



# CONTENTS

S. No.	TITLE	Page No.
<b>DRDO News</b>		<b>1-4</b>
<b>DRDO Technology News</b>		<b>1-3</b>
1.	रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन द्वारा हैदराबाद में उद्योगों के साथ उनकी जरूरतों को समझने और उनकी नीतियों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए विचार-विमर्श	पत्र सूचना कार्यालय 1
2.	DRDO Holds Interaction with the Industry in Hyderabad to Understand their Concerns & Raise Awareness about its Policies	<i>Press Information Bureau</i> 2
3.	DRDO Holds Interaction with Defence Startups	<i>The Economic Times</i> 3
<b>DRDO on Twitter</b>		<b>4</b>
<b>Defence News</b>		<b>5-17</b>
<b>Defence Strategic: National/International</b>		<b>5-17</b>
4.	First Signs of Integration, Army Officers Cross-posted to IAF, Navy Missile Units	<i>The Tribune</i> 5
5.	Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Visit Nigeria, Strengthen Defence Ties	<i>The Times of India</i> 6
6.	NATSEC Agencies Conduct Cyber Defence Exercises to Foil China and other Adversaries	<i>Hindustan Times</i> 7
7.	China Building Border Defence Villages 11 km from LAC in Uttarakhand, Say Sources	<i>India Today</i> 8
8.	Second Edition of India-Saudi Joint Naval Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 Concludes	<i>The Print</i> 9
9.	US Defence Secretary to Visit India in June; to Review US-India Major Defence Partnership	<i>Deccan Herald</i> 9
10.	Diplomatically Packed June: India, US and Germany to Talk Joint Collaboration, Drones, Submarines	<i>Financial Express</i> 10
11.	US House Panel Recommends Inclusion of India in NATO Plus to Deter China	<i>WION</i> 12
12.	पीएम मोदी की अमेरिका यात्रा भारत की नई ताकत की बनेगी गवाह, रक्षा संबंधों पर रहेगा विशेष फोकस	जागरण 13
13.	Japan Puts Missile Defence on Alert as North Korea Warns of Satellite Launch	<i>The Indian Express</i> 14
14.	Russian Iskander Missiles Systems Reaching Belarus; to be Deployed Soon	<i>Financial Express</i> 14
15.	The Iris-T SLM becomes a Popular European Air Defence System	<i>Army Technology</i> 16
16.	US Collaborating with Ukraine to Develop Bio-weapons, Says Russian Defence Ministry	<i>RepublicWorld.com</i> 16
<b>Science &amp; Technology News</b>		<b>17-19</b>
17.	Indian Navy and ISRO Join Hands for Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan	<i>Financial Express</i> 17
18.	UK to Focus on Enhancing Science and Innovation Ties with India	<i>The Print</i> 18



पत्र सूचना कार्यालय  
भारत सरकार

रक्षा मंत्रालय

Sun, 28 May 2023

### रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन द्वारा हैदराबाद में उद्योगों के साथ उनकी जरूरतों को समझने और उनकी नीतियों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के लिए विचार-विमर्श

भारत को एक शुद्ध रक्षा निर्यातक बनाने के लिए हर संभव समर्थन का आश्वासन

रक्षा अनुसंधान और विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) ने 27 मई, 2023 को हैदराबाद के अनुसंधान केंद्र इमारत (आरसीआई) में एक दिवसीय उद्योग संवाद और विचार-मंथन सत्र आयोजित किया। इसका उद्देश्य एमएसएमई और स्टार्ट-अप सहित सभी रक्षा संबंधी उद्योगों को डीआरडीओ की विभिन्न उद्योग-अनुकूल पहलों और नीतियों के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाने के साथ उनकी मुश्किलों को समझने के लिए एक मंच पर लाना था। इस कार्यक्रम में 180 से अधिक उद्योगों ने भाग लिया।

रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास विभाग के सचिव और डीआरडीओ के अध्यक्ष डॉ. समीर वी. कामत ने इस खुले विचार-मंथन सत्र 'चिंतन' की अध्यक्षता की। उन्होंने उद्योग को आश्वासन दिया कि डीआरडीओ उन्हें हर संभव सहायता देगा और भारत को एक विशुद्ध रक्षा निर्यातक बनाने के लिए उनकी क्षमताओं के निर्माण में एक संरक्षक की भूमिका निभाएगा। डीआरडीओ के अध्यक्ष ने इस तरह की पहल को नियमित रूप से करने की आवश्यकता पर जोर दिया क्योंकि ये आयोजन पूर्ण आत्मनिर्भरता प्राप्त करने के लिए भारतीय रक्षा विनिर्माण क्षेत्र को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक नई प्रेरणा प्रदान करते हैं।

उद्योग इंटरफ़ेस और प्रौद्योगिकी प्रबंधन निदेशालय (डीआईआईटीएम) के निदेशक श्री अरुण चौधरी ने डीआरडीओ की भारतीय उद्योगों का समर्थन देने वाली विभिन्न पहलों और नीतियों पर एक संक्षिप्त विवरण दिया। उन्होंने नीति की मुख्य विशेषताओं को सामने लाते हुए डीआरडीओ द्वारा उद्योग को 'प्रौद्योगिकी हस्तांतरण' की प्रक्रिया के बारे में बताया। उन्होंने विकास और उत्पादन भागीदारों के रूप में उद्योगों के चयन की आवश्यकता और प्रक्रिया के बारे में भी जानकारी दी। प्रौद्योगिकी विकास कोष (टीडीएफ) योजना की मुख्य विशेषताएं उद्योग को उपयुक्त रूप से समझाई गईं। उन्होंने भारतीय उद्योग द्वारा डीआरडीओ की नीति और इसकी अवसंरचना परीक्षण सुविधा के उपयोग की प्रक्रियाओं और डीआरडीओ पेटेंट का विवरण भी दिया।

डीआरडीओ ने भारतीय गुणवत्ता परिषद (क्यूसीआई) के सहयोग से एमएसएमई सहित रक्षा विनिर्माण उद्यमों की परिपक्वता को मापने के लिए एक बेंचमार्क 'उन्नत विनिर्माण आकलन और रैंकिंग प्रणाली प्रमाणन' (एसएएमएआर) विकसित किया है। आयोजन के दौरान, जीओ-टैगिंग और टाइम-स्टैम्पिंग के साथ डिजिटल मूल्यांकन के लिए एसएएमएआर और आईटी-सक्षम ऑनलाइन मॉडल पर एक सिंहावलोकन भी प्रस्तुत किया गया। डीआरडीओ सूक्ष्म और लघु उद्योगों को रियायती लागत पर एसएएमएआर की पेशकश कर रहा है।

एमएसएमई और बड़े उद्यमों के साथ-साथ स्टार्ट-अप उद्यमियों के उद्योग भागीदारों ने डीआरडीओ के साथ काम करने के अपने अनुभव साझा किए। उन्होंने मौजूदा प्रक्रियाओं और नीतियों में सुधार के लिए मूल्यवान सुझाव दिए और व्यापार को आसान बनाने के तरीकों की सिफारिश की।

मिसाइल और सामरिक प्रणाली के महानिदेशक डॉ बीएचवीएस नारायण मूर्ति और उत्पादन समन्वय और सेवा सहभागिता की महानिदेशक डॉ चंद्रिका कौशिक ने रक्षा पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के सभी हितधारकों के साथ अधिक तालमेल की आवश्यकता पर प्रकाश डाला। इस कार्यक्रम में गुणवत्ता, विश्वसनीयता और सुरक्षा निदेशालय के निदेशक वाइस एडमिरल रंजीत सिंह और डीआरडीओ के निदेशक और अन्य वैज्ञानिक भी शामिल हुए।

इस कार्यक्रम ने खुले विचार-मंथन सत्र के दौरान आत्मचिंतन और मंथन के लिए एक अनूठी शुरुआत की और उद्योगों को वर्तमान परिदृश्य में आवश्यक चुनौतियों, अपेक्षाओं और समर्थन को व्यक्त करने का अवसर प्रदान किया। बिजनेस को आसान बनाने के दृष्टिकोण को आगे बढ़ाने और उद्योग को सुविधा प्रदान करने के लिए एक नए सिरे से ढांचा तैयार करने पर भी पर चर्चा हुई।

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1927863>



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

**Ministry of Defence**

*Sun, 28 May 2023*

## **DRDO Holds Interaction with the Industry in Hyderabad to Understand their Concerns & Raise Awareness about its Policies**

### **Assures all possible support to make India a net defence exporter**

A day-long industry interaction and brainstorming session was organised by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad on May 27, 2023. It was aimed at bringing all defence industries, including MSMEs & start-ups, to one platform for understanding their concerns while increasing awareness on various industry-friendly initiatives and policies of DRDO. More than 180 industries participated in the event.

Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat chaired the open brainstorming session 'Chintan'. He assured the industry that DRDO will extend all possible support to them and will play the role of a mentor in building their capabilities to make India a net defence exporter. The DRDO Chairman emphasised the need to undertake such initiatives on a regular basis as these events provide a renewed impetus to boost the Indian defence manufacturing sector to achieve complete self-reliance.

Director, Directorate of Industry Interface & Technology Management (DIITM) Shri Arun Chaudhary gave a brief overview on various initiatives and policies of DRDO which support the Indian industries. He explained the process of 'Transfer of Technology' by DRDO to the industry, bringing out the salient features of the Policy. He explained the necessity and process of selection of industries as Development cum production partners. The highlights of Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme were aptly explained to industry. He also gave details of DRDO policy and procedures on utilisation of its infrastructure Testing facility and DRDO patents by Indian industry.

The DRDO, in collaboration with Quality Council of India (QCI), has developed the 'System for Advanced Manufacturing Assessment and Ranking (SAMAR)' certification, a benchmark to measure the maturity of defence manufacturing enterprises, including MSMEs. During the event, an overview on SAMAR and IT-enabled online model for digitised assessment with geo-tagging and time-stamping were also presented. The DRDO is offering SAMAR to micro and small industries at subsidised cost.

Industry partners from MSMEs & large enterprises as well as start-up entrepreneurs gave presentations on their experience of working with DRDO. They gave valuable suggestions to improve the current procedures and policies and recommended ways for doing ease of business.

DG, Missiles and Strategic Systems Dr BHVS Narayana Murthy and DG, Production Coordination & Services Interaction Dr Chandrika Kaushik highlighted the need for more synergy with all stakeholders of the defence ecosystem. The event was also attended by Director, Directorate of Quality, Reliability & Safety Vice Admiral Ranjit Singh & directors and scientists of DRDO.

The event provided a unique beginning for Aatmachintan and Manthan during the open brainstorming session and a window of opportunity to the industries to express their challenges, expectations and support needed in the current scenario. Discussions were held to create a redefined framework to further the vision of ease of doing business and facilitate the industry.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1927828>

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

*Sun, 28 May 2023*

### **DRDO Holds Interaction with Defence Startups**

A day-long industry interaction and brainstorming session was organised by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) at Research Centre Imarat in Hyderabad. Held on Saturday, it was aimed at bringing all defence industries, including MSMEs and start-ups, to one platform for understanding their concerns while increasing awareness on various industry-friendly initiatives and policies of DRDO.

More than 180 industries participated in the event, an official release Sunday.

Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat chaired the open brainstorming session 'Chintan'. He assured the industry that DRDO will extend all possible support to them and will play the role of a mentor in building their capabilities to make India a net defence exporter.

The DRDO Chairman emphasised the need to undertake such initiatives on a regular basis as these events provide a renewed impetus to boost the Indian defence manufacturing sector to achieve complete self-reliance.

The event provided a unique beginning for Aatmachintan and Manthan during the open brainstorming session and a window of opportunity to the industries to express their challenges, expectations and support needed in the current scenario.

Discussions were held to create a redefined framework to further the vision of ease of doing business and facilitate the industry.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/drdo-holds-interaction-with-defence-startups/articleshow/100568161.cms>

# DRDO on Twitter



**DRDO** ✓  
@DRDO\_India



[#DRDOUpdates](#) | A one day Industry Interaction Campaign and open brain storming session “Chintan” chaired by Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO was organised on 27th May 2023 at RCI, Hyderabad.

[@DefenceMinIndia](#)  
[@SpokespersonMoD](#)



6:31 pm · 28 May 2023 · 9,801 Views

31 Retweets 1 Quote 225 Likes



**DRDO** ✓ @DRDO\_India · 19h



Campaign was aimed to bring awareness on various industry friendly initiatives and policies of DRDO and giving them a platform to express challenges, expectations & support required



1



8



63



6,366



**DRDO** ✓ @DRDO\_India · 19h



The campaign also covered brief and overview on System for Advance Manufacturing Assessment and Rating (SAMAR) which is a benchmark to measure the competency of defence manufacturing enterprises.



8



60



5,807



# The Tribune

Sun, 28 May 2023

## First Signs of Integration, Army Officers Cross-posted to IAF, Navy Missile Units

In another step towards integrating the three armed forces at the cutting-edge level, Army officers have been cross-posted to Indian Air Force (IAF) and Navy units having common weaponry.

Orders were issued last week to post Army officers to BrahMos missile units of the IAF and Navy (on warships). The orders were for officers at the level of Major and Captain in the Regiment of Artillery, which operates BrahMos. “These are among the first steps towards the creation of joint fighting forces,” an official said. All the three services operate BrahMos, the country’s premier missile that can travel at hypersonic speed to a distance in excess of 400 km.

The Air Force has ground-based BrahMos units while Sukhoi 30-MKI fighter jets too have been modified to carry the missile.

Sources said the cross-posting could extend to other common-use platforms such as air defence system ‘Akash’ and at some stage to UAVs and helicopters. The three services have common machines like advanced light helicopters (ALH) and Chinook helicopters. The IAF already has Chinook helicopters while Army Aviation has placed orders for these.

General Bipin Rawat, the previous Chief of Defence Staff, had laid out a plan that spoke of integrating the war-fighting units of the forces at the level of Major and Captain and then moving it upwards.

In the recent past, two new divisions—Defence Space Agency and Defence Cyber Agency—were created as tri-service organisations and have cross-posting of officers from all the three services.

In special operations, Garuda commandos of the IAF get to work along Army units. Navy marine commandos called Marcos operate in Kashmir valley and were among the forces tasked with security at the G20 event in Srinagar on May 22.

At present, the tri-service organisations include the Andaman and Nicobar Command, Strategic Forces Command and the Department of Military Affairs—led by the Chief of Defence Staff. In March, the Ministry of Defence moved a Bill in Parliament to provide disciplinary powers to the Commander heading tri-service organisations. This implies that once the Bill is passed, all personnel serving in tri-service organisations will be governed by the commander of the organisation for the maintenance of discipline.

Officers and other personnel posted to tri-service organisations currently face disciplinary proceedings, if any, under their respective service Acts governing the IAF, Army and the Navy,

which can vary in terms of quantum of punishment. Also, the tri-service commander has no role in administration of justice against any of his subordinates. The Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023, is a long-awaited reform, especially after the appointment the CDS.

### **Majors, Captains in initial phase**

Officers at the level of Major and Captain cross-posted in units operating BrahMos

Cross-posting could soon extend to other common-use platforms such as air defence system, UAVs, helicopters

Tri-services also have common machines like the advanced light helicopters and Chinook helicopters

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/first-signs-of-integration-army-officers-cross-posted-to-iaf-navy-missile-units-512158>

## **THE TIMES OF INDIA**

*Sun, 28 May 2023*

### **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to Visit Nigeria, Strengthen Defence Ties**

Defence minister Rajnath is now headed for a three-day visit to Nigeria to attend the swearing-in ceremony of the country's new president, in keeping with India's ongoing military outreach to the African continent where China has made deep inroads.

In the first-ever visit by an Indian defence minister to the west African nation, Singh will attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu at Eagle Square in Abuja on Monday. Singh will also meet the outgoing Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari during a reception hosted by him on Sunday.

"Singh's visit will be an important landmark in building the strong bonds of friendship between the two countries. Considering the growing defence cooperation between India and Nigeria, senior defence ministry officers and the top leadership of important defence PSUs will accompany the minister," an official said on Saturday.

"They will hold meetings with the representatives from the Nigerian industry and the armed forces to identify the equipment and platforms, through which the Indian defence industry can support the country's requirements," he added. With Nigeria being home to an estimated 50,000 members of the Indian community, Singh is also scheduled to address a diaspora event.

The visit comes soon after Army chief General Manoj Pande visited Egypt earlier this month. The Special Forces of India and Egypt had conducted their first-ever joint Army exercise called 'Cyclone-1' at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan in January, while the government hosted Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi as the chief guest at the Republic Day parade this year. India had also conducted a field training exercise for several African countries in March.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/defence-minister-rajnath-singh-to-visit-nigeria-strengthen-defence-ties/articleshow/100559295.cms>



## **NATSEC Agencies Conduct Cyber Defence Exercises to Foil China and other Adversaries**

With the cyberattack threat from China and other adversaries mounting by the day, the national security agencies, including the tri-services, are currently participating in a weeklong cyber defence exercise to test the resilience of India's critical civilian and military infrastructure, officials familiar with the matter said on Saturday.

While the government is tight-lipped on this count, the cybersecurity exercises are being held under the aegis of the Defence Cyber Agency (DCyA) with other branches of national security participating in the effort to test the firewalls guarding India's critical infrastructure.

The cyber defence exercise comes after US cyber experts found Chinese sleeper malware in Australia and Japanese networks as part of Quad cybersecurity cooperation.

“This malware is normally injected into the critical network and made to lie dormant for years. The bug is then activated by China any time it chooses to cripple the critical infrastructure or extract information,” said one of the officials cited above.

It is understood that the November 23, 2022, cyberattack on five servers of AIIMS in Delhi was engineered by China-based hackers and the cyber post-mortem of the attack showed that the malware or the bug to steal medical records was planted in the servers way back in 2014. On the military front, the 25-infantry division of Indian Army, based in Poonch, was cyber-attacked by the adversary during the Pakistani retaliation to the 2019 Operation Bander launched by the Indian Air Force (IAF) to destroy a Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist training camp at Balakot in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa on February 26. The Balakot operation was conducted by the IAF to avenge the killings of 40 CRPF troopers at the hands of a Jaish suicide bomber in Pulwama on February 14, 2019. The Pakistani retaliation to Balakot was launching of missiles at the Indian Army's brigade at Poonch on February 27, 2019.

Cybersecurity is also emerging as a key element of cooperation among Quad countries with the four leaders agreeing at Hiroshima this month to collaborate to enhance regional capacities and resilience to cyber incidents and threats. The Quad cyber challenge was held this year to promote cyber awareness and empower participants across the Indo-Pacific to protect themselves online.

The four countries have worked out the Quad joint principles for secure software and Quad joint principles for cybersecurity of critical infrastructure, and work is on to develop a framework for ensuring cyber security of supply chains and resilience. These principles are designed to strengthen regional defences against cyber threats to software supply chains, the digital economy, critical infrastructure, and services.

While the Indian national security agencies and tri-services network are protected by air gap and stand-alone servers, the Union government servers under the National Informatics Centre (NIC) are often cyber-attacked and compromised by India's adversaries to glean confidential information and intelligence through planted malware. As the Indian economy expands in the digital dimension, security planners are reviewing the national networks to make them more resilient with stronger firewall architecture.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/national-security-agencies-conduct-cyber-defence-exercises-to-foil-china-and-other-adversaries-threat-quad-101685225132970.html>

## **China Building Border Defence Villages 11 km from LAC in Uttarakhand, Say Sources**

China, which is already locked in a lingering border standoff with India, has been building border defence villages adjacent to Uttarakhand, sources told India Today. These border villages, comprising 250 homes, are being built 11 kilometers away from the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

China has also been involved in the construction of around 55-56 houses around 35 kilometers away from the LAC adjoining Uttarakhand, which remain under the supervision of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). It has plans to construct 400 villages in the eastern sector along the border alone. Uttarakhand shares a 350-km border with China. Most of the border villages see outward migration owing to a lack of livelihood opportunities.

These villages are big complexes equipped with all the facilities. The Indian Army earlier said that it was monitoring the situation along the LAC, which is the border between India and China.

### **INDIA TO BUILD 6-KM LONG TUNNEL**

A six-kilometre-long tunnel will be constructed between Bundi and Garbiyang on the Ghatiabagar-Lipulekh road in Uttarakhand to make the way to the last border post of the Lipulekh pass on the India-China border more smooth, a senior BRO official told news agency PTI.

“The contract for the survey work of the tunnel has been awarded to ATINOK India Consultants. The company has started the survey work and will submit its final proposal in a year’s time,” Chief Engineer of Project Hirak Vimal Goswami said.

The Rs 2,000-crore project could begin in four-five years, he added.

“The BRO has kept the border road from Bundi to Garbiyang single lane in view of the proposed tunnel, while the rest of it is going to be double lane,” Goswami said.

According to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) officer, the border road that was commissioned in 2020 is being black-topped and double-laned these days.

Most of the double-laning work has nearly been completed, he said.

Earlier in April, the Indian Military expressed serious concerns over massive construction by China in the Amo Chu river valley in Bhutan. Amo Chu abuts the strategic Doklam plateau, from where India’s Siliguri corridor is in the direct line of sight of China’s PLA.

Pictures accessed exclusively by INDIA TODAY show the PLA’s permanent habitation for its troops along with communication towers in Amo Chu. Close to 1,000 permanent military hutments as well as multiple temporary sheds have come up in recent months to house thousands of PLA troops. The relations between India and China nosedived after the 2020 Galwan valley clash in which 20 Indian soldiers were killed. Both the countries have held several rounds of military talks to solve the border tensions with India emphasising that relations with China cannot be back to normal unless border issues are solved. Amid the impasse, China has sought to push a narrative that the situation in Ladakh is generally stable and the two countries should move towards normalisation.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/china-building-border-defence-villages-11-kms-from-lac-in-uttarakhand-sources-2384575-2023-05-26>

## **Second Edition of India-Saudi Joint Naval Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 Concludes**

The second edition of India-Saudi Joint Naval Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 concluded on Thursday.

In the five-day exercise, Indian Naval Aircraft Dornier and Saudi Air component participated, according to a tweet by the Indian Embassy in Riyadh.

The Indian Navy, in an official statement, stated that INS Tarkash and INS Subhadra and IN Dornier, Maritime Patrol Aircraft arrived at Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia on 21 May 2023 to participate in the second edition of Bilateral Naval Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23.

The Naval Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force RSNF was scheduled from 21 to 25 May 2023.

“The ships were received by Col Gurtej Singh Grewal SC, Defence Attache, officials from RSNF and Embassy of India in Saudi Arabia and school children from International Indian School, Al Jubail. Commanding Officer Tarkash called on Brig Nahes H Al-Mutairi, Commander, Border Guards at Al Jubail,” the statement read.

As part of the harbour phase of bilateral ex Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 between the Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force RSNF, Special Forces interactions from either side, a pre-sail conference for the upcoming sea phase and a friendly football match were conducted. IN crew visited King Fahad Naval Academy KFNA, according to the statement.

The first edition took place in August 2021.

Earlier in March, the Indian Embassy in Riyadh informed that a team from Royal Saudi Naval Forces met with the Indian side in Mumbai, giving final touches to the preparations for India-Saudi Arabia Naval Exercise, ‘Al-Mohed-Al Hindi-23’ planned for May off Jubail in Saudi Arabia.

The decision on the Bilateral exercise was taken during the Riyadh Summit held in 2019.

The exercise aims to carry out tactical manoeuvres, search and rescue operations, and an electronic warfare drill to enhance interoperability.

<https://theprint.in/world/second-edition-of-india-saudi-joint-naval-exercise-al-mohed-al-hindi-23-concludes/1595385/>



## **US Defence Secretary to Visit India in June; to Review US-India Major Defence Partnership**

Enhanced Indo-US collaboration in military technologies may emerge as one of the positive outcomes for Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he travels to the USA next month as officials from the two countries work on the contours of possible agreements that the two countries may ink.

While US Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin will be in India next weekend to hold discussions with his counterpart Rajnath Singh and to review the US-India Major Defense Partnership, officials held two back to back discussions including one on cooperation on space and artificial intelligence to discuss joint projects.

Secretary Austin's visit comes close on the heels of the inaugural US-India Advanced Domains Defense Dialogue (AD3) in New Delhi earlier this week.

Five days before the AD3, India-US Defence Policy Group had its 17th meeting in Washington DC in which the two countries discussed promoting co-development and co-production in India involving defence companies from India and the USA. The Defence Policy Group is the apex official mechanism between the defence departments of the two countries.

In the DPG meeting, the officials deliberated on projects where Indian and US defence companies could work together. They agreed to encourage both private and government stakeholders to utilise the innovation ecosystems and promote defence start-ups.

“Secretary Austin's visit provides an opportunity to accelerate new defence innovation and industrial cooperation initiatives and drive ongoing efforts to expand operational cooperation between the US and Indian militaries,” Pentagon said in a statement on Friday.

The visit comes weeks before Prime Minister Modi travels to the US for a state visit from June 21-24, where he will be hosted by US President Joe Biden at the White House. This will be Narendra Modi's first state visit to the US during his nine-year long reign as prime minister.

The two countries are working on finalising agreements that may be inked during the Modi visit.

Before arriving in New Delhi, Secretary Austin will be travelling to Japan on a bilateral visit and address the 20th Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore, organised by the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

On the margins of the Dialogue, the top US official will meet with key leaders to advance US defense partnerships across the region in support of Washington's vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific, anchored in ASEAN centrality. Similar issues are likely to come up for discussion when he meets Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi.

Meanwhile, Singh will be travelling to Nigeria between May 28-30 to attend the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect Bola Ahmed Tinubu. This would be the first ever visit by an Indian Defence Minister to the West African nation.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/us-defence-secretary-to-visit-india-in-june-to-review-us-india-major-defence-partnership-1222471.html>



*Fri, 26 May 2023*

## **Diplomatically Packed June: India, US and Germany to Talk Joint Collaboration, Drones, Submarines**

Bolstering defence partnerships with India will be the focus of two high level visits from the US and Germany in the first week of June when the US Secretary of Defence Lloyd J Austin III as well as the Defence Minister Boris Pistorius of Germany arrive in India.

The talks in India with the two defence ministers are expected to be Indo-Pacific Region, Maritime Domain awareness, Chinese growing presence in the region, collaboration in defence R&D and

production. The ministers will discuss drones, air defence systems, submarines, and initiatives which will strengthen the defence ties with the two countries as all are keen on stability in the Indo-Pacific Region.

### **India and Germany**

The two day visit of the German Defence Minister Boris Pistorius on June 6 is expected to focus on discussions related to submarines under Project 75I for building six submarines. Though the agenda of the visit has not been declared officially, sources in the defence and security establishment told Financial Express Online, when he meets his counterpart Rajnath Singh, issues related to Project 75(I), long pending Air Defence Systems from Rheinmetall and more will be discussed.

About seven defence orders are pending export permissions from the German authorities since the last couple of years. A list available with Financial Express Online includes engines and spare parts contracts for companies like M/s Mahle and M/S Rolls Royce Solutions, Germany.

Earlier Financial Express Online has reported that India is planning to build six conventional submarines under Project 75 (I) in collaboration with a foreign Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) under Transfer of Technology since the focus is on 'atmanirbhar' in defence'.

As reported previously Germany leads globally as far as conventional submarine design and technology is concerned. In fact Indian Navy still operates four Type 209 submarines which were built in India and have never gone back to Germany for refits, modernization or repairs as all is done here in India with German Oversight for Certification.

### **Germany for Project 75 (I)**

ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) of Germany is one of international bidders for this project worth US \$ 5.2 billion under which six conventional submarines are expected to be built jointly under the Strategic Partnership (SP) Model. Korean Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (DSME), is also in the race as it fulfils the specifications as mentioned in the RFP.

Financial Express Online has reported earlier that two Indian companies under the Strategic Partnership Model — MDL and Larsen and Toubro are expected to respond to the RFPs later in the year.

Defence cooperation is an important pillar of India-Germany Strategic Partnership and in New Delhi the two ministers are expected to discuss Transfer of Technology for the submarines, co-innovation and co-design in the field of defence. In view of the growing presence of the Chinese navy in the Indian Ocean region, India is keen to expedite the Project 75 (I) under an overarching governmental arrangement to enhance its beleaguered undersea warfare capability.

The German and the Indian defence minister are also likely to talk about the different defence projects through government to government process.

The RFP issued by the Ministry of Defence made it clear that it is looking for the vendors who have "sea proven" fuel cell Air-Independent Propulsion (AIP), this means that there are only two companies in the world with proven AIP — TKMS and DSME.

A Memorandum of Understanding is likely to be inked between TKMS and Mazagon Dock Limited for the Project 75 I

### **India & US**

The US Secretary of Defence is coming on a two days visit from June 4-5 ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to that country later in the month. The visit comes at a time when the two countries are seeking to further enhance their strategic cooperation under the framework of the US-India Major Defence Partnership. When the US Secretary of Defence meets defence minister

Rajnath Singh the two sides will review the status of the Predator drones for the Indian Navy from General Atomics, joint development and manufacturing of engines for the fighter jets in India, as well as collaboration in the space sector.

According to the Pentagon's statement issued on Friday (May 26, 2023) the visit presents an opportunity to both to promote industrial co-operation, expedite defence innovation and also strengthen the operational collaboration among the militaries of both countries.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-diplomatically-packed-june-india-us-and-germany-to-talk-joint-collaboration-drones-submarines-3103512/>



*Sun, 28 May 2023*

## **US House Panel Recommends Inclusion of India in NATO Plus to Deter China**

A United States Congressional Committee on CCP (Chinese Communist Party) recommended the inclusion of India in NATO Plus. The suggestion to add India as a member country comes a month before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to the US.

The recommendation of including India in the five-member group was made to win the “strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party”.

The House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition between the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) and the United States adopted a policy proposal to enhance the deterrence of Taiwan, which included strengthening of NATO Plus by the inclusion of India.

The committee is headed by chairman Mike Gallagher along with ranking member Raja Krishnamoorthi.

“Winning the strategic competition with the Chinese Communist Party and ensuring the security of Taiwan demands the United States strengthen ties with our allies and security partners, including India. Including India in Nato Plus security arrangements would build upon the US and India’s close partnership to strengthen global security and deter the aggression of the CCP across the Indo-Pacific region,” stated the Select Committee in the recommendations released on Wednesday.

According to its official website, the Select Committee on the CCP is “committed to working on a bipartisan basis to build consensus on the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party and develop a plan of action to defend the American people, our economy, and our values.”

Top Democratic leader of the panel, Raja Krishnamoorthi, said that both Republicans and Democrats should work together across the aisle.

“We must practice bipartisanship. We must recognise that the CCP wants us to be fractious, partisan and prejudiced,” he added.

### **India's addition to ensure seamless intelligence sharing**

The recommendations stated that adding India to the group would ensure seamless intelligence sharing between these group countries and New Delhi would get easy access to the latest military technology without any delay.

“The United States should strengthen the Nato Plus arrangement to include India. The United States should also strengthen diplomatic deterrence by supporting Taiwan’s participation in

international organisations and amending the TAIPEI Act to provide that the United States, alongside its allies and partners, should publicly oppose any attempts by the CCP to resolve the status of Taiwan's sovereignty by intentionally misusing, misinterpreting, and misleading others on the underlying purpose of UN Resolution 2758 or the United States' One China Policy," the recommendation stated.

India is already an important member of the Quad group, which includes Japan, Australia and the United States.

<https://www.wionews.com/world/us-house-panel-recommends-inclusion-of-india-in-nato-plus-597383>



Sat, 27 May 2023

## पीएम मोदी की अमेरिका यात्रा भारत की नई ताकत की बनेगी गवाह, रक्षा संबंधों पर रहेगा विशेष फोकस

रूस पर भारत की रक्षा निर्भरता खत्म करने के लिए अमेरिका ने भारत के साथ रक्षा संबंधों को और प्रगाढ़ बनाने की पेशकश की है। इस सिलसिले में प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की अगले महीने होने वाली अमेरिका यात्रा अहम साबित हो सकती है। दोनों देशों के शीर्ष नेताओं की अगुआई में होने वाली बैठक में अत्याधुनिक रक्षा चुनौतियों के संदर्भ में वार्ता पर खास ध्यान दिया जाएगा। इसकी तैयारी के लिए दोनों देशों के बीच नई दिल्ली में पहला एडवांस डोमेन डिफेंस डायलाग गुरुवार को संपन्न हुआ।

दोनों देशों के बीच डिफेंस डायलाग

डायलाग में भारतीय दल की अगुआई प्रमुख उप सह सचिव (रक्षा के लिए अंतरिक्ष नीति) विपिन नारंग ने की। वहीं, अमेरिकी दल का नेतृत्व इमर्जिंग कैपिबिलिटीज पॉलिसी ऑफिस के निदेशक माइकल होर्विट्ज ने किया। वहीं, अमेरिका के रक्षा मंत्रालय ने बताया कि अगले सप्ताह रक्षा मंत्री आस्टिन भारत पहुंचेंगे। उनकी यात्रा का अहम उद्देश्य दोनो देशों के रक्षा उद्योग के बीच सहयोग को बढ़ावा देना भी होगा।

अमेरिका-भारत के संबंधों में विस्तार के संकेत

जानकारों के मुताबिक, भारत-अमेरिका रक्षा संबंधों की जो नींव पिछले पांच वर्षों में रखी गई है, अब उसका सही मायने में विस्तार दिख सकता है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी और राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन की अगुआई में होने वाली द्विपक्षीय वार्ता का दायरा उम्मीद के मुताबिक बहुत बड़ा रहेगा। रक्षा सहयोग इसका अभिन्न हिस्सा रहेगा।

रक्षा आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को लेकर बातचीत

दोनों देशों के बीच पिछले तीन-चार वर्षों से रक्षा आपूर्ति श्रृंखला को लेकर काफी बातचीत हुई है। रक्षा क्षेत्र से जुड़ी निजी कंपनियों के बीच अत्याधुनिक तकनीक के आदान-प्रदान को लेकर समझौते को भी सहमति मिल चुकी है, लेकिन जमीनी स्तर पर बड़ी उपलब्धि हासिल नहीं हुई। कोशिश होगी कि रक्षा उत्पादन में जमीनी स्तर पर परियोजनाओं की शुरुआत हो।

बता दें कि भारत अमेरिका का सबसे करीबी गैर नाटो रक्षा साझेदार है। रक्षा क्षेत्र में सूचनाओं के आदान-प्रदान से लेकर सैन्य अभ्यास तक में भारत अमेरिका का सबसे करीबी साझेदार है। इसके बावजूद भारत अपनी रक्षा जरूरतों का तकरीबन 55-60 प्रतिशत रूस से लेता है। भारत भी वैश्विक हालात को देखते हुए रक्षा आपूर्ति व सहयोग का विविधीकरण कर रहा है। हिंद प्रशांत क्षेत्र में दोनो देश सैन्य सहयोग की संभावनाओं पर भी विमर्श कर रहे हैं।

<https://www.jagran.com/news/national-pm-modi-america-visit-will-witness-new-strength-of-india-special-focus-on-defence-relations-23424324.html>

Mon, 29 May 2023

## Japan Puts Missile Defence on Alert as North Korea Warns of Satellite Launch

Japan Monday put its ballistic missile defences on alert and warned that it would shoot down any projectile that threatened its territory after North Korea notified it of a satellite launch between May 31 and June 11. Nuclear-armed North Korea says it has completed its first military spy satellite and leader Kim Jong Un has approved final preparations for the launch.

“The government recognises that there is a possibility that the satellite may pass through our country’s territory,” Japan’s chief cabinet secretary, Hirokazu Matsuno, told a regular briefing after North Korea informed the Japanese coast guard of the planned launch.

The order by the Japanese defence ministry, the first in response to a North Korean space launch since 2016, comes after Japan in April dispatched to the East China Sea a destroyer carrying Standard Missile-3 (SM-3) interceptors that can hit targets in space, and sent ground-based PAC-3 missiles, designed to strike warheads closer to the ground, to the Okinawan islands.

Japan expects North Korea to fire the rocket carrying its satellite over the southwest island chain as it did in 2016, a defence ministry spokesperson said. North Korean state media has criticised plans by its rivals, South Korea, the United States and Japan, to share real-time data on its missile launches, describing the three as discussing “sinister measures” for tightening military cooperation.

Analysts say the satellite is part of a surveillance technology programme, that includes drones, meant to improve its ability to strike targets in the event of war.

Kim in May inspected a military satellite facility, the North’s KCNA state news agency reported.

North Korea has conducted a series of missile launches and weapons tests in recent months, including a new, solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters that any North Korean missile launch would be a serious violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning its nuclear and missile activity.

“We strongly urge North Korea to refrain from launching,” his office posted on Twitter, adding it would cooperate with its U.S. ally, South Korea and other countries, and would do all it could to collect and analyse information from any launch.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/world/japan-puts-missile-defence-on-alert-as-north-korea-warns-of-satellite-launch-8634335/>

Fri, 26 May 2023

## Russian Iskander Missiles Systems Reaching Belarus; to be Deployed Soon

As war escalates between Russia and Ukraine, Russia has put its signatures on documents which will allow it to store its non-strategic nuclear weapons in a special facility at the Republic of Belarus.



According to reports, Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation Sergei Shoigu and Minister of Defence of Belarus Viktor Khrenin have signed documents which have outlined the process for storing the Russian non-strategic nuclear weapons.

The Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu after the inking of the documents stressed that the actions taken by the two countries – Russia and Belarus ‘comply with all relevant international legal responsibilities’.

### **What does this mean in simple terms?**

Author of soon to be released book on Russia Ukraine War: ‘Operation Z Live’ Neeraj Rajput tells Financial Express Online: “Russia’s tactical nuclear weapons will not be confined to its own territories but they will now be deployed in Belarus also which also borders other European countries.”

“It means that now Russian tactical nuclear weapons will be deployed or stored in Belarus. Although Russia has said that it will be a special facility for storing Russian non-strategic nuclear weapons, in a way it can mean that now those tactical nuclear weapons will be deployed in Belarus,” adds Neeraj Rajput, who has done ground reporting from the war zone of Donbass in 2022.

In his view “If the US, the UK and other NATO forces send their weapons to Ukraine, then Russia can also arm its own allies — like Belarus.”

### **What are Tactical Weapons?**

Nuclear weapons used for specific tactical gains on the battlefield. Therefore, they are usually smaller in yield than the strategic nuclear weapons which are designed to destroy the biggest cities of Russia and the US.

### **When did the Kremlin announce the nuclear deployment?**

Earlier this year in March the plan for nuclear deployment was announced by the Russian President Vladimir Putin in an interview with state television.

Though Russia will remain in control of the weapons, reports in the public domain indicate that there is no clarity when exactly is Russia going to deploy the tactical nuclear weapons in Belarus. Belarus shares borders with three NATO countries – Latvia, Poland, and Lithuania.

The Iskander-m missiles, which are capable of carrying nuclear or conventional warheads, have already been handed over to the armed forces of Belarus. Also some Su-25 aircraft have been converted/modified which can carry nuclear weapons when required.

The Russian defence minister, according to reports, has said that the servicemen of Belarus have been given the necessary training and the two countries will take further measures to ensure the security of these weapons.

Based on the information in the public domain the US believes that Russia has around 2,000 working tactical warheads, and the US claims it just has 200 such weapons out of which half are at different bases in Europe – the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Turkey.

### **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**

The NPT signed by the erstwhile Soviet Union states no nuclear power can transfer nuclear technology or weapons to a non nuclear power. However, the treaty does allow for the weapons to be deployed outside its border but under its control.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-russian-iskander-missiles-systems-reaching-belarus-to-be-deployed-soon-3103621/>

*Fri, 26 May 2023*

## **The Iris-T SLM becomes a Popular European Air Defence System**

The Iris-T surface-to-air medium-range launched (SML) air defence system now has a popular consumer base across central and eastern Europe.

At the end of April, the German Bundeswehr gave the system to Ukraine; the second of four systems to be donated to the country amid a costly war of attrition. More recently, Estonia and Latvia have entered negotiation with the original equipment manufacturer, Diehel Defence, to jointly procure the system.

The Iris-T SLM launcher unit is based on a MAN 8×8 truck with eight missile container launchers mounted at the rear. The arrangement of the missile container launchers consist of two banks of four missiles.

The Iris-T SLM missile is based on the Iris-T air-to-air guided missile that entered into service with the German Air Force in December 2005. The German programme sought to replace the AIM-9 Sidewinder in use by some Nato members.

Diehel Defence first tested its short-range surface-to-air (SLS) variant for the first time in 2014. The company fielded the SLM in 2022. In October 2022, Diehel announced it had delivered the first Iris-T SLM to Ukraine.

### **European adoption**

The air defence system has captured the European imagination as soon as it was fielded last year. But what explains such a rapid adoption?

The system provides 360 degree protection against aircraft, helicopters, cruise missiles, and guided weapons. This mobility increases responsiveness; a much-needed ability when facing advanced capabilities as Ukraine did with a Russian hypersonic missile earlier this month.

It enables simultaneous engagement of multiple targets. It operates at short to medium-ranges (distances of 40km) within extremely brief reaction times (reaching Mach 3).

The system can integrate multi-function radar systems and it suits both mobile and stationary deployment.

<https://www.army-technology.com/news/the-iris-t-slm-becomes-a-popular-european-air-defence-system/>

**R. REPUBLICWORLD.COM**

*Fri, 26 May 2023*

## **US Collaborating with Ukraine to Develop Bio-weapons, Says Russian Defence Ministry**

Amid the raging Russia-Ukraine war, the Russian Defence Ministry stated that the United States is developing biological weapons on the Ukrainian territory to counter the Russian forces. Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, the head of the radiation, chemical and biological defence troops of the Russian

armed forces made these revelations on Friday, Sputnik reported. The revelations came days after Russia signed an agreement with Belarus that formalised the procedures of deploying Russian nuclear weapons to Belarusian territory.

"This once again confirms that the United States is developing biological weapons components outside of national jurisdiction, including on the territory of Ukraine," he added. According to the Russian news outlet, Sputnik, Kirillov also confirmed that the Defence Ministry have seized documents from the Askaniya-Nova Biosphere Reserve laboratory, which confirms that Pentagon is working on launching biological projects in Ukraine.

"Documents seized from a veterinary laboratory of the reserve confirm the involvement of the Kharkiv Institute in the work within the framework of the US projects Yu-Pi-8, Pi-444 and preparation for the implementation of the Flu-Fly-Way project," he asserted during the Friday press conference. The official mentioned that one of the projects allegedly deals with the evaluation of conditions under which transmission of dangerous pathogens can take place. These pathogens allegedly have the potential to cause economic damage and create food security risks.

### **The rise of bird flu in Russia can be part of the ploy**

While discussing the two nemeses working on the transmission of Pathogens in Russia, Kirillov stated that the rise of bird flu in the country can be part of the so-called plan. "Against this background, we are especially concerned about an increase in the incidence of bird flu in Russia and in European countries, where, according to the International Epizootics Bureau, the disease has acquired a year-round character, and losses from it since 2021 have exceeded 3 billion euros," Kirillov told the media. The Russian official also alleged that these mass deaths in the country coincided with biological experiments that were taking place in Ukraine.

In the press conference, Kirillov also accused the employees of Askaniya-Nova Biosphere Reserve in the Kherson region of collecting strains of the avian influenza virus, before the "special military operation" started. "A task force of the Russian Defence Ministry, together with employees of the Federal Security Service and Rosselkhoz nadzor [Russian agriculture safety watchdog], confirmed the facts of the collection and certification of strains of the bird flu virus that have a high epidemic potential and are able to overcome the interspecies barrier, in particular, the H5N8 strain, the lethality of which when transmitted to humans can reach 40%," Kirillov exclaimed. The Russian official also accused Ukraine of attempting to destroy the data.

<https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/russia-ukraine-crisis/us-collaborating-with-ukraine-to-develop-bio-weapons-says-russian-defence-ministry-articleshow.html>

## **Science & Technology News**



*Fri, 26 May 2023*

## **Indian Navy and ISRO Join Hands for Gaganyaan Recovery Training Plan**

Ahead of the highly-anticipated Gaganyaan mission expected to take place later this year, Indian Navy along with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has released a Gaganyaan Recovery

Training Plan. This was released earlier this week at the state of the art Water Survival Training Facility (WSTF) INS Garuda, Kochi on May 24.

The aim of the Gaganyaan mission is to send Indian astronauts to space for the first time – to low earth orbit (LEO) for a week and they will be on board a spacecraft `Gaganyaan`.

Also, the Crew Module Recovery Model was formally handed over to the Indian Navy at WSTF. The mass and shape simulated mockup will be used for familiarisation and training of Gaganyaan recovery teams.

### **Why the Indian Navy?**

According to the official spokesperson of the Indian Navy, the navy will assist ISRO by undertaking a series of trials to fine tune the Standard Operating Procedures for training the crew and recovery teams of Gaganyaan.

Financial Express Online has reported earlier that the Indian Space agency has been developing infrastructure and technologies including the spacecraft, the ground support systems as well as the launch vehicle.

Besides training the Indian astronauts, the ground crew and other stakeholders, teaming up with the Indian Navy is critical as they will be sent to recover the module after they touch down.

### **What is the document about?**

This document outlines the training plan for recovery of the Crew Module of the mission. And it goes on to define overall requirements about training of various teams participating in recovery operations including Divers, MARCOs, Medical Specialists, Communicators, Technicians & Naval Aviators.

The Recovery training is planned in incremental phases starting from unmanned recovery to manned recovery training in harbour and open sea conditions. The recovery operations are being led by the Indian Navy in coordination with other Government agencies.

The training document was jointly released by VAdm Atul Anand, Director General of Naval Operations, Dr Unnikrishnan Nair, Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, (VSSC) and Dr Umamaheshwaran R, Director, Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) of ISRO.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/business/defence-indian-navy-and-isro-join-hands-for-gaganyaan-recovery-training-plan-3103019/>

# ThePrint

*Sat, 27 May 2023*

## **UK to Focus on Enhancing Science and Innovation Ties with India**

Lord Tariq Ahmad, the UK's Minister of State for South Asia, arrived in India on Saturday for a four-day visit with a focus on strengthening science, research and innovation links.

The visit's focus on science, technology and innovation emphasises the UK's commitment to deepen partnerships in these areas across the globe. Strengthening the UK-India relationship is a key pillar of the UK's long-term foreign policy, as part of its enduring engagement in the Indo-Pacific set out in the Integrated Review, the Foreign Office said.

“The UK and India are trusted partners united by the unique living bridge that closely connects our countries and people,” Lord Ahmad said ahead of his visit.

“Building on the 2030 Roadmap for India-UK future relations, we are deepening our collaboration on science and technology, bringing new innovations to both our nations,” he said.

The visit comes as India and the UK are negotiating a Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is expected to boost the current trading relationship worth GBP 36 billion in 2022. The 10th round of FTA talks are set to begin from June 5 in New Delhi.

Lord Ahmad’s visit to Rajasthan will be his first trip to his mother’s birthplace of Jodhpur as Minister for South Asia and will highlight the region’s rich cultural history. He will visit the iconic Mehrangarh Fort, and discuss education, sustainability and gender equality with emerging women leaders. In New Delhi, Lord Ahmad will launch the ‘English Skills for Youth’ programme, co-developed by the British Council and Microsoft India, which will enhance global employment opportunities for Indian young people, especially young women. The minister will announce the winners of the UK-India Health-Tech Boot Camp boosting health-tech innovations from India.

Christina Scott, Acting British High Commissioner to India, said, “The UK and India enjoy an invaluable partnership. As we deliver the UK-India Roadmap 2030, we are deepening and accelerating our collaboration on health, climate, trade, education, science and technology, and defence.” “With India’s Presidency of the G20, we have an opportunity also for the UK and India to work together to shape and deliver solutions to global problems.” Concluding his visit in Hyderabad, Lord Ahmad will highlight science and tech innovations with trips to T-Hub and T-Works, the technology start-up incubator and prototyping facility which are part of the world’s largest innovation campus, and space launch vehicle company Skyroot.

He will also visit the National Institute of Animal Biotechnology and discuss further potential for science and technology collaboration with Indian alumni of Chevening, the UK’s flagship international scholarship programme.

<https://theprint.in/world/uk-to-focus-on-enhancing-science-and-innovation-ties-with-india/1597194/>

