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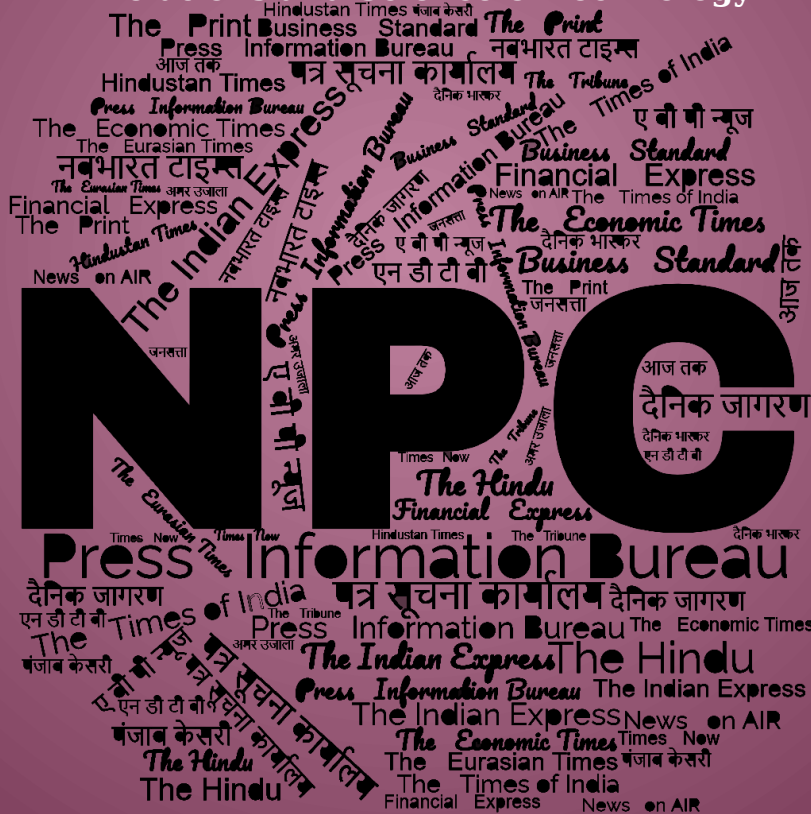
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Wed, 18 Oct 2023

Raksha Mantri Addresses the Senior Leadership of Indian Army During Army Commanders' Conference

The second Army Commanders' Conference of year 2023, commenced in a hybrid format on 16 Oct 2023. During the event, Indian Army's apex leadership comprehensively deliberated upon all aspects of existing security scenarios, situation along the borders and in the hinterland and challenges for the present security apparatus. In addition, the conference is also focusing on issues pertaining to organisational restructuring, logistics, administration and human resource management. The main highlight of the third day of the conference was the address by the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh, to the senior leadership of the Indian Army, which was preceded by a brief on "Training Architecture for Indian Army in the New Era including Digitisation and Automation Initiatives"

The Raksha Mantri reasserted the faith of entire Nation in the Indian Army as one of the most trusted and inspiring organisations in the country. He highlighted the significant role being played by the Army in guarding our borders and fighting terrorism apart from providing assistance to the civil administration in every need of hour. He expressed his elation to be present in the Army Commander's conference and applauded the Army leadership for successfully taking ahead the 'Defence and Security' vision of the Nation and the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Raksha Mantri commented that these higher leadership conferences are not only beneficial for the Armed Forces but also for the nation as a whole.

The Hon'ble Raksha Mantri stressed upon the present complex and ambiguous world situation which affects everyone globally. He stated that "Unconventional and asymmetric warfare, including hybrid war will be part of the future conventional wars and the same is evident in the recent conflicts happening in various parts of world. This necessitates that Armed Forces should keep all these facets in consideration while planning and formulating strategies. We must keep learning from the incidents to include the global ones, happened in present as also in past. Expect the Unexpected and thereby plan, strategize and prepare accordingly".

Commenting on the current situation along the Northern borders, the Hon'ble Raksha Mantri expressed full confidence in the Army for any contingency though, the ongoing talks for peaceful resolution will continue at all levels. The Raksha Mantri complimented the efforts of BRO, which has led to the incomparable improvement of road communication in the borders both Western and Northern, while working under difficult conditions.

Referring to the situation along the Western borders, he complimented the Indian Army's response to cross border terrorism, however the proxy war by the adversary continues. The Hon'ble Raksha Mantri said "I compliment the excellent synergy between the CAPF/ Police forces and the Army in tackling the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. The synergised operations in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir are contributing to increased stability and peace in the region and the same should continue, and for this I again compliment the Indian Army".

The Raksha Mantri commended the Army for the high standard of operational preparedness and capabilities which he has always been experiencing first hand during his visits to forward areas. He also paid tributes to all the brave hearts for making the ultimate sacrifice in the defence of the motherland. He complimented the significant contributions made by the Army in military diplomacy to further our national security interests by creating sustainable cooperative relationships with foreign Armies. He also applauded Indian Army for the stellar performance by the Army Sportspersons in the recent Asian Games 2023.

The Hon'ble Raksha Mantri stressed upon the technological advancement taking place in every sphere of our life and applauded the Armed Forces for aptly incorporating them. He appreciated the Army's efforts to develop niche technologies in collaboration with civil industries, including premier educational institutions and thereby progressing towards the aim of 'Modernisation through Indigenisation' or 'Atmanirbharta'. Raksha Mantri stated that modernisation of weapons for every soldier through Atmanirbharta is the key focus of the government and the government is completely with the Armed Forces in this aspect.

He concluded by saying that issues related to "Defence diplomacy, indigenisation, information warfare, defence infrastructure and force modernisation should always be contemplated in such a forum. War preparedness should be a continuous phenomena and we should always be ready for unpredictables for the uncertainties that may crop up any time. We should always be strengthening our fighting skills and weapons technologies so as to act effectively wherever called for. The Nation is proud of its Army and the Government is committed to facilitate the Army in their forward movement, on the road to reforms and capability modernisation".

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1968741>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Ministry of Defence

Wed, 18 Oct 2023

21st India-France Military Sub-Committee Meeting Held in New Delhi

The 21st edition of India-France Military Sub Committee (MSC) meeting was held on October 16-17, 2023 at Air Force Station, New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired from the Indian side by Air Vice Marshal Ashish Vohra, Assistant Chief of Integrated Staff, (Military Cooperation) at HQ IDS and Major General Eric Peltier, General Officer, International Military Relations of the Joint Staff from the French side.

India-France MSC is a forum established to progress defence cooperation between both nations through regular talks at strategic and operational levels between HQ, Integrated Defence Staff and the Joint Staff HQ of French Armed Forces.

The meeting was conducted in a friendly, warm and cordial atmosphere. The discussions focussed on new initiatives under the ambit of existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanism and strengthening ongoing defence engagements.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1968648>



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Ministry of Defence

Wed, 18 Oct 2023

Conduct of Operational Sea Training of South African Ship SAS Mendi by Team from Headquarters Sea Training, Indian Navy

An eight-member team from Headquarters Sea Training (HQST), Indian Navy (IN) undertook Operational Sea Training and Safety Audit of SAS Mendi, at Simons Town from 02 to 13 Oct 23, in collaboration with South African Navy (SAN) Operational Sea Training Team (OST) Team.

The IN delegation was headed by Cmde Amit Gurbuxani, Chief Staff Officer to Flag Officer Sea Training and included specialist officers and sailors.

The training was divided into two phases. The harbour training phase focussed on lectures/ interactive sessions on pilotage, bridgework, handling of Bridge emergencies, Force Protection Measures, fire-fighting & damage control drills, Operational Risk Management, electrical & engineering best practices, and seamanship training. Dedicated training was also undertaken for the bridge team in the ship handling simulator.

As part of sea training, the ship sailed for sea training on two occasions with HQST and SAN OST team embarked onboard. The sea sorties were utilised to impart practical training to ship's crew on subjects practised during the harbour training. Exercises at sea focussed on precise navigation, force protection drills, boat drills, emergencies & breakdown drills and conduct of damage control & fire fighting.

Professional interaction between IN and SAN OST teams also progressed with experience sharing and exchange of best practices. The OST culminated with a combined debrief to the ship's crew providing observations, recommendations and guidance for implementing good practices.

A small ceremony onboard SAS Mendi on 13 Oct 23 marked the culmination of joint training.

This maiden training activity by team from HQST has opened new avenues for training collaboration between IN and SAN and has significantly contributed towards strengthening the professional relationship between the two navies.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1968879>

IAF: ब्रह्मोस एयर-लॉन्च वर्जन मिसाइल का सफल परीक्षण; 1500 किमी से भी अधिक दूरी से दुश्मनों को बनाएगी निशाना

भारतीय वायुसेना ने लंबी दूरी की हवा से लॉन्च की जाने वाली ब्रह्मोस क्रूज मिसाइल का सफल परीक्षण किया। यह परीक्षण बंगाल की खाड़ी में किया गया है। स्वदेशी हथियार प्रणालियों की दिशा में इसे एक बड़ी सफलता के रूप में देखा जा रहा है। रक्षा अधिकारियों ने इस बारे में जानकारी दी। उन्होंने कहा कि ब्रह्मोस एयर-लॉन्च वर्जन मिसाइल का परीक्षण Su-30MKI फाइटर जेट से किया गया। इस फाइटर जेट में ब्रह्मोस क्रूज मिसाइलों को लॉन्च करने की क्षमता है। ये मिसाइलें लंबी दूरी पर दुश्मन के ठिकानों को नेस्तनाबूत कर सकती हैं।

Su-30MKI फाइटर जेट से दागी गई ब्रह्मोस

अधिकारियों ने बताया कि बीते कुछ दिनों में ब्रह्मोस हवा से प्रक्षेपित मिसाइल को Su-30MKI फाइटर जेट से दागा गया था। विमान ने दक्षिणी प्रायद्वीप में एक हवाई अड्डे से मिसाइल के साथ उड़ान भरी थी। उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि इस मिसाइल ने अपने लक्ष्य पर सफलतापूर्वक हमला करने के लिए 1,500 किमी से अधिक की यात्रा की थी। यह दूरी पहले की तुलना में लंबी थी।

ब्रह्मोस एयर-लॉन्च वर्जन मिसाइल सुपरसोनिक हथियार प्रणाली का उन्नत संस्करण है। अधिकारियों ने बताया कि भारत हवा से प्रक्षेपित की जाने वाली ब्रह्मोस क्रूज मिसाइलों का एक बहुत लंबी दूरी का संस्करण विकसित करने की दिशा में काम कर रहा है।

सेना के सबसे घातक हथियारों में शामिल है ब्रह्मोस

भारतीय सेना के सबसे घातक हथियारों में एक है ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल। इस मिसाइल को रूस और भारत ने मिलकर तैयार किया था। 2005 से इसे हमारी नौसेना में शामिल किया गया। सबसे ज्यादा सटीक वार करने वाली इस मिसाइल की मारक क्षमता 290 किलोमीटर है। सुपर सोनिक की स्पीड से यह मिसाइल अपने लक्ष्य तक 200 से 300 किलो तक विस्फोटक ले जाने में भी सक्षम है।

<https://www.amarujala.com/india-news/iaf-carries-out-successful-firing-of-longer-range-air-launched-brahmos-cruise-missile-2023-10-18>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

IAF Successfully Tests Longer Range Air-Launched BrahMos Cruise Missile

In a significant milestone, the Indian Air Force has successfully fired the air-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile in the Bay of Bengal.

The missile was testfired from a Sukhoi fighter jet which has the capability to launch BrahMos cruise missiles that can hit enemy targets at long ranges.

"The BrahMos air-launched missile was fired from a Su-30MKI fighter jet in the last few days. The aircraft had taken off with the missile from an air base in the southern peninsula and travelled over

1,500 Km to successfully strike a target from a longer range than before," defence officials told ANI.

The missile was the longer-range version of the supersonic weapon system which has been one of the unique weapons possessed by India in partnership with the Russian industry.

According to sources, the Indian Air Force recently conducted two successful trials of the land attack missile system, with the missiles striking their targets with pinpoint accuracy.

In addition to these achievements, India is actively exporting these missiles to friendly nations, including the Philippines, where they will be deployed for coastal defense purposes.

Furthermore, the BrahMos Aerospace corporation is exploring opportunities to expand missile exports to more countries, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious export targets.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/iaf-successfully-tests-longer-range-air-launched-brahmos-cruise-missile/articleshow/104533488.cms>



Thu, 19 Oct 2023

Winter Coming, Army Turns to Tech, More Surveillance for Troop Redeployment at LAC

Redeployment of troops along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), which could also include a reduction in the overall number of troops from the icy heights of eastern Ladakh while maintaining adequate reserves in depth areas, will be part of the Army's winter posture in the region, The Indian Express has learnt.

Top sources in the government said there will be a strong domination of the border using the latest surveillance devices, winter air surveillance operations by helicopters and limited patrolling when required over the next few months.

With no substantive forward movement in the 20th round of military talks between India and China last week, the Army is now preparing for the fourth consecutive winter in eastern Ladakh since the start of the standoff in May 2020.

Sources said the redeployment plans as part of the Army's winter posture will entail troops deployed on smaller satellite posts closing in to company locations and a limited reduction in formations which have been undergoing training.

A source in the government said plans to reassess the overall number of troops deployed are being carried out in the backdrop of increased deployment of latest platforms and equipment and overall improvement in logistics capability.

"With enhancement of the military's airlift capability and construction of additional roads, the ability to move reserves from one area to multiple other areas has become possible. So, the overall troops required in the region reduces as compared to earlier when each area required a separate reserve," the source said.

As against the previous winters, there has been an increase in the deployment of surveillance equipment – cameras to drones to satellites – providing a comprehensive picture to Indian troops, and reducing the necessity for deployment of additional troops.

Sources said adequate stocking and improvement of habitat, catering to thousands of troops deployed there, have been also carried out and will resume post the winter months. “Improvement and additional construction of habitat for troops will continue through winters wherever feasible,” a source said.

Asked about the possibility of redeploying additional troops in the summers, the source said the summers will see a series of exercises by various reserve formations including the strike corps and a decision to hold back troops will be taken depending on how the talks with the Chinese progress.

Medical authorities and the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO), the source said, are working on a system to reduce the existing acclimatisation period which is conducted in three stages of six days for stage 1, and four days each for stages 2 and 3, and studies on this are in advanced stages.

“The reduced acclimatisation schedule will greatly speed up the induction of fresh troops if required,” the source said.

Another round of military talks is expected to take place during the winter months. Local commanders of the two sides, meanwhile, will continue interacting regularly to avoid any incident.

In the 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks between both sides, disengagement of the troops deployed by both sides along the LAC and overall de-escalation of troops in the Ladakh region was part of the agenda, as was adherence to existing protocols and sharing of patrol information to prevent clashes on ground. Phase-wise plans for limited deinduction of troops from along the LAC were also readied, but were not implemented.

In September last year, both sides pulled back troops to disengage from Patrolling Point-15 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area of eastern Ladakh, marking a step forward in the military standoff.

Friction points such as Galwan Valley, north and south banks of Pangong Tso and the Gogra-Hot Springs area have seen some resolution in the last three years with the creation of buffer zones. There is, however, yet to be any disengagement at the legacy friction points such as Depsang Plains and Demchok. At present, around 50,000-60,000 troops remain deployed on either side of the India-China boundary.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-china-ladakh-standoff-winter-coming-army-turns-to-tech-more-surveillance-for-troop-redeployment-at-lac-8989733/>



Thu, 19 Oct 2023

Fortifying Coastal Defenses: Indian Army’s Procurement of Landing Craft Assaults and Fast Patrol Boats

In order to bolster its operational capabilities along the Sir Creek Area of Gujarat and the Brahmaputra river basin, including the Sundarbans, the Indian Army has issued two separate requests for information (RFI) to acquire Landing Craft Assaults (LCA) and Fast Patrol Boats (FPB). This development follows recent tensions between India and Pakistan in the strategically vital Sir Creek area.

The primary objective entails procuring eight Landing Craft Assaults and six Fast Patrol Boats, each playing a crucial role in enhancing the region’s security. According to the RFI, Landing Craft

Assaults will fulfill various roles, including the transportation of vehicles and materials, random boat patrols, and limited search and rescue missions in the Sir Creek area, Brahmaputra River, and the Sunderban delta of West Bengal.

The Fast Patrol Boats, on the other hand, will be deployed for surveillance, patrolling, and interception, both at sea and over water bodies, encompassing the Sir Creek area.

Earlier this year, reports emerged concerning heightened tensions in the Sir Creek area between India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Marines, after the adversary adopted an assertive stance. In response, the BSF mobilized its resources to match the adversary's strength.

About Sir Creek Area

The Creek, a 98-kilometer narrow waterway, stretches between India and Pakistan in the marshy regions of the Rann of Kutch, eventually flowing into the Arabian Sea. The area is known for its inhospitable weather and terrain, and it's also home to venomous snakes.

RFI for FPB & LCA

As specified in the RFI, the Landing Craft Assaults (LCA) and Fast Patrol Boats (FPB) must possess the capability to navigate water bodies without the need for jetties. They should be operable in water with minimal draught, adaptable to unpredictable or variable terrain conditions, and capable of maintaining high speeds.

Landing Craft Assaults

The LCA should exhibit robustness and versatility to ensure the seamless execution of various operations, including patrolling, fast attack, and interception across diverse terrains and operating conditions. Safety of the operator and mitigation of operator fatigue are paramount considerations while maintaining the stringent standards for military use. It is designed to accommodate 35 personnel, including the crew, along with equipment and weaponry.

Moreover, it should exhibit a sailing endurance of eight hours at a speed of 14 knots, with the capability to operate effectively even in sea state 4 conditions.

Fast Patrol Boat

The Fast Patrol Boat must be characterized by exceptional maneuverability up to sea state 4 while maintaining maximum speed under full load conditions. The boat must also exhibit stability and resistance to capsizing.

Similar to the Landing Craft Assaults, the FPB should be rugged and versatile, capable of executing tasks such as small team insertion, surveillance, reconnaissance, and patrolling across diverse terrains and operating conditions. This includes missions akin to the operational role of a small team task force or MOTF (Mission Orienting Task Force).

The Fast Patrol Boats are designed to reach a maximum speed of 35 knots at sea state 2 with a crew of four on board, encompassing a total payload of 500 kg, inclusive of personnel weight and battle load. Furthermore, the FPB should be able to operate at a maximum of 29 knots at sea state-2 with eight personnel on board, including the crew, at full load displacement, constituting a total payload of 1000 kg.

Integrated Surveillance and Targeting Systems

The Army has also issued an RFI for the procurement of 118 Integrated Surveillance and Targeting Systems (ISAT-S), with a requirement of a minimum of 60% indigenous content. These surveillance drones and loitering munitions should be capable of launching from altitudes up to 4500 meters (14500 ft) above mean sea level and must function with major navigation systems, even in environments where access is restricted or denied.

Previously ...

In May this year, during his visit to Maldives, defence minister Rajnath Singh handed over two 'Made in India' platforms — Fast Patrol Vessel and a Landing Craft Assault ship to the Maldives National Defence Forces (MNDF).

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-fortifying-coastal-defenses-indian-armys-procurement-of-landing-craft-assaults-and-fast-patrol-boats-3277344/>



Thu, 19 Oct 2023

IAF Launches Industry Outreach Programme in Pune

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched an industry outreach programme, aimed at strengthening ties with the private sector and fostering innovation and collaboration within the private sector.

In this regard, Air Force Station Pune has conducted one such event on October 17.

The industry outreach programme is a groundbreaking initiative designed to bring together key stakeholders from various sectors including aerospace, defence, technology and academia to facilitate dialogue, and sharing of expertise and to drive forward-looking solutions in support of the IAF's mission to safeguard India's airspace.

Industry leaders, innovators, and experts were invited to join this initiative. Air Vice-Marshal George Thomas, Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Plans), Air Headquarters presided over the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, he stated that the programme underscores the IAF's commitment to modernisation and innovation through indigenous resources.

He further added that by partnering with the private sector and facilitating collaboration, we aim to enhance our operational readiness and secure the nation's skies effectively. Together we can drive innovation to strengthen our national defence and build a brighter future for India, the Air Force stated.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/pune-news/iaf-launches-industry-outreach-programme-in-pune-101697652197666.html>



Thu, 19 Oct 2023

Flaws in Military's Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter Identified, Being Fixed on Priority

A design issue in the military's advanced light helicopter (ALH) Dhruv has been fixed and the locally made helicopters are being fitted with an upgraded control system to improve airworthiness after a series of accidents led to the grounding of the fleet and called into question their flight safety record, two senior officials aware of the matter said.

A top government regulatory body responsible for the certification of the airworthiness of military aircraft ordered the design review in April. HT was the first to report the development at the time.

Aircraft maker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has begun supplying new booster control rods made of steel instead of aluminium to ALH squadrons across the country, and the “tested and proven” design improvement will ensure flight safety, said HAL helicopter complex CEO S Anbuvelan.

These rods allow pilots to control the helicopter’s motion, and any failure can severely affect power input to the rotor blades and cause accidents.

“Control rods for 120 helicopters have been dispatched to different squadrons. The remaining helicopters will get these rods by November. Incidents linked to control rod failure will not recur,” Anbuvelan said. The design improvement is critical as the armed forces operate around 330 twin-engine ALHs, designed and developed by HAL. It began delivering these helicopters in the early 2000s.

This is the first upgrade in the ALH’s control assembly, which consists of the collective, pitch and roll control rods. “What is being replaced right now is the collective control rod. The other two rods will be similarly replaced between November 2023 and June 2024,” he said.

The ALH fleet was grounded for weeks following three incidents in less than two months earlier this year. The multi-mission helicopter has been involved in 12 accidents during the last five years.

The design improvement was much needed as the armed forces use the ALH extensively and India is also looking at tapping its export potential, said another official.

The Bengaluru-based Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) ordered the design review of the booster control rods to improve the ALH’s airworthiness. CEMILAC, which functions under the Defence Research and Development Organisation, reached the conclusion that the design review was mandatory after an expert committee, formed in the backdrop of a navy ALH ditching (emergency landing in water) into the Arabian Sea on March 8, explored the possible failures that led to the incident.

A coast guard and an army ALH were involved in accidents after the navy incident.

The panel found that the most probable cause of the navy ALH incident was a technical failure --- an error in the assembly of serrated washers in the booster control rods.

The design, development and qualification of the steel booster control rods that are tolerant to assembly errors shall be expedited, and the compliance of the new design shall be aimed for implementation in six months to one year, CEMILAC wrote in a letter dated April 23 to HAL, the three services, and the coast guard.

“Though the helicopters are matured from the design point of view, having been exploited for more than 3 lakh hours, still there is scope to review the design/lifting aspects of the safety-critical system by an expert committee as a long-term measure,” said the letter, written by CEMILAC director (helicopters and missiles) DM Isack.

The regulatory body red flagged the drastic reduction in the fatigue life of the control rods.

The Indian Air Force’s latest light combat helicopters (LCH), which inherit several features of ALH, were also grounded earlier this year. LCH is capable of targeting enemy air defences, slow moving aircraft, high-altitude bunkers as well as carrying out counter-insurgency operations.

CEMILAC had earlier prescribed measures for the resumption of ALH and LCH operations.

Clearance for both platforms, limited to 100 flight hours each, will be given after mandatory inspections, it said. Further clearance for up to 500 flight hours or one year, whichever is earlier, will be based on the successful completion of two critical tests by HAL, it added.

These tests involved the flight testing of two helicopters with instrumented control rod assembly for verifying the multi-axis loads on the control rods, and the fatigue testing of the rods with correctly assembled serrated washers to confirm their original capability.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/flaws-in-military-s-dhruv-advanced-lighthelicopter-identified-being-fixed-on-priority-101697652615166.html>



Wed, 18 Oct 2023

India Likely to Sign Deal with U.S. for 31 MQ-9B Drones by February 2024

The deal for 31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) with the U.S. is expected to be concluded by February 2024 and deliveries will begin from February 2027, three years from the signing of the contract, according to defence sources.

“The deal is on track and the Letter of Offer and Acceptance [LOA] is now awaited from the U.S. The contract is expected to be concluded by February 2024,” a defence source with knowledge of the matter said.

As part of this plan, General Atomics (GA) is scheduled to establish a global Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility in India. But its location has not yet been finalised, the source stated, adding that it could likely be in Bengaluru.

In June, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) cleared the procurement of 31 MQ-9B UAVs from GA, including 15 Sea Guardians for the Indian Navy and eight Sky Guardians each for the Indian Army and Air Force, at an estimated cost of \$3,072 million through the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route. Following this, last month, just ahead of the talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Joe Biden on the sidelines of the G-20 summit, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) issued the Letter of Request (LoR) to the U.S. government.

Based on the LoR, the U.S. government and MoD will finalise the LOA where details of equipment and terms of the procurement would be negotiated and finalised in accordance with the FMS programme, the Ministry stated earlier.

As part of the process, the U.S. administration will have to notify the U.S. Congress of the sale, expected to be a formality in this case. In the penultimate step, the deal has to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security of the Indian government after which the contract will be concluded.

The MQ-9B, which will significantly boost the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities of the Indian armed forces, has two variants - the Sky Guardian and Sea Guardian, its maritime variant. MQ-9B is designed to fly over the horizon via satellite for up to 40 hours, depending on configuration, in all types of weather and safely integrate into civil airspace, according to its manufacturer.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-likely-to-sign-deal-with-us-for-31-mq-9b-drones-by-february-2024/article67434565.ece>

Wed, 18 Oct 2023

Enhancing Cybersecurity: Honeywell's Breakthrough Solution to Protect Against Evolving Threats

Honeywell has introduced an innovative solution called Cyber Watch to assist organizations in dealing with evolving cyber threats related to Operational Technology (OT). This technology aims to help leaders and workers identify, address, and manage these threats effectively.

“Everyone from the plant manager to the CISO is a line of defence against the next cyberattack. No company wants to be a front-page headline as the next victim of a ransomware attack. We know hackers are lurking – waiting for months or even years – to strike,” said Kevin Dehoff, president and CEO of Honeywell Connected Enterprise. “Our industry-leading technology, supported by Honeywell’s deep domain experience in critical infrastructure, is designed to empower leaders and workers to stop an attack before it happens, from detection to remediation to response.”

According to a 2023 report by Forrester Research, almost three-quarters of organizations have reported one or more data breaches in the past year. Additionally, there has been a significant 140% year-over-year increase in attacks on industrial organizations.

“Understanding vulnerabilities and gaining insight at both the site and enterprise level will help enable faster and more informed decisions to better defend against cyberattacks, reduce potential downtime, and create a safer environment for our employees,” said Chase Carpenter, Honeywell’s chief security officer. Cyber Watch is part of the Honeywell Forge Cybersecurity+ Suite, which is being showcased at this week’s Honeywell Connect event, focused on software solutions for industrial companies. This suite is designed to pinpoint security weaknesses in an organization’s OT setup, offering insights into vulnerabilities, configuration problems, and compliance issues at both site and enterprise levels, with the goal of enhancing overall security.

This new solution aims to strengthen the defence against cyber threats and improve the resilience of organizations to protect against potential cyberattacks and data breaches.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-enhancing-cybersecurity-honeywells-breakthrough-solution-to-protect-against-evolving-threats-3276664/>



Wed, 18 Oct 2023

India-Vietnam Strategic Partnership a “Source of Security, Stability and Progress in the Region”: EAM Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on October 18 said the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and Vietnam was emerging as a “source of security, stability and progress in the region.” Mr. Jaishankar was speaking when he visited the Indian sail training ship INS Sudarshini, which was on a port call coinciding with his four-day official visit to Vietnam. “Vietnam is the only nation to which India has gifted a fully operational missile corvette INS Kirpan. The joint commission that I see further deepens our defence relations. So, today as INS Sudarshini docks in Ho Chi Minh City, let me say that the strong and favourable winds of our growing partnership will

fill our sails that will help synchronise our efforts in order to race ahead,” the Minister said addressing the gathering on board the INS Sudarshini.

“From what I understood from the briefing, this training ship highlights the importance of discipline, hard work, ability to adapt, competence to the right press, and the courage to face unforeseen situations,” he said. “Our defence engagements today span a wide spectrum of capacity building of defence industry, UN peacekeeping, submarine and pilot training and of course, bilateral ship visits and exercises,” he added.

Soon after the programme on board the INS Sudarshini, Mr. Jaishankar took to post on X along with three photos of his visit: “Delighted to visit INS Sudarshini which docked in Ho Chi Minh City this morning. Its visit reaffirms our long maritime tradition. Our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership has built on that, emerging as a source of security, stability and progress in the region.”

Mr. Jaishankar interacted with the young crew, Vietnamese military personnel and senior officials.

Mr. Jaishankar held talks with his Vietnamese counterpart Bui Thanh Son on a range of issues. The two Ministers co-chaired the 18th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting on economic, trade, scientific and technological cooperation and reviewed progress on the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership including bilateral cooperation in various fields.

He also called on Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and held discussions with the Chairman of the External Relations Commission of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Le Hoai Trung.

The Minister’s visit to the strategically-located Southeast Asian country comes less than three months after India gifted missile corvette INS Kirpan to the Vietnamese armed forces, in reflection of the growing bilateral strategic partnership amid common concerns over China's increasingly aggressive behaviour in the South China Sea.

It was the first time that India handed over a fully operational corvette to any friendly foreign country. From Vietnam, Mr. Jaishankar will travel to Singapore for a visit from October 19 to 20.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-vietnam-strategic-partnership-a-source-of-security-stability-and-progress-in-the-region-eam-jaishankar/article67433920.ece>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Thu, 19 Oct 2023

US Defence Secretary Talks with Israeli Counterpart to Receive Latest Updates on War

US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin III spoke with Israel's Defence Minister Yaov Gallant to receive the latest updates on Israel's operation after the Hamas' surprise attack.

On Tuesday, the Secretary called for Lebanese Hezbollah to cease its attacks from southern Lebanon into Israel, and underscored the importance of humanitarian aid deliveries to civilians in Gaza, according to the statement released by the US Department of Defence.

The Secretary updated Minister Gallant on upcoming deliveries of security assistance to Israel and reiterated the U.S. commitment to the safe return of hostages held by Hamas.

Earlier, on Wednesday, US President Joe Biden visited Israel for an 7 1/2--hour visit that produced a heaping dose of support for the Israeli people, a deal to get limited humanitarian aid into Gaza from Egypt and a warning not to allow rage over the deadly Hamas attack to consume them.

“I understand. Many Americans understand,” Biden said as he wrapped up his stay in Tel Aviv, similar to the attacks against the United States on September 11, 2001, that killed nearly 3,000 people. “You can’t look at what has happened here ... and not scream out for justice,” he said.

“But I caution this: While you feel that rage, don’t be consumed by it,” he said. “After 9/11, we were enraged in the United States. And while we sought justice and got justice, we also made mistakes.” Biden urged Israel to step back from the brink, not just to ease growing tensions in the Mideast that threaten to spiral into a broader regional conflict, but also to reassure a world rattled by images of carnage and suffering, in Israel and Gaza alike. One million people have been displaced in roughly 10 days, according to the United Nations.

Biden’s mission was to display resolve for Israel and to diminish the likelihood of a wider war, while providing assurances that he was not overlooking the increasingly dire humanitarian situation in Gaza. But it was not clear how far the trip would take Biden in trying to tamp down volatile Mideast divisions, particularly after his plan collapsed to follow the Israel stop with an Arab leaders summit in Jordan.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/us-defence-secretary-talks-with-israeli-counterpart-to-receive-latest-updates-on-war/articleshow/104536251.cms>



Wed, 18 Oct 2023

ADEX 2023: KAL-ASD Unveils New Loitering Munition

Korean Air Aerospace Division (KAL-ASD) has unveiled its new KUS-SX unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), which the company said has been designed to destroy adversarial missile sites.

According to a KAL-ASD official, the new aircraft is classified as a reconnaissance and attack UAV. Development of the KUS-SX began in early 2023, the KAL-ASD official said. “The development of the unmanned aerial vehicle was completed in just a few months as we have the core UAV technologies,” the KAL-ASD official told Janes on 18 October, at the Seoul International Aerospace & Defense Exhibition (ADEX) 2023.

The UAV was first revealed during South Korea’s 75th Armed Forces Day parade on 26 September. During the parade, the loitering munition was placed atop Kia Light Tactical Vehicles (KLTVs).

According to specifications revealed by KAL-ASD during ADEX 2023, the UAV has a length of 2.5 m and a wingspan of 3 m. The UAV, which is powered by a pusher engine, has a multirole nose, which can accommodate a bomb or a sensor to support surveillance or reconnaissance operations, according to KAL-ASD. The company official said that the engine was procured from an international vendor and added that additional details about the engine are classified.

The company stated that the KUS-SX will have dual-homing capabilities for anti-radiation and electro-optical sensors. “The KUS-SX was developed to destroy targets not easily targeted by air-launched weaponry from manned combat aircraft,” the KAL-ASD official said.

A video of the operational concept created by KAL-ASD showed the KUS-SX attacking S-125 Neva/Pechora (SA-3 ‘Goa’) mobile surface-to-air missile (SAM) units.

<https://www.janes.com/defence-news/news-detail/adex-2023-kal-asd-unveils-new-loitering-munition>

ISRO'S SATURDAY TEST FLIGHT TO SHOWCASE CREW ESCAPE SYSTEM

Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), with the help of Indian Navy, on Saturday will conduct the first-ever test vehicle development flight (TV-D1) for India's maiden human spaceflight Gaganyaan. A look at what the test comprises, and how it takes the space agency a step closer to sending the first batch of astronauts to space. **By Soumya Pillai**

GAGANYAAN: THE MISSION

The Gaganyaan, India's first human spaceflight mission, envisages to demonstrate human spaceflight capability by launching a crew of three members to an orbit of 400km for a three-day mission and bringing them back safely.

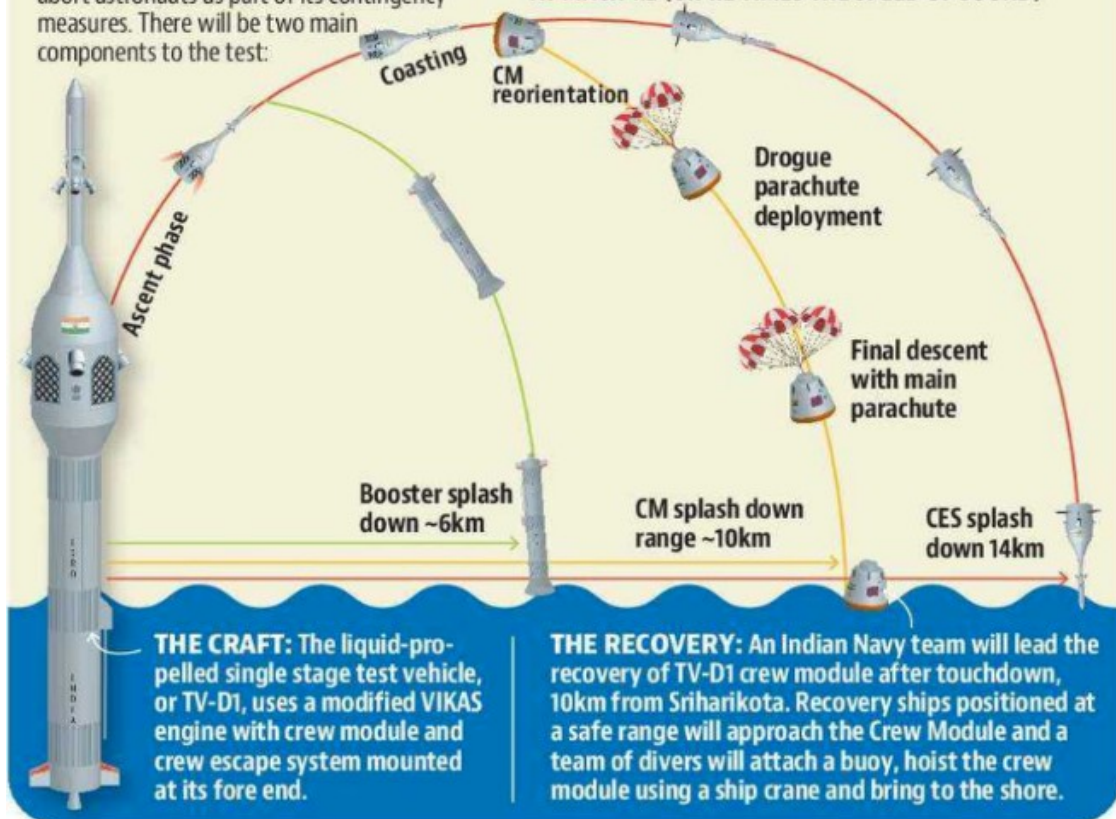
The prerequisites for the mission include development of critical technologies including human-rated launch vehicle, life support system to provide an Earth-like environment to the crew, emergency escape provisions, among others.

WHY IS THE TEST BEING CONDUCTED?

Since this is the first time a mission will be carrying astronauts, Isro is testing how it will abort astronauts as part of its contingency measures. There will be two main components to the test:

- 1 THE NEWLY DEVELOPED TEST VEHICLE
- 2 CREW MODULE SEPARATION & SAFE RECOVERY

ACCORDING TO ISRO, THE TEST WILL BE CARRIED OUT AT MACH 1.2 (OR 1.2 TIMES THE SPEED OF SOUND)



THE CRAFT: The liquid-propelled single stage test vehicle, or TV-D1, uses a modified VIKAS engine with crew module and crew escape system mounted at its fore end.

THE RECOVERY: An Indian Navy team will lead the recovery of TV-D1 crew module after touchdown, 10km from Sriharikota. Recovery ships positioned at a safe range will approach the Crew Module and a team of divers will attach a buoy, hoist the crew module using a ship crane and bring to the shore.

