives.

Washington responded by sending an aircraft carrier and other warships to the eastern Mediterranean and promising munitions and other equipment to Israel.

Austin told journalists in Brussels on Thursday that the United States had no "early warnings or indications" that the Islamist group would launch its bloody assault.

He also said Washington has not placed any conditions on the way Israel can use the weapons it provides.

"This is a professional military, led by professional leadership, and we would hope and expect that they would do the right things in the prosecution of their campaign," he said.

Israel has prepared for a possible ground invasion of the Palestinian territory after what has been labelled Israel's 9/11.

Fears have grown for Gaza's 2.4 million people now enduring the fifth war in 15 years in the coastal enclave, which has also seen Israel cut off water, food and power supplies.

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/amid-war-us-defence-chief-loyd-austin-to-visit-israel-today-to-meet-benjamin-netanyahu-4476470>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Thu, 12 Oct 2023

Top Five Israeli Defence Force Vehicles: Armoured 'Wolf', 2,000+ Humvees and Wrangler 4x4s

On October 7, Palestinian militant groups led by Hamas, began a militant invasion of Israel from the Gaza Strip as part of the Gaza-Israel conflict. Israel has since launched a counter-offensive and the region has been under constant rain of warheads for five days, with a rising death toll. As part of the Israeli response, the country has mobilised its defence force and here are five military vehicles that the personnel have at their disposal. From the American made Humvee to the Israeli developed 'Wolf' armoured vehicle, these utility vehicles hold an important role in driving the country's counter offensive.

1. AIL Storm:

The AIL Storm is based on the well-known Jeep Wrangler 4x4, it has been licensed from Chrysler by Israel and manufactured as an off-road vehicle for the Israeli Security Forces. The AIL Storm has been under production since 1991 and serves several military roles including that of an armoured infantry mobility vehicle. Currently, 700 units of the AIL Storm are under service.

2. MDT David:

The MDT David is a light armoured vehicle developed by Israel, this one also looks familiar as it has been based on the well known Land Rover Defender 4x4. The armoured SUV has been built for the Israeli Security Forces by MDT Armor Corporation and is capable of defending against low intensity conflict from assault rifles, it is blast protected and can also protect against Improvised Explosive Devices (IMDs) to a certain extent. The Israeli defence forces currently have 400 of MDT David SUVs in their fleet.

3. The HMMWV or Humvee:

American-made High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) or more popularly known as the Humvee reinforces the Israeli defence as well. The country currently has 2,000 Humvees under service.

4. Plasan SandCat:

The Plasan SandCat is another light armoured vehicle developed for the Israel Defence Forces. Just like others on the list, the SandCat is also based on an American truck, more specifically the well

known Ford F-Series chassis. It was first introduced in 2005 and has since evolved. IDF currently has 700 SandCats in its fleet and they serve in various roles of combat and patrolling.

5. 'Wolf' armoured vehicle:

Among the light armoured vehicles mentioned above, Israel also developed the 'Wolf' armoured personnel carrier for the IDF. It is heavily armoured and produced by Carmor company. It is capable of defending against assault rifles, mines and IMDs. The Wolf is based on the chassis of the Ford F550 truck and gets 6.0-litre V8 petrol engine, producing 325 hp. Currently there are 300 Wolf armoured vehicles under service in Israel.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/auto/news/top-five-israeli-defence-force-vehicles-armoured-wolf-2000-humvees-and-wrangler-4x4s/articleshow/104376733.cms>

Science & Technology News



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Science & Technology

Thu, 12 Oct 2023

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh Launches State-of-art Latest National Survey Network; the Nationwide "Continuously Operating Reference Stations" (CORS) Network will be Operated by the Survey of India

"India now has a world class Precise Location based service, which is capable to provide centimetre level positioning services in realtime": Dr Jitendra Singh

The Survey of India has set up more than 1,000 CORS stations across India

Impetus given to S&T and providing an enabling milieu for innovation are the hallmarks of the Government led by the visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, says Dr Jitendra Singh

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today launched state-of-art latest National Survey Network. The nationwide "Continuously Operating Reference Stations" (CORS) Network will be operated by the Survey of India.

"India now has a world class Precise Location based service, which are capable of providing centimetre level positioning services in realtime," he said.

The Survey of India has set up more than 1,000 CORS stations across India.

Dr Jitendra Singh said we now have Indian data for Indian solutions.

“The Government has initiated several growth-oriented initiatives the SVAMITVA project for mapping of rural abadi areas, the PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for Multi-Modal Connectivity, Smart Cities & AMRUT Project for urban development, Bharatmala and Sagarmala Projects for improving the logistics sector, National Hydrology Project to harness water resources and multiple other infrastructural and developmental projects. The common thread among all these projects is the requirement of high-accuracy mapping and positioning data, the deregulation of Geospatial Sector and democratization of Geospatial data has resulted in ease of access to these datasets to various user groups,” he said.

In addition to the Geospatial sector, CORS based precision services will also boost auto navigation and machine control-based solution in Agriculture, Mining, Construction, Transport and Civil Aviation sector. This will open new domains of innovation and research and create a Geospatial based ecosystem in these sectors.

CORS data will also aid in various scientific studies like Upper Atmosphere and Space weather studies, Meteorology and weather forecast, Plate motion and Tectonic studies, Seismology and Hydrology etc. Nationwide CORS based services will be available to business and public, which will not only ensure coherence in geospatial data generated by different stake holders by providing them common reference, but will also increase their productivity.

Dr Jitendra Singh said an important hallmark of the Government led by the visionary Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is the impetus given to S&T and providing an enabling milieu for innovation.

“The Geospatial Guidelines of 2021 and National Geospatial Policy 2022 (NGP 2022) laid down a comprehensive plan for the transformation of the Geospatial sector in India. The sector is poised to play a strong role in helping the country realize the dream of making India a global economic powerhouse fueled by a large and young population, consistent economic reforms and a burgeoning technology sector. Two main goals of National Geospatial Policy were to develop a coherent national framework and to enable easy availability of valuable Geospatial data collected utilizing public funds, to businesses and the general public,” he said.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, in addition, the governance reforms initiated by PM Modi have ensured transparency, citizen centricity and zero tolerance for corruption. “Conscious effort has been made to use S&T to develop every sector, to provide every household the Ease of Living,” he said.

On the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the stakeholder conference for Ortho rectified Image (ORI) and Digital Elevation Model (DEM). He also felicitated winners of Geospatial hackathon, conducted by Survey of India in partnership with IIIT Hyderabad and Microsoft Inc.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1967096>

