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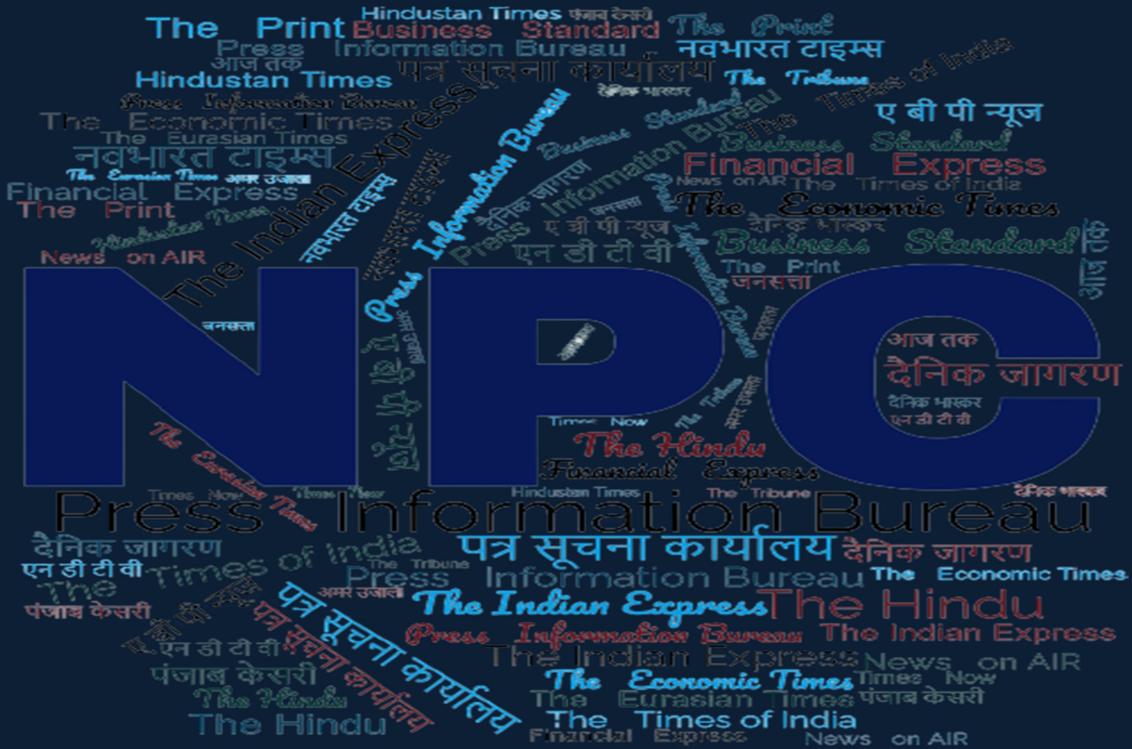
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समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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

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DRDO Develops Unfurlable Antenna for Space Radar

In a key development, Electronics and Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), a Bengaluru lab of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has developed a major subsystem for a space radar, which holds significant potential not only for the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro), but also for the military.

LRDE, which has been involved in the development of space-borne imaging radar — mainly consisting of electronic radar subsystems and antenna deployment mechanisms — for installation on satellites has completed the development of an UnFurlable Reflector Antenna (UFRA). UFRA is one of the major subsystems of a radar, LRDE said, adding that radars for space applications require an antenna to be stowed in compact volume during launch and then deployed in the required shape once the satellite is in the required orbit.

“To meet this requirement, LRDE has developed the UFRA system which consists of a rim truss-based deployable mechanism, primary arm, reflector mesh, tension ties, nets, and motor. A cable is routed through the diagonal members of the rim truss elements,” it said, adding that one end of the cable is fixed and the other end is pulled by a motor.

“When the cable is pulled by a motor, the antenna made up of metallic mesh will be deployed to the desired size. The UFRA was realised and the deployment of the antenna to the required height was achieved successfully by an unfurlable deployment mechanism. The design can be adapted to realise any size of UFRA,” it added. The antenna, sources said, is likely to be part of a space-based military radar, which LRDE is working on. “The specific details about the radar cannot be divulged at this moment, but the development of UFRA is a key milestone in the development of the radar,” one source said.

LRDE is a key DRDO lab with a mission to design and develop state-of-the-art radar systems meeting current and futuristic requirements of the tri-services, paramilitary forces, intelligence and strategic missions. It is also tasked with establishing indigenous production capability through industry partnership to achieve total self-reliance in the field radars besides promoting in-house research, engaging academia and industry to build competence towards creating a centre of excellence in the field of radar technologies.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/drdo-develops-unfurlable-antenna-for-space-radar/articleshow/97469706.cms>



Mon, 30 Jan 2023

Upcoming Budget to Accelerate Make in India Momentum in Defence Sector

With the Union Budget for 2023 set to be announced soon, there is a lot of anticipation about whether it will provide the necessary impetus to speed up the momentum for Make in India in defence. The Make in India initiative, launched by the Indian government in 2014, aims to boost the country's manufacturing sector and make it a global hub for manufacturing and design. One of the key focus areas of this initiative is the defence sector, which has the potential to drive economic growth and create jobs.

One of the main challenges facing the defence sector in India is the lack of a robust domestic defence industry. Despite being one of the largest importers of defence equipment in the world, India's defence production capabilities are limited. This has led to a dependence on imports, which not only puts a strain on the country's finances but also undermines its strategic interests.

The government has been taking several steps to address this issue, including the issuance of the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016, which aims to promote indigenization and encourage the participation of the private sector in defence production. The government has also set up a number of defence production corridors, such as the Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor and the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor, to promote the development of a strong domestic defence industry.

However, there is still a long way to go before India can truly become self-reliant in defence production. The Union Budget for 2023 will be a crucial opportunity for the government to provide the necessary support to the defence sector, and to give a boost to Make in India in defence.

There are several steps that the government could take to achieve this. For instance, it could increase the allocation for defence research and development, which is essential for developing new technologies and capabilities. It could also provide tax incentives for companies that invest in defence production, and make it easier for them to access funding. Additionally, the government could encourage the participation of the private sector in defence production by simplifying the procurement process and providing a level playing field for domestic and foreign companies.

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/amp/business/budget/budget-2023-to-accelerate-make-in-india-momentum-in-defence-sector-nirmala-sithraman-2023-01-30-842952>

Why a Budget Boost is Long Overdue for India's Defence Sector

It is heartening to note that the Indian economy has emerged as a bright spot in 2022. Buoyant GST collections have averaged Rs 1.48 lakh cr per month for this year. This should help in suitable allocate of funds for all key sectors including infrastructure, health and education, food safety, defence etc. without having to face a rather difficult choice of prioritizing one over the other as was the case in the previous two years due to COVID pandemic. This is good news for all industries, including the defence & aerospace industry which has been a sunrise sector supported by the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Policy of the Govt.

In FY23, the Defence budget (excluding pensions) was about 10% of the Central Govt expenditure and around 1.7% of GDP. In comparison, this metric for US is 3.7% and Russia is 4.2%. It might be worth considering setting a benchmark goal for defence spend to GDP ratio to be raised to 2% over time. This increase would help in creating more headroom for fund availability for Research & Development, and modernization of Armed forces.

The government has already taken several measures including announcements of positive indigenisation lists, creation of a separate head under defence budget for domestic procurement and various exemptions being provided for setting up facilities in new defence corridors etc. These initiatives have been wholeheartedly welcomed by the industry.

Now the key plank going forward would be to strengthen the order pipeline for private sector players which would enable creation of a wider and thriving manufacturing ecosystem in India. Given the current priorities of the Defence forces, especially in the northern and north-eastern borders, it may be important to increase allocation towards tactical armoured vehicles, infantry combat vehicles and light tanks for supporting our Army.

It would also be particularly fruitful if the procurements are done through mechanisms that consider platforms which are designed by Indian companies only. This is important since our goal should be to keep IP of important platforms within the country. This would allow us to have strategic autonomy in this sector which has a bearing on our national security and at the same time has a positive impact on our economy and helps in creation of more jobs within the country.

https://m.economictimes.com/news/defence/why-a-budget-boost-is-long-overdue-for-indias-defence-sector/amp_articleshow/97441120.cms

Budget 2023: Defence Eyes Big Boost for More Firepower, Submarines, Drones

With big-ticket capital acquisition programmes like submarines, light tanks, and fighters slated to be rolled out in the new financial year, the defence forces and the industry are hoping for a larger allocation in the upcoming annual budget.

Sources in the defence and security establishment said that all the three Services have sought more funds in their presentations to the Defence Ministry, which in turn has taken it up with the Finance Ministry. What is also hoped for is the institution of a non-lapsable fund for modernisation programme. The private sector, meanwhile, is also looking for a high budgetary allocation for defence capital expenditure since it would translate into more acquisition programmes fructifying.

Sources said there is no doubt that the pension allocation will see a massive hike given the revision of the One Rank One Pension scheme, which will result in an additional annual expenditure of Rs 8,450 crore, apart from payment of arrears amounting to Rs 23,638 crore over a period of three years.

In the 2022-23 budget, the government had increased the capital outlay for procurement of new equipment to Rs 1.52 lakh crore, from the revised estimates of Rs 1.38 lakh crore.

<https://theprint.in/budget/budget-2023-defence-eyes-big-boost-for-more-firepower-submarines-drones/1343598/>



सैन्य अभ्यास तोपची में स्वदेशी हथियारों का प्रदर्शन:K-9 वज्र, धनुष सिस्टम रहे मुख्य आकर्षण, अधिकारी बोले- हम आत्मनिर्भरता की ओर बढ़ रहे

महाराष्ट्र के देवलाली में स्थित स्कूल ऑफ आर्टिलरी में रविवार को सैन्य अभ्यास तोपची का आयोजन हुआ। इसका मुख्य आकर्षण स्वदेशी हथियारों का प्रदर्शन रहा। यह कार्यक्रम लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल एस हरिमोहन अय्यर, AVSM, कमांडेंट स्कूल ऑफ आर्टिलरी और कर्नल कमांडेंट रेजिमेंट ऑफ आर्टिलरी के नेतृत्व में हुआ। लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल अय्यर ने कहा कि यह आयोजन इंडियन आर्टिलरी की क्षमता को दिखाता है। इस साल हमने आत्मनिर्भरता पर जोर दिया है। सैन्य अभ्यास में दिखाए गए सभी गन सिस्टम और अन्य उपकरण इंडियन इंडस्ट्री की क्षमता को प्रदर्शित करते हैं। बंदूकें और अन्य सिस्टम, चाहे वह K-9 वज्र, धनुष सिस्टम या M777 गन सिस्टम हों, सभी को भारत में ही असेंबल किया गया है।

इंडियन आर्टिलरी में शामिल होंगी धनुष की 5 रेजिमेंट

सेना के अन्य अधिकारी ने बताया कि SWATHI रडार सिस्टम, दूर से संचालित होने वाले वाहन भारत में बनाए गए हैं। लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल अय्यर ने कहा- भारतीय सेना और आर्टिलरी रेजिमेंट किसी भी चुनौती का सामना करने के लिए तैयार है। उन्होंने कहा कि धनुष गन सिस्टम चार महीने पहले आई थी और साल के अंत में धनुष की पांच रेजिमेंट को इंडियन आर्टिलरी में शामिल किया जाएगा।

बंदूकों, ड्रोन सहित कई उपकरणों का एक जगह प्रदर्शन

सैन्य अभ्यास तोपची के इस एडिशन में बंदूकों, मोर्टर, रॉकेट, ड्रोन और निगरानी उपकरणों का एक जगह पर प्रदर्शन किया गया। 'आत्मनिर्भर भारत' के अनुरूप, अभ्यास का मुख्य आकर्षण K-9 वज्र, धनुष, इंडियन फील्ड गन (IFG)/लाइट फील्ड गन (LFG) सिस्टम और पिनाका मल्टी-बैरल रॉकेट लांचर जैसे स्वदेशी रूप से निर्मित आर्टिलरी उपकरणों का प्रदर्शन और फायरिंग रहा।

बता दें कि इस कार्यक्रम में डिफेंस सर्विसेज स्टाफ कॉलेज, वेलिंगटन, डिफेंस सर्विसेज टेक्निकल स्टाफ कोर्स, पुणे, नेपाल आर्मी कमांड एंड स्टाफ कॉलेज के छात्र अधिकारी और नागरिक प्रशासन अधिकारी शामिल हुए।

<https://www.bhaskar.com/amp/national/news/jawans-showed-strength-from-k-9-vajra-dhanush-system-officers-said-we-are-moving-towards-self-reliance-130859706.html>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

IAF Begins Mega Air Exercise in Northeastern Region

The Indian Air Force has kick-started a mega exercise covering the Northeastern region to check its combat readiness amid a fresh spike in tension with China along the Line of Actual Control in Arunachal Pradesh. The IAF's frontline fighter jets including the Rafale and Su-30MKI aircraft, and other assets deployed in the region are engaged in the exercise named 'Poorvi Aakash'.

"Eastern Air Command has commenced its annual Command level exercise Ex- POORVI AKASH today. Conducted after a gap of two years owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ex will involve activation of the Command's assets for routine practice of aerial drills, including joint exercises," the IAF's Eastern Air Command tweeted. The Shillong-headquartered Eastern Air Command is carrying out the exercise. There has been a fresh spike in tension between India and China after troops from the two sides engaged in the clash along the LAC at Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh on December 9. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Parliament on December 13 that the Chinese troops tried to "unilaterally" change the status quo in the Yangtse area but the Indian Army compelled them to retreat by its firm and resolute response. The incident took place amid the over 31-month border standoff between the two sides in eastern Ladakh. All frontline air bases and some key Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) in the Northeast are being involved in the exercise. The Army and IAF have been maintaining a high state of operational readiness along the Line of Actual Control with China in the Arunachal Pradesh and the Sikkim sector for over two years following the eastern Ladakh row.

https://m.economictimes.com/news/defence/iaf-begins-mega-air-exercise-in-northeastern-region/amp_articleshow/97456202.cms

Who is Air Marshal AP Singh, the New Vice Chief of Indian Air Force?

Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh will take over as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force on Wednesday, succeeding incumbent Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, PTI reported quoting officials. Currently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command, Singh's Indian Air Force journey dates back to 1984.

Here's everything you need to know about the new IAF vice-chief:-

- Singh was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984. Before taking charge of the prestigious Central Air Command (CAC), he was a Senior Air Staff Officer at the Eastern Air Command.
- An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College, and National Defence College, Singh has been a Flight Commander and Commanding Officer of a MiG 27 squadron and Air Officer Commanding of an air base.
- He is a qualified Flying Instructor and an Experimental Test Pilot with more than 4,900 hours of service flying on a variety of fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. He has also served in Aircraft and System Testing establishments at various levels.
- Singh has led the MiG 29 Upgrade Project Management Team in Moscow, Russia. He has also served as Light Combat Aircraft Tejas Project Director (Flight Test) at 'National Flight Test Centre' and Air Defence Commander at South Western Air Command.
- The Air Marshal has also been awarded the 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' by the President of India on Republic Day in 2019 for his 'distinguished' services.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/who-is-air-marshal-ap-singh-the-new-vice-chief-of-iaf-101675097461436-amp.html>

BEL to Display State-of-the-Art Products and Systems at Aero India

Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) will showcase state-of-the-art products and systems spanning every domain of its business at the Aero India 2023 to be held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, from February 13 to 17. The Defence PSU said that the products and systems to be on display during Aero India have been clustered as Air Defence and Surveillance, C4I Systems, Artificial Intelligence-based Products, Non-Defence and Diversification Products, Radar Systems,

Communication Systems, Airborne Products and Systems, Homeland Security and Cyber Security, Futuristic Technologies, Missile Systems, EO & Laser-based Product, and Outdoor Display Products.

In addition, BEL will also showcase its R&D capabilities by demonstrating some of its new products and technologies. BEL's display in the area of 'Air Defence & Surveillance' will include Hexacopter, Tethered UAV, Swarm of UAVs, Robotic Surveillance, Shallow Water Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and D4 Anti-drone Systems.

Future tech

Futuristic technologies on display include Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast System, Position Indicator – G3I, Hand-Held Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, Extended C-Band Block Up-Converter, Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit, C Band Phase Locked Oscillator, Router with Call Manager, Voice Gateway Unit, MIL-GRADE TAB, Signal Processing Unit for Flight Level Radar, UHF RFID Reader, 3 ATI Display, Torpbuster CPU Board and Smart Energy Metre.

The Homeland Security and Cyber Security cluster will include the display of Smart City solutions, Homeland Security solutions, Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System, Naval Airfield Integrated Security System, and Integrated Perimeter Surveillance System, while the 'Missile Systems' display will include Air Defence Weapon System. BEL's outdoor display will highlight GIMBAL for Tethered UAV, Tethered UAV, Shallow Water ROV, Hexacopter and Ultra-Light Weight Enclosure with platform.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/bangalore/bel-to-display-state-of-the-art-products-and-systems-at-aero-india/article66450166.ece/amp/>

ThePrint

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

Fits between TEJAS & Heavier Fighters — Why Lockheed Wants India to Buy F-21

Underlining that it's bullish on Indian Air Force's proposed Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) programme, US Aviation giant Lockheed Martin says it has already invested in India and its F-21 aircraft fits perfectly between the indigenous light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and the heavier lot of Rafale and the Su-30 MKIs. "We hope for AON (Acceptance of Necessity) and an RFP (Request for Proposal) for MRFA. We have been aligned and positioning for that for a number of years to bring the best capability that we can offer," William Blair, Lockheed Martin's India vice-president and chief executive, told ThePrint.

He said that the upcoming Aero India in Bengaluru will have a full cockpit demonstrator of the F-21 aircraft that the company is offering under the MRFA programme. Lockheed Martin, which had been hard-selling its latest variant of the F-16, known as Block 70, pitched the F-21 for the IAF programme in 2019.

The pitch came on the back of IAF's RFI, or a request for information, in 2018 after its previous bid to procure 126 fighter jets was scrapped, with the Narendra Modi government instead opting for 36 Rafale fighters in fly-away condition. Blair said that his F-21, which will be competing

with several other fighters, including the Rafale and American firm Boeing's F-15 EX, fits in very well with the MRFA requirements.

"We have been interfacing with the IAF for a number of years. We understand the requirements and the F-21 has a very unique capability with a triple missile launcher adapter and lower life cycle cost," he said.

For Lockheed, the MRFA is the catalyst for making fighters in India, he said. Asked how the single-engine fighter fits in when India already has the Tejas, he said it fits in between the LCA and the heavier and larger twin-engine fighters. "It actually fits very well and it's available. It's something that can be delivered in parallel to the long-term programmes (India's indigenous programme)," he said.

Blair said that the F-21 has 30 per cent lower lifecycle cost and carbon footprint than the twin-engine fighters. "It has unmatched capability in terms of capability to cost ratio. India operates the light, medium and heavier combat aircraft, both single and twin engine and the F-21 fits in perfectly," he said. 'Already invested in India'

In 2016, the government and the IAF had begun working on bringing out a tender for single-engine fighter aircraft, keeping the cost in mind. However, the defence ministry sprang a surprise by questioning the need for a single-engine foreign fighter when the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) programme was on. It was then that the IAF retuned its need to bring out an RFI in April 2018, bringing Lockheed and several other players into the fray.

Blair said that Lockheed Martin has already invested in India and has created a chair of Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers to the F-21 programme and its range of helicopters and aircraft.

He was referring to the production of 157 cabins of the S-92 helicopters in India for its global orders. This meant that every single S-92 helicopter delivered in the world, including the one in which the US President travels in, comes from India. Lockheed has also sourced 187 empennages of the C-130 J aircraft from India through its joint venture with the TATA group even though only 12 aircraft have been delivered to India.

"We qualified the wing production of the F-16s AND F-21s with TATA," Blair said. "It demonstrates the technical capability not just of TATA but also Tier 1 and Tier 2 suppliers. It is a major proof of capabilities. We see it as the first investment in advance of the MRFA requirement," The TATA-Lockheed Martin joint venture can now bid for orders for manufacturing the wings of the F-16s, the first fuel-carrying, 9G-capable, interchangeable fighter wing of an F-16 aircraft.

"You have to be willing to invest upfront. We are not going to say what we will produce in India. We are already producing in India. We are already aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat," he said. He said the F-21 programme in India will become part of the USD 160 billion global sustainment market. Besides the wings of the F-16s, the production of cabins of the S-92 and the empennages for the C-130 J aircraft are being undertaken in India in advance of the requirement. "We do that out of opportunity and not under obligation," he said.

<https://theprint.in/defence/fits-between-tejas-heavier-fighters-why-lockheed-wants-india-to-buy-f-21/1341837/?amp>

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

India's G20 and Cuba's G77: Bridging the Gaps

By Dr Asif Iqbal

India and Cuba have the presidencies of G20 and G77 this year. India has headed the G77 more than once since the Group started in 1964. It is for the first time that the Republic of Cuba will head the Group as its president. While India and Cuban bilateralism is close and is growing closer, can both the countries, in their respective presidential terms this year, bring these two groups together, notionally as well as operationally, to make them complementary players? This is an assumption which is worth pondering over.

Let us examine the possibility of the above formulation from three angles. First, how strong is the India- Cuba relation in terms of mutual need and interdependence? The strength of this relation will bear upon the interactions between both the blocs-G20 and G77. Second, can India help Cuba, as the president of G20, the past president of G77, and a friend of Cuba, in navigating the G77 countries towards a coherent and confident voice of the South. India should like to do that as only recently, New Delhi demonstrated the political will in reorganising the South into a close-knit collective staking their claim and space for a just and an equitable world order. The G77 is a coalition of developing countries from the South established in 1964 at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). They were 77 countries with a common objective of promoting their collective economic interest. It has grown to be 134 countries. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the conference of 'Voice of South', which comprises many of these countries, had declared, "Your problems are India's problems, and your priorities are our priorities". Third, what are the areas of convergence and complementarities between these two blocs?

India and Cuba have historically had friendly relations and their prospects appear to be positive. Both countries have cooperated on a range of issues including de-colonisation, non-alignment, and against racism and imperialism. India was the second Asian country to recognise the Cuban Revolutionary Government of 1959. With the visit of the Cuban revolutionary leader, Ernesto 'Che' Guevara visited India in the same year and met Indian Prime Minister Nehru. The following year, India and Cuba began diplomatic contacts. Only last week Che's daughter Aleida Guevara was in India receiving warm welcome from many admirers of her martyred father.

India has recently extended medical assistance and training to Cuba. New Delhi has also extended the timely Line of Credit (LOC) of 100 million Euro to help Cuba tide over their food shortages by buying rice from India. Although the trade volume between these countries is limited at present, prospects are indeed bright. India could leverage on its good relations with Cuba in expanding her footprints in Latin America. Also, India could cash on Cuba's location and proximity with the USA for exploring trade opportunities. Cuba has good relations with China and Russia. India could use that goodwill in running the SCO- the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation of which India is the Current president until September this year. How could India, as the president of G20 help Cuba? At the same time, how could Cuba draw on the experience of India in running G77 in the past? To start with, India could be the bridge between both the blocs,

G20 comprising the rich and the middle-income countries and G77, a group of 134 underdeveloped and developing countries. The gaps existing in multiple sectors in both these blocs often put the G77 at a disadvantageous position as they fail to bargain for fairness, justice and equity. India could foster close cooperation between two blocs. New Delhi could advocate the inclusion of G77 issues and concerns into the G20 agenda- poverty reduction, mitigating the negative and unequal impact of climate change, food security, digital divide, restructuring global debt and building resilience in Global trade by creating options for supply chains etc. India could do so by nudging the G20 to provide technical and financial assistance, building capacities, advocating ambitious climate actions in terms of technical and financial assistance to tackle climate crises, and debt relief measures. Cuba could tap into India's expertise and experience in building consensus. This is an important skill for any country to have in leading a large group as it enables the members to present a united front. Second, Cuba could draw on India's efforts in promoting economic development through South-South cooperation. Note that close interaction among G77 countries has been defocussed in the race for rubbing shoulders with the 'rich and powerful' where the terms of negotiations are often unequal. India has been a strong advocate of the importance of increased trade between the G77 countries as well as of multilateralism within G77 and in the UN. Cuba has a similar approach refusing to acquiesce in domination by 'big powers.' Both countries leading the two blocs could emphasize upon the concept and strategy of multilateralism. Both G20 and G77 are well-advised to work in harmony. There are several areas that call for convergence in planning and execution of projects. Trade and investment, an open and balanced trading system is a necessary condition for spurring economic growth and development. Likewise, cooperation is needed in the areas of climate change, infrastructure development, capacity building, health and food security. All these were encapsulated in the MDGs, now SDGs, which are the collective objectives of the world set by the United Nations.

Notably, G77 consists of two-third countries of the world. It represents the interests and concerns of most of the world population which is disproportionately impacted by poverty, inequality, and underdevelopment. The future of this group will be shaped by several factors including the ongoing challenges facing these countries; the need to promote sustainable economic growth and development, to address the impact of climate changes, the changing political, economic and security landscape and the capacity to adapt to these changes.

In order to help Cuba in navigating the G77 through these challenges facing its members, India could share its expertise and experience- diplomatic, economic, technical, and above all, mediatory leadership. In addition to intergovernmental cooperation, the non-governmental organisations working on track-II diplomacy and international business could step in to give a hand to Cuba. Cuba Day was celebrated in New Delhi on 24 January with a non-governmental initiative, coordinated by the Indian Economic and Trade Organisation (IETO) which has been closely working with the Cuban government and business essentially to promote India-Cuba business relations. In the presidency years of both countries of G20 and G77 which constitute the population of almost the entire world, all possible help from any quarters will contribute to the effective handling of the promising as well as the demanding tasks at hand. Finally, a synergetic cooperation between the government, business and civil societies within and across the countries represented in these blocs will promote peace, security and prosperity for all.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/indias-g20-and-cubas-g77-bridging-the-gaps/2964451/>

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

EAM Jaishankar Speaks to South Korean Counterpart, Discusses Bilateral Ties

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday spoke to his South Korean counterpart Park Jin and discussed issues relating to bilateral ties and India's G-20 presidency. Jin is set to visit India in early March to attend the G-20 foreign ministers' meeting.

"Appreciate the call from FM Park Jin of Republic of Korea this morning. Discussed our bilateral relations and the 50th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic relationship. Look forward to welcome him to India for the G20 Foreign Ministers' meeting," Jaishankar tweeted. India is expected to host the foreign ministers of G-20 countries in the first week of March and they are set to deliberate on ways to deal with pressing global challenges including the Ukraine conflict.

India assumed the presidency of the influential bloc G-20 at its annual summit in Bali in November with a promise of striving to ensure that the grouping acts as a global prime mover to envision new ideas and accelerate collective action to deal with pressing challenges. India is looking at March 1 and 2 for the G-20 foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi.

India is hosting a series of events and meetings ahead of the G-20 summit later this year. "India is taking charge of the G-20 at a time when the world is simultaneously grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices, and the long-term ill-effects of the pandemic," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the Bali summit.

"At such a time, the world is looking at the G-20 with hope. Today, I want to assure that India's G-20 presidency will be inclusive, ambitious, decisive, and action-oriented," he said. India officially assumed the G-20 presidency on December 1.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/eam-jaishankar-speaks-to-south-korean-counterpart-discusses-bilateral-ties/2964421/>


प्रभात खबर

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

NSA अजीत डोभाल ICET के लिए जाएंगे वाशिंगटन डीसी, अमेरिका के शीर्षनेतृत्व से करेंगे अहम वार्ता

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार (NSA) अजित डोभाल इनीशिएटिव फॉर क्रिटिकल एंड इमर्जिंग टेक्नोलॉजी (ICET) पर पहली उच्च-स्तरीय बैठक के तहत अपने अमेरिकी समकक्ष जेक सुलिवन सहित शीर्ष अमेरिकी नेतृत्व के साथ महत्वपूर्ण बातचीत करेंगे. अधिकारियों, शिक्षाविदों और उद्योग के विशेषज्ञों का

मानना है कि भारत-अमेरिका परमाणु समझौते के बाद यह वार्ता दोनों देशों के बीच के संबंधों में अगला बड़ा मील का पत्थर साबित हो सकती है!

सोमवार को वाशिंगटन पहुंचेंगे अजीत डोभाल

एनएसए अजीत डोभाल आईसीईटी के लिए सोमवार को वाशिंगटन पहुंचेंगे। महत्वाकांक्षी आईसीईटी बैठक के एजेंडे को लेकर दोनों देशों के अधिकारियों ने चुप्पी साध रखी है। इस बैठक में लिए गए फैसलों की जानकारी 31 जनवरी को व्हाइट हाउस में दोनों पक्षों के बीच बैठक की समाप्ति के बाद दिए जाने की संभावना है। भारत और अमेरिका को उम्मीद है कि यह बैठक दोनों देशों के कॉरपोरेट क्षेत्रों के बीच एक विश्वसनीय भागीदार पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के विकास की नींव रखेगी, ताकि स्टार्टअप की संस्कृति सेफल-फूल रही सार्वजनिक-निजी साझेदारी पर जोर देने वाले दोनों देश वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी के क्षेत्र में तानाशाही हुकूमतों के कारण उत्पन्न होनेवाली चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक सामना कर सकें!

बड़े प्रतिनिधिमंडल के साथ अमेरिका पहुंचेंगे डोभाल

इससे पहले मई, 2022 में टोक्यो में अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन और प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी की द्विपक्षीय मुलाकात के बाद जारी एक संयुक्त बयान में पहली बार आईसीईटी का जिक्र किया गया था। डोभाल असामान्य रूप से बड़े प्रतिनिधिमंडल के साथ अमेरिका पहुंच रहे हैं, जिसमें सचिव स्तर के 5 अधिकारी और उन भारतीय कंपनियों का कॉरपोरेट नेतृत्व शामिल है, जो भारत में कुछ अत्याधुनिक अनुसंधान कर रहे हैं। एनएसए के साथ अमेरिका जाने वाले सचिव स्तर के पांच अधिकारियों में भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन (ISRO) के अध्यक्ष एस सोमनाथ, प्रधानमंत्री के प्रधान वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार अजय कुमार सूद, रक्षा मंत्री के वैज्ञानिक सलाहकार जी सतीश रेड्डी, दूरसंचार विभाग के सचिव के राजाराम और रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (DRDO) के महानिदेशक समीर वी कामत शामिल हैं!

सहयोग के लिए 6 क्षेत्रों की हुई पहचान

आईसीईटी के तहत दोनों देशों ने सहयोग के 6 क्षेत्रों की पहचान की है। दोनों देशों के बीच सहयोग सह-विकास और सह-उत्पादन के सिद्धांत पर आधारित होगा, जिसमें धीरे-धीरे नाटो (NATO) और फिर यूरोप और बाकी दुनिया में विस्तारित किया जाएगा।

इसका मकसद बाकी दुनिया को ऐसी अत्याधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकियां प्रदान करना है, जो तुलनात्मक रूप से काफी सस्ती हों। भारत और अमेरिका ने आईसीईटी के तहत सहयोग के लिए जिन 6 क्षेत्रों की पहचान की है, उनमें वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान एवं विकास, क्वान्टम आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस, रक्षा नवाचार, अंतरिक्ष तथा 6जी और सेमीकंडक्टर जैसी उन्नत संचार पद्धतियां शामिल

<https://www.prabhatkhabar.com/national/nsa-ajit-doval-hold-crucial-talks-with-top-american-leadership-during-washington-dc-visit-smb>



Tue, 31 Jan 2023

India, US to Discuss Strategic Ties

India and the US will discuss the entire gamut of their growing strategic ties during talks between National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval and top US leadership, including his

counterpart Jake Sullivan during his visit to Washington starting Monday. He will also hold the first high-level dialogue for Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET).

The importance of the visit can be gauged from the fact that Doval is accompanied by chiefs of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister besides others. Officials, academicians and industry experts believe the talks could be the “next big milestone” in the India-US relationship after the India-US nuclear deal.

However, officials on both sides remained tightlipped on the details of the ambitious iCET meeting, the deliverables of which are expected to be announced after the conclusion of the meetings of the two sides at the White House on January 31. Both sides expect that the dialogue would lay the foundation for developing a trusted partner ecosystem between the corporate sectors, so that the two countries with public-partner partnership, driven by a culture of startups, can successfully address the challenges posed by authoritarian regimes in the domain of technology and scientific research.

The iCET was first mentioned in a joint statement after the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with US President Joe Biden in Tokyo in May 2022. Doval is arriving the US with an unusually large delegation that comprises five secretary-level officials and corporate leadership from Indian companies that are doing some cutting edge research in India.

The five secretary-level officials include Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S Somnath, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Prime Minister, Ajay Kumar Sood; Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister, G Satheesh Reddy; Department of Telecom Secretary K Rajaram and Director General of Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Samir V Kamat. Under iCET, the two countries have identified six areas of cooperation which would include co-development and co-production, that would gradually be expanded to QUAD, then to NATO, followed by Europe and the rest of the world. The objective is to provide cutting edge technologies to the rest of the world which are affordable.

The six areas that have been identified for cooperation as part of iCET are scientific research and development; quantum and artificial intelligence, defense innovation, space, advanced telecom which would include things like 6G and semiconductors.

Given that such an effort can be led only by the industry, the delegation on either side would comprise top leaders from the industry from these sectors. The US Chamber of Commerce is expected to hold a round table on Monday with key industry players and representatives from academia.

Officials and experts on both sides asserted that this is not a normal dialogue, but a “strategic one” which would take the relationship to an altogether new level. It is quite often mentioned that iCET dialogue and its deliverable are the next big thing happening between India and the US after the Indo-US civilian nuclear deal, and this is the reason it is being taken up by both the NSAs as agreed upon by Modi and Biden in Tokyo last year. Over the last eight months, ground works were being laid for this. Earlier this week, India's Deputy National Security Advisor Vikram Misri was in Washington and met top officials from the Biden administration.

The launch of the ambitious iCET dialogue is seen as “an alignment of strategic, commercial and scientific approaches” in the field of technology. This is eventually likely to be mirrored in the

progress made in Quad – the informal grouping of four countries, Australia, Japan, India and the United States.

The iCET dialogue, in a way, is also a recognition by the US that India has core strengths in the field of science and technology, given the path breaking research that its scientists have done, including on space science, without much help from the international community. The two countries working in tandem with each other and developing a trusted partnership ecosystem is going to be a win-win-situation for both and also for global good. Under iCET, India is ready to share its core technologies with the US and expects Washington to do the same. Ahead of the arrival of Doval in Washington DC for talks, Carnegie India in a paper said the iCET is one of the most innovative administrative exercises initiated between the US and India. "It is filled with promise. There is every opportunity to deliver measurable outcomes, supercharge existing efforts, and co-create new technologies and administrative architectures that regulate the same," it said.

"To this end, the NSA-level dialogue on January 31, 2023, is significant. There is a hope that both India and the United States will be able to clarify priority areas of cooperation.

"Equally, it is crucial to pay as much attention to the administrative structure that shapes, informs, and populates the iCET—both from within and outside of government," it said. The Biden administration recently said India was an important partner of choice for the United States. "India is an important partner of choice for the United States in a number of spaces, and that includes trade cooperation.

It, of course, includes security cooperation, technological cooperation as well," State Department's Deputy Spokesperson Vedant Patel told reporters here on Thursday last week ahead of NSA's visit.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2023/india/india--us-to-discuss-strategic-ties.html>

नवभारत टाइम्स

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

इजरायली ड्रोन विमानों ने ईरान में घुसकर उड़ाई फैक्ट्री, पुतिन को क्यों लगी 'चोट', समझें खेल

Israel Iran Drone Attack: इजरायल की वायुसेना के क्वॉड कॉप्टर ड्रोन विमानों ने ईरान के अंदर घुसकर एक सैन्य फैक्ट्री पर भीषण हमला किया है। यह ईरानी फैक्ट्री इस्फहान शहर में थी। इस हमले से इजरायल और ईरान के बीच तनाव और बढ़ गया है। वहीं इजरायली हमले से रूस को भी बड़ा झटका लगा है।

इजरायल की वायुसेना ने एक बार फिर से ईरान के अंदर घुसकर तबाही मचाई है। खबरों के मुताबिक इजरायल ने अपने सबसे बड़े दुश्मन को निशाना बनाने के लिए किलर ड्रोन विमान भेजे थे। इन इजरायली ड्रोन विमानों ने इस्फहान शहर में स्थित ईरान की ड्रोन फैक्ट्री पर जोरदार हमला किया। अमेरिका के अधिकारियों ने इसकी जानकारी दी है। इजरायल ने यह जोरदार हमला अमेरिकी खुफिया एजेंसी सीआईए के मुखिया के दौरे के ठीक बाद किया है। विश्लेषकों का कहना है कि इजरायल के इस हमले का बड़ा असर रूस तक पहुंच सकता है जो यूक्रेन पर हमले के लिए ईरान से हजारों की तादाद में किलर ड्रोन

खरीद रहा है। इससे पहले इजरायल ने साफ कर दिया था कि वह रूस-यूक्रेन युद्ध में यूक्रेनी सेना को हथियारों की सप्लाई नहीं करेगा। दरअसल, इजरायल सीरिया में लगातार हमले कर रहा है जहां रूसी सेना मौजूद है और उसने बड़े पैमाने पर घातक हथियार तैनात कर रखे हैं। बिना रूस की मदद के इजरायल सीरिया में ईरानी सेना को निशाना नहीं बना सकता है। यही वजह है कि इजरायल पुतिन से सीधे पंगा नहीं लेना चाहता है। हालांकि इजरायल ने इस हमले से यह भी साफ कर दिया है कि वह ईरान को यूक्रेन युद्ध से कमाने का मौका नहीं देगा।

इजरायल ने ड्रोन से ईरान पर हमला किया!

इससे पहले अमेरिका ने कहा था कि रूस को ड्रोन विमानों की आपूर्ति करने का प्राथमिक स्रोत ईरान को बताया था। अमेरिका ने यह भी कहा था कि रूस अब ईरान से मिसाइल हासिल करना चाहता है। बताया जा रहा है कि इस्फहान शहर पर इजरायल ने क्वाडकाप्टर ड्रोन से हमला किया है जो ईरान के मिसाइल उत्पादन और शोध का मुख्य केंद्र है। इस हमले से ईरान के साथ-साथ रूस को भी बड़ा झटका लगा है जो ईरान से लेकर उत्तर कोरिया से हथियारों की उम्मीद लगाए बैठे है। खबरों के मुताबिक इस्फहान में रक्षा उपकरणों का निर्माण करने वाली एक कंपनी पर शनिवार देर रात ड्रोन हमला हुआ।

ईरान की सरकारी समाचार एजेंसी आईआरएनए ने बताया कि इस्फहान में रक्षा उपकरणों का निर्माण करने वाली एक कंपनी को शनिवार देर रात तीन ड्रोन विमानों के जरिये निशाना बनाया गया। ईरानी रक्षा मंत्रालय ने दावा किया कि हमले में कंपनी की छत को मामूली नुकसान पहुंचा और कोई भी घायल नहीं हुआ। इसमें बताया गया है कि बाद में ईरान की वायु रक्षा प्रणालियों ने दो ड्रोन को सफलतापूर्वक मार गिराया। हालांकि, ईरानी रक्षा मंत्रालय ने यह नहीं बताया कि ड्रोन हमले के पीछे किसका हाथ होने का संदेह है। वहीं, ईरान के सरकारी टेलीविजन चैनल ने कहा कि उत्तर-पश्चिमी शहर तबरीज़ के पास एक औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में स्थित एक तेल रिफाइनरी में शनिवार रात भीषण आग लग गई। ईरान और इजराइल के बीच चल रहा छद्म युद्ध।

ईरान और इजराइल के बीच लंबे समय से एक छद्म युद्ध चल रहा है। हाल के वर्षों में ईरान के कई सैन्य और परमाणु प्रतिष्ठानों को निशाना बनाया गया है। पिछले साल ईरान ने कहा था कि राजधानी तेहरान के पूर्व में स्थित उसके परचिन सैन्य एवं हथियार उत्पादन केंद्र पर हुई एक संदिग्ध घटना में एक इंजीनियर मारा गया था और एक अन्य कर्मि घायल हो गया था। अप्रैल 2021 में, ईरान ने इजराइल पर अपने भूमिगत नतांज परमाणु प्रतिष्ठान पर हमले का आरोप लगाया था, जिसमें उसके अपकेंद्रण यंत्र (सेंट्रिफ्यूज) क्षतिग्रस्त हो गए थे। हालांकि, इजराइल ने ईरान के आरोपों को खारिज किया था। वर्ष 2020 में ईरान ने उस हमले के पीछे इजराइल का हाथ बताया था, जिसमें देश का शीर्ष परमाणु वैज्ञानिक मारा गया था।

https://navbharattimes.indiatimes.com/world/uae/israel-drone-attack-on-military-factory-in-isfahan-iran-setback-to-russia-whose-supplier-of-weapons/amp_articleshow/97434249.cms



Mon, 30 Jan 2023

Iran Reports Drone Attack on Defense Facility in Isfahan

Drones attacked an Iranian defense factory in the central city of Isfahan overnight, the state-run IRNA news agency reported early Sunday. It carried a Defense Ministry statement saying the

attack occurred late Saturday and caused minor damage to a rooftop. The report said three drones were shot down by Iranian air defenses. The Ministry did not say who was suspected of carrying out the attack.

Separately, Iran's state TV said a fire broke out at an oil refinery in an industrial zone near the northwestern city of Tabriz. It said the cause was not yet known, as it showed footage of firefighters trying to extinguish the blaze. Iran and Israel have long been engaged in a shadow war that has included covert attacks on Iranian military and nuclear facilities.

Last year, Iran said an engineer was killed and another employee was wounded in an unexplained incident at the Parchin military and weapons development base east of the capital, Tehran. The ministry called it an accident, without providing further details. Parchin is home to a military base where the International Atomic Energy Agency has said it suspected Iran conducted tests of explosive triggers that could be used in nuclear weapons.

In April 2021, Iran blamed Israel for an attack on its underground Natanz nuclear facility that damaged its centrifuges. Israel has not claimed responsibility for the attack, but Israeli media widely reported that the country had orchestrated a devastating cyberattack that caused a blackout at the nuclear facility. Israeli officials rarely acknowledge operations carried out by the country's secret military units or its Mossad intelligence agency.

In 2020, Iran blamed Israel for a sophisticated attack that killed its top nuclear scientist. Iran has always insisted its nuclear program is for purely peaceful purposes. U.S. intelligence agencies, Western nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency have said Iran ran an organized nuclear weapons program until 2003. The United Nations' top nuclear official, Rafael Mariano Grossi, recently warned that Iran has enough highly enriched uranium to build "several" nuclear weapons if it chooses.

Efforts to revive a 2015 agreement with world powers that placed limits on Iran's nuclear activities ground to a halt last year. Both the U.S. and Israel have vowed to prevent Iran from ever acquiring nuclear weapons, and neither has ruled out military action.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/iran-reports-drone-attack-on-defense-facility-in-isfahan/article66445924.ece>



Mon, 30 Jan 2023

Ukraine Plans \$550 Million Drone Investment in 2023 - Defence Minister

Ukraine's military will spend nearly \$550 million on drones in 2023, and 16 supply deals have already been signed with Ukrainian manufacturers, Defence Minister Oleksii Reznikov said on Monday.

Both Ukrainian and Russian forces have used a wide array of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, for reconnaissance and assault purposes during 11 months of war.

"In 2023, we are increasing the procurement of UAVs for the Armed Forces of Ukraine," Reznikov wrote on Facebook. "We plan to allocate about 20 billion hryvnias (\$547.05 million) to this segment." Ukraine has received significant supplies of UAVs from its partners, from Turkey's missile-equipped Bayraktar TB2 to the Norwegian-made Black Hornet reconnaissance drone, which weighs less than 33 grams.

Kyiv is now seeking to boost domestic production to build what officials cast as an "army of drones".

"The independence of the military-industrial complex is one of the factors of the country's defence capability," Reznikov wrote.

Ukraine's military announced last week it would begin creating assault drone companies within its armed forces, and Reznikov said the Defence Ministry had received applications proposing 75 different Ukrainian-made drones.

"After consultations with the General Staff of the Armed Forces, after tests, the Ministry of Defence has already concluded 16 state contracts with Ukrainian UAV manufacturers," he wrote.

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukraine-plans-550-million-drone-investment-2023-defence-minister-2023-01-30/>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

NATO's Chief Urges South Korea to Step Up Military Support for Ukraine

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg urged South Korea on Monday to increase military support to Ukraine, citing other countries that have changed their policy of not providing weapons to countries in conflict following Russia's invasion.

Stoltenberg was speaking in Seoul, the first stop on a trip that will also include Japan and is aimed at strengthening ties with Western allies in Asia in the face of the war in Ukraine and rising competition with China.

Speaking at the Chey Institute for Advanced Studies in Seoul, he thanked South Korea for its non-lethal aid to Ukraine, but urged it to do more, adding there is an "urgent need" for ammunition. "I urge the Republic of Korea to continue and to step up on the specific issue of military support," he said. "At the end of the day, it's a decision for you to make, but I'll say that several NATO allies who have had as a policy to never export weapons to countries in a conflict have changed that policy now," he said, citing Germany, Sweden and Norway.

"If we don't want autocracy and tyranny to win, then they (Ukrainians) need weapons, that's the reality," said Stoltenberg, a former Norwegian prime minister. South Korea has signed major deals providing hundreds of tanks, aircraft and other weapons to NATO member Poland since Russia invaded Ukraine. But President Yoon Suk-yeol has said a South Korean law that forbids supplying weapons to countries engaged in conflict makes it difficult to send arms to Ukraine.

Russia calls its invasion, launched on Feb. 24, a "special operation" to ward off threats to its own security. Stoltenberg also met with Yoon and Defense Minister Lee Jong-sup, who echoed calls for closer ties with NATO based on shared values, but did not publicly address calls for more military aid to Ukraine. In meetings with senior South Korean officials, Stoltenberg said events in Europe and North America were interconnected with those in other regions, and that the alliance wanted to help manage global threats by increasing partnerships in Asia.

The NATO chief said it was "extremely important" that Russia doesn't win this war, not only for the Ukrainians but also to avoid sending a wrong message to authoritarian leaders, including in Beijing, that they can get what they want by force.

Although China is not NATO's adversary, it has become "much higher" on NATO's agenda, he said, citing Beijing's rising military capabilities and coercive behaviour in the region. "We believe that we should engage with China on issues like arms control, climate change and other issues," he said. "But at the same time, we are very clear that China poses a challenge to our values, to our interests, and to our security."

Responding to a question about Stoltenberg's remarks, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said on Monday that China was a partner to countries, not a challenge, and that it did not threaten any nation's interests or security. "We also hope that NATO will abandon its Cold War mentality and the concept of bloc confrontation, and do more for the security and stability of Europe and the world," Mao told a regular news briefing.

In a statement carried by state media on Monday, North Korea called Stoltenberg's visit a "prelude to confrontation and war as it brings the dark clouds of a 'new Cold War' to the Asia-Pacific region". Last year South Korea opened its first diplomatic mission to NATO, vowing to deepen cooperation on non-proliferation, cyber defence, counter-terrorism, disaster response and other security areas. U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin was also due to arrive in Seoul on Monday for talks with South Korean leaders.

https://m.economictimes.com/news/defence/natos-chief-urges-south-korea-to-step-up-military-support-for-ukraine/amp_articleshow/97451536.cms

Science & Technology News

mint

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

Science 20 Conference as Part of G20 Taking Place in Puducherry

The Science 20 Conference, part of the G20 Conference, is currently taking place in Puducherry. Over 75 participants from G20 member nations as well as friendly countries such as India, China, and the United States are in attendance. The conference revolves around three major topics, including global comprehensive health, the promotion of clean energy for a more

sustainable future, and the fusion of science and society/culture to execute science-driven solutions.

The Science 20 conference is a part of the two-day G20 gathering taking place in Puducherry, starting on Monday. It has brought together a delegation of 75 representatives from G20 member countries and friendly nations, including India, China, the US, Turkey, Sweden, South Korea, Australia, Brazil, France, Indonesia, the European Union, and England.

The conference has kicked off with speeches from Indonesia, last year's host of the G20 conference, India, this year's chair, and Brazil, which will assume the chairmanship next year. The event focuses on three central themes, such as global health and wellness, embracing clean energy for a greener future, and the integration of science, society, and culture to drive science-based solutions.

A Prohibitory Order under section 144 has been issued in the vicinity of the hotels, airports, and conference facilities used by foreign delegations. The conference site is surrounded by five levels of police security.

Narendra Singh Tomar, the Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, announced on Monday that the G20 Presidency of India would host more than 200 meetings.

The BJP leader made the proclamation in Chandigarh at the first meeting of the International Financial Architecture Working Group (IFAWG).

During the event, Agriculture Minister Tomar expressed his pride and joy in the fact that India is hosting events as part of its G20 presidency. He stated that over 200 meetings will take place at more than 50 locations across the country, and around 200,000 representatives are expected to attend.

<https://www.livemint.com/news/science-20-conference-as-part-of-g20-taking-place-in-puducherry-11675118729912.html>

ThePrint

Mon, 30 Jan 2023

S-20 Group to Unveil Report after July on Latest Scientific Progress: Academy Chief

President of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) professor Ashutosh Sharma on Monday said the S20 engagement group of G20 countries would come out with a report on use of latest advances in the scientific world to improve quality of life among member-countries. Speaking to reporters here after co-chairing the Science 20 (S-20) Inception meeting which began today, professor Sharma, who is India's Chair for the inception meeting held as part of India's G20 presidency, said that after July "the group will come out with its report for policy-makers for adopting best practices relevant to the member-countries."

S20 engagement group is a platform for experts from member-countries to deliberate and provide constructive solutions for global problems, including energy equity, healthcare and wellbeing. "It makes science as an integral part of society." He claimed that "it is only through innovative scientific practices based on scientific investigations that the quality of life could be

augmented.” “New ideas have to emerge to tackle problems faced by humanity,” professor Ashutosh Sharma said adding: “Our engagement group aims to unveil policy frameworks. Each country can adopt practices that are best suited for them.” He cited the COVID-19 pandemic as “the best example to showcase dependency on science.” Sharma said, “We could manage the virus because we relied on scientific practices in dealing with the pandemic.” A total of 15 delegates from 11 countries participated in the S20 inception meeting.

A press release said the subject for deliberation at the meeting held in a private convention centre amid tight security was “disruptive science for innovative and sustainable development.” The meeting was also aimed at focusing on three overarching themes namely universal holistic health, adoption of clean energy for a greener future and connecting science to society and culture. G20 provided a platform that would help for collaboration in implementing solutions emerging through science.

A release from Pondicherry Central University said the Department of Green Energy of the university participated in the S20 meeting and showcased research activities and achievements of the department in promoting green energy for a greener future. Vice-Chancellor of the university Gurmeet Singh, along with faculty of the Department of Green Energy, participated in the meeting, said the release.

<https://theprint.in/india/s-20-group-to-unveil-report-after-july-on-latest-scientific-progress-academy-chief/1343745/>

