

## Title : Surface-To-Air Missiles Gain Interest of Various Nations: DRDO Chairman

Date : Saturday, January 29, 2022 by Indian Defence News



New Delhi: Department of Defence Research and Development Secretary and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman, Dr. G Satheesh Reddy has said that the surface-to-air missiles have gained the interest of various nations, adding that more systems with export potential are being developed in the country. "Surface to air missile Akash, Astra missile, anti-tank missiles, radars, torpedoes have gained the interest of various nations. Lot more systems are being developed which are advanced technology in nature and have export potential," Reddy told ANI. Surface to air missile Akash, Astra missile, anti-tank missiles, radars, torpedoes gains interest of various nation. Lot more systems are being developed which are advanced technology in nature & have export potential: Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secy Dept of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO [pic.twitter.com/zSSOSC8AvY](https://twitter.com/zSSOSC8AvY)— ANI (@ANI) January 28, 2022 He also expressed confidence that in the coming years, India will witness an increase in the export of indigenously developed technologies and said, "In the coming year, we will have a lot of exports from India of the technologies developed here." Reddy's statement comes after India signed a deal worth USD 375 million to supply 290 km strike range BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to the Philippines. He also said that it is the first order for export of the BrahMos missile system and termed it as a "major development." "BrahMos is a giant venture of DRDO. This giant venture has developed the supersonic cruise missile 'BrahMos'. It has been inducted into the Indian Armed Forces," Reddy said. "It is the beginning and we expect that many more export orders will come in the future," he added. Emphasizing that it is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of developing advanced technologies indigenously, Reddy added, "PM Modi has been setting goals on developing very

advanced technologies and systems and we should be exporting a lot to the world. So, there are many systems that are being developed which have a lot of export potential."

## **Title : India Needs Many Big-Ticket Exports Like Brahmos Deal To Hit \$5 Billion Export Target By 2025, Counter China**

**Date : Saturday, January 29, 2022 by Indian Defence News**



The BrahMos order by the Philippines is the first major military export by India. NEW DELHI: In a big boost to India's defence exports, BrahMos Aerospace has inked a \$375 million deal with the Philippines to provide the BrahMos cruise missile to the country's navy. The Philippines navy will use this as an anti-ship shore-based missile that has a range of 290 km. BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture company between India's Defence Development and Research Organisation (DRDO) and Russia, has been continuously upgrading the missile system, making it more lethal against sea and land targets. BrahMos is one of the potent missile weapon systems used by the Indian military; already inducted into the Armed Forces and used by the army, air force and navy in different variants. It can be launched from submarines, ships, aircraft, or land platforms. Meant To Deter China A statement from department of national defence of the Philippines says the BrahMos will provide deterrence against any attempt to undermine sovereign rights in the Philippine Sea — a reference to the South China Sea where China maintains an aggressive posturing. As the deal is finally through with the Philippines, other countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia, who have shown interest in acquiring the anti-ship missile, could also come onboard. Malaysia and Vietnam are also claimants in the South China Sea. Experts are of the view that if India is successful in providing big-ticket military systems to countries in the neighbourhood, it won't just be a boost for defence exports but will also be a strategic step to counter China's

influence as it provides defence products in Asia, including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

### Jump In Indian Defence Exports

There has been a monumental increase in India's defence exports — jumping from Rs 1,940.64 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 8,434.84 crore, the Ministry of Defence had said in a reply to a Parliament question in December 2021. While the increase in exports is significant, the BrahMos deal with the Philippines is the first for a major military platform. The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recently signed a contract with the government of Mauritius for exporting the advanced version of Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH Mark-III). Mauritius already operates HAL built ALH and Do-228 aircraft. Department of Defence Production lists out Italy, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Russia, France, Nepal, Mauritius, Israel, Egypt, UAE, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Poland, Spain and Chile as India's export destinations for defence items. The major defence items being exported listed are personal protective items, Offshore Patrol Vessels, Advanced Light Helicopter and surveillance systems. In another reply last year to a Parliament question, the defence ministry informed that India exported items to 84 countries. These were not big-ticket military platforms or weapon systems. These were items like teargas launcher, night vision devices, fire control systems, weapon simulators and light weight torpedoes.

### Export Target \$5 Billion By 2025

India has set a target of exporting defence equipment worth Rs 35,000 crore (\$5 billion) by 2025. Aimed at enhancing exports and build a domestic defence industry, the new policy aims at self-reliance looks to achieve a turnover of Rs 1,75,000 crore (25 billion US dollar). The policy also looks at doubling domestic procurement from the Indian industry. To promote self-reliance and reduce imports, the defence ministry has also come out with a list of 2,851 items put in an import embargo list aimed at saving Rs 3,000 crore annually with a ban on importing these items.

### How India Fares With Other Countries

The import ban list seems to be having an impact already. According to a study by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), there were three Indian companies in top 100 arms companies and their combined arms sales grew by 1.7 per cent. However, a comparison with China shows how Chinese companies have been racing ahead. "The combined arms sales of the five Chinese companies included in the top 100 amounted to an estimated \$66.8 billion in 2020, 1.5 per cent more than in 2019. Chinese firms accounted for 13 per cent of total top 100 arms sales in 2020, behind the US companies and ahead of companies from the United Kingdom, which made up the third largest share," the SIPRI report says. It quotes Dr Nan Tian, SIPRI senior researcher: "In recent years, Chinese arms companies have benefited from the country's military modernisation programmes and focus on military-civil fusion. They have become some of the most advanced military technology producers in the world." NORINCO, for example, co-developed the BeiDou military-civil navigation satellite system and deepened its involvement in emerging technologies. The SIPRI report says while the United States has once again hosted the highest number of companies ranked in the top 100, Russian arms sales have declined for third year in a row. "Together, the arms sales of the 41 US companies amounted to \$285 billion — an increase of 1.9 per cent compared with 2019 — and accounted for 54 per cent of the top 100's total arms sales. Since 2018, the top five companies in the ranking have all been based in the USA," the report said.

### India's Strategy To Beef Up Defence Exports

The Ministry of Defence has proposed a promotion body for exports that can advise the government on various export-related issues, coordinate all export facilitation schemes of the government, increase awareness amongst the industry about various export facilitation measures and promotion of exports through specific marketing efforts in

targeted countries.“The body will identify the suitable export markets in consultation with ministry of external affairs and department of commerce, keeping in view our foreign policy and various international export control and arms control regimes,” the ministry said in a statement.As part of defence diplomacy aimed at enhancing exports, Indian missions have been asked to promote Indian defence exports. If required, industry delegations would be taken to target countries under the leadership of officials.

## **Title : Understanding Role of Private Industries In Defence Sector**

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Even industry believes that the policies are beneficial to a considerable extent, but that they need to be revised in a few areas. DRDO and DPSUs’ dependency for testing and lab facilities was also inferred. The industry has apprehension about involving academia and this is an important area to ponder upon.The Government of India is promoting “Make in India” for self-reliance in the defence sector, which is evident in the several initiatives it has taken that favour potential Indian vendors in terms of indigenisation and technology development.The intention is to encourage Indian firms to design, develop and manufacture defence equipment at the system, subsystem and component levels, with indigenisation and self-reliance as primary focal areas.In the early 1960s, DRDO and several Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) like Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), BEML Ltd, Mishra Dhatu Nigam (MIDHANI) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) including Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) initiated defence production and over a period of time provided tremendous support to our Armed Forces.However, there has always been a gap between the demand and supply of equipment to

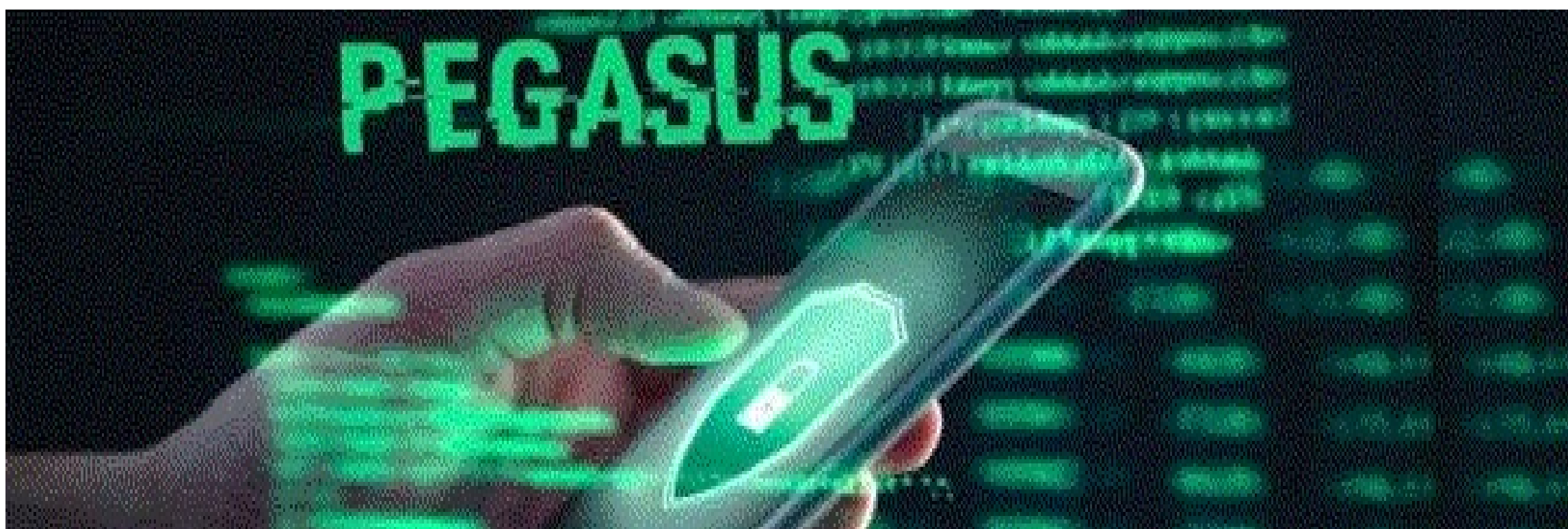


the defence forces and therefore, till date the tri-services resort to importing critical equipment to meet their operational requirements. Noticeably, policies like 'Make in India' and 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' are aimed at minimising imports by creating a robust ecosystem for nurturing private industries and optimisation of DPSUs and Ordnance Board. At the same time, foreign companies are encouraged to set up design, development and manufacture of military equipment in India so as to boost Indian economy and for creating job opportunities in India. Defence Procurement Manual, Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 and Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 encourage innovation and indigenisation in private industries, and are aimed at creating a dynamic, robust and competitive industry base so as to reduce dependence on imports and for promoting exports. The financial assistance to academia for research and development and the recent declaration of celebrating 16 January 1 as the 'Start-Ups Day' henceforth, shows the government's seriousness towards rewarding innovation and indigenisation in start-ups. Further, Strategic Partnership Model has been proposed for Indian industries to collaborate with foreign OEMs (Original Equipment Manufacturers) and to seek Transfer of Technology to build the capability to develop and manufacture equipment in India. Additionally, there are other initiatives like setting up Defence Corridors across states, conduct of defence exhibitions, seminars by autonomous bodies like Confederation of Indian Industry, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, etc., and tri-services interactive forums with industries. Programmes like Innovation Defence Excellence (iDEX), Technology Development Fund (TDF), Defence India Start-Up Challenges (DISC) and In-services Innovation Contests with financial back-ups also look promising. Despite the fact that the defence sector offers an ocean of opportunities for industries and favourable policies are being framed by the Government of India, ongoing global technological advancements in the areas like Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Big Data analysis and mining, solar energy, advanced battery developments, Nano Technology, robotics, formulation of next-generation aviation traffic management systems, etc., could pose aviation challenges in the future. Considering the government's push for indigenisation in a period of technological disruptions in the defence arena, a need has been felt for conducting research in one of the key specialty defence areas, namely Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). The aim of the research is to understand the impact of government initiatives on Indian industries concerning UAS under these dynamic conditions. Further, the research also aims to understand India's Strategic Military balance in UAS sector compared to its potential neighbours China and Pakistan thereby seeing future roadmap of UAS in India. Unmanned Aerial Machines are commonly denoted as Unmanned Aircraft/Aerial System (UAS), Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV), Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA), Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPV), Loitering Munitions (LM) and Drones. The term UAS has been widely used since the system comprises UAV, Ground systems, Mission Control Stations and other supporting equipment. Irrespective of whether it is for civil or military use, the term UAV or Drones (a component of UAS and being airborne platform) is used by many authors as generic to represent UAS. Analysts point out that India is at least a decade behind Pakistan and even further behind China in the UAV sector. The "iron brothers" Pakistan and China have been closely collaborating in the development of and acquisition of various military platforms and weapons, including combat drones. China had relied on UAVs and built a robust aviation programme right from the 1950s. Government support, reliable infrastructure, quality education, research and

development have collectively helped China in this domain. Collaboration and joint ventures with other countries and clandestine operations also aided China in its objectives. Pakistan on the other side owes the development of its programme to the PSUs and support extended by China. The private sector also has a significant role to play. PSUs and more private industries focus on medium and small UAVs due to economic affordability, export value and low cost. Considering the steady growth in the UAV sector across our neighbours, the government's roadmap for robust aviation corridor and industries' perspective on defence initiatives, a survey was carried out for Qualitative Analysis keeping into consideration the policies, industry capabilities and threat perception by our neighbours. The survey brought out insights that there is a possibility of immense growth for both civil and military UAVs/drones in future. The industries are inclined towards developing medium, small and mini UAVs including Swarm Drones. Economic feasibility, demand across commercial sectors, mass production, qualified manpower in-house with technology help from overseas suppliers, and increased global competitiveness could all be factors for venturing into the small UAVs sector. Large UAVs, on the other hand, are not given priority for a variety of reasons, including high investment costs, customised specific purpose needs, research and development, the likelihood of a minimum order number, advanced technology, and the lack of a guarantee for fixed orders. Even industry believes that the policies are beneficial to a considerable extent, but that they need to be revised in a few areas. DRDO and DPSUs' dependency for testing and lab facilities was also inferred. The industry has apprehension about involving academia and this is an important area to ponder upon. While India is establishing a strong aviation ecosystem by bringing together all stakeholders, including the government, promotional bodies, DPSUs, tri-services, academia and industry partners, experts believe that in the next 10 to 15 years, private Indian industries will be the crusaders for the government in defence production, particularly in the UAV vertical. Correlation between industries and the economy will also be crucial in the future. The concerns and suggestions shared by the industries must be taken into account and researched in order to provide value to the expanding ecosystem. The insights derived from the research would bring out the industries' perspective and may add value to government policies.

**Title : India Bought Pegasus As Part of \$2 Billion Defence Deal With Israel In 2017, Claims NYT Report**

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The report revealed that the access to the Pegasus spyware tool was part of a "package of sophisticated weapons and intelligence worth roughly \$2 billion" between India and Israel. The report detailed how the Pegasus software was sold to India, Hungary and Poland under a set of new deals licensed by the Israeli Ministry of Defence. India bought Israeli spyware Pegasus in 2017 as part of a big arms deal with Israel, the New York Times (NYT) reported on Friday. In an investigation report titled "The Battle for the World's Most Powerful Cyberweapon", the publication revealed that the access to the controversial spyware, classified as military-grade software and produced by the NSO group, was part of a "package of sophisticated weapons and intelligence worth roughly \$2 billion" between the two countries. The year-long investigation, NYT reported, examined how the US's Federal Bureau of investigation, bought and tested the spyware "for years with plans to use it for domestic surveillance until the agency finally decided last year not to deploy the tools." The report also detailed how the Pegasus software was sold to India, Hungary and Poland under a set of new deals licensed by the Israeli Ministry of Defence. It also sheds light on how the software was used worldwide, by Mexico to target dissidents and journalists, and by Saudi Arabia against women's rights activists as well as associates of columnist Jamal Khashoggi who was killed by members of Saudi security. According to the report, India's access to the Pegasus spyware tool was sealed in the year 2017. The report also claims that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Israel came even as "India had maintained a policy" of what the country called "commitment to the Palestinian cause," and "relations with Israel were frosty." It further stated the "Pegasus and a missile system" were the "centrepieces" of a larger defence package worth \$2 billion. "In July 2017, Narendra Modi, who won office on a platform of Hindu nationalism, became the first Indian prime minister to visit Israel... The Modi visit, however, was notably cordial, complete with a carefully staged moment of him and Prime Minister Netanyahu walking together barefoot on a local beach. They had reason for the warm feelings," the report stated. "Their countries had agreed on the sale of a package of sophisticated weapons and intelligence gear worth roughly \$2 billion - with Pegasus and a missile system as the centrepieces. Months later, Netanyahu made a rare state visit to India," it noted, adding that in June 2019 "India voted in support of Israel at the UN's Economic and Social Council to deny observer status to a Palestinian human rights

organisation, a first for the nation."The NYT report doesn't provide any further details on the specifics of the deal or which government agency or department procured Pegasus on behalf of the Indian government. Thus far, neither India nor Israel has admitted that the former bought the Pegasus spyware tool. On January 2, the technical committee appointed by the Supreme Court had issued a public notice asking citizens to come forward and contact the panel if they suspected that their mobile devices were infected by Pegasus malware. The public notice asked such citizens to also specify the reasons as to why they believed that their device may have been infected with Pegasus malware and whether they would be in a position to allow the technical committee to examine the said device. A global consortium of international media groups had disclosed in July 2021 that the spyware was used by many governments across the world to snoop on opponents, businessmen, journalists etc. In October last year, the Supreme Court directed a panel of experts to investigate whether the government used military-grade private Israeli Pegasus spyware to surveil opposition leaders, activists, tycoons, judges and journalists. The apex court had also observed that the state cannot get a "free pass" every time the spectre of national security is raised and that its mere invocation cannot render the judiciary a "mute spectator" and be the bugbear it shies away from.

## **Title : China To Build Space Centre, More Satellites For Pakistan**

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China is currently building its own space station Beijing: China on Friday announced plans to boost space cooperation with Pakistan, including the development of a space centre and launching of more satellites for its all-weather ally. Pakistan figures many times in a white paper titled "China's Space Program: A 2021 Perspective", released by the State Council or the Central Cabinet, outlining future expansion plans for China's burgeoning space industry, which has



successfully launched missions to the Moon and Mars.China will "give priority to developing communications satellites for Pakistan and to cooperating on the construction of the Pakistan Space Centre", the white paper said.China is currently building its own space station, which is expected to be ready by this year.In 2018, China had helped Pakistan to launch two satellites -- Pakistan's first optical remote sensing satellite PRSS-1, and a smaller observation craft PakTES-1A. In 2019, the two countries signed an agreement on space exploration, marking a new phase in space science cooperation between the close allies.The white paper released on Friday said China completed the in-orbit delivery of the Pakistan Remote-Sensing Satellite (PRSS-1), Venezuelan Remote-Sensing Satellite (VRSS-2), Sudan Remote-Sensing Satellite (SRSS-1), and the Algerian Communications Satellite (Alcomsat-1).China has provided satellite carrying or launching services for many countries like Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Argentina, Brazil, Canada and Luxembourg.China has conducted space product and technology cooperation with countries, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Argentina, Pakistan, and Nigeria, the white paper said.Beijing will advance the construction and application of the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) remote-sensing satellite constellation, it said.China has signed cooperation agreements for the BRICS Remote-Sensing Satellite Constellation, cooperated with the European Space Agency on earth observation satellite data exchange, and built the China-ASEAN Satellite Information Offshore Service Platform and the Remote-Sensing Satellite Data-Sharing Service Platform, it said.China has built satellite data receiving stations with countries like Bolivia, Indonesia, Namibia, Thailand and South Africa.Releasing the white paper, China's National Space Administration (CNSA) deputy head Wu Yanhua said the International Lunar Research Station (ILRS), jointly proposed by China and Russia, is expected to become operational by 2035, the state-run Global Times reported."Governments of China and Russia are working closely on the ILRS agreements and have basically reached a consensus, and the agreement will hopefully be signed later this year. After that, a joint declaration on the project will be announced to the world by the national space agencies of the two countries," Wu said.The white paper said China will carry out more space science exploration in the next five years and continue with the research and development of programmes such as the satellite for space gravitational wave detection, the advanced space-based solar observatory.

**Title : Munitions Belonging To Pak Army Seized In Mundra Port**

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Security agencies, on Friday, seized munitions reportedly belonging to Pakistani army, from Mundra Port in Kutch district of Gujarat. Mundra Port is owned by Adani Group. According to sources, Customs Department at the port was alerted that about 200 tonnes of junk imported from Africa is likely to have some suspicious material. Sources said Sai Bandhan Infinium Private. Limited, Ahmedabad, imported the material. The containers came to Hindu Terminal on the Port. The seizure is believed to be the result of investigation carried out by the customs and the central agencies over the last few days. Sources said the containers stopped had weapons that are used by the Pakistani Army. According to them, this is likely to be a case of tax evasion. Stuff imported to India directly from Pakistan attracts 200 per cent duty.

**Title : India's Misleading Nuclear Doctrine: Pak Media**

**Date : Saturday, January 29, 2022 by Indian Defence News**



by Ahyousha Khan If one has to define “doctrines” in simplest forms they are beliefs or cluster of beliefs on certain issue of importance. On level of nation states doctrines serves as “stated principle by any government authority” which can also be used to govern the capability and capability can be of any nature (theological, ideological, political and military). nuclear doctrines are part of larger dimension of “military doctrines”, in general military doctrines provide the guidelines to forces that in which environment they might have to operate and which kind of capability the military forces could use against the adversary. Moreover, military doctrines are drafted in a way that they try to maximize the capabilities of forces in service of attaining the national interests of the nation. These doctrines prioritize the threats for a state, at operational level all military forces (land, air and sea) have their own service doctrines which emanates from the larger military doctrine of the state. With the invention of the nuclear weapons and after witnessing their massive destruction and continuous development in technology it became imperative for states to devise a set of principles that could provide guide the development, employment and deployment of its nuclear forces. Moreover, as nuclear weapons change the nature of warfare, previously doctrines guides state how to fight war now with the invention of nuclear weapons they have to be developed to “stop the war”. Although, the purpose of the one of the major component of the military doctrine was changed but even than nuclear doctrines of any state must have the ability to reflect the intention of “actual use of force” to dissuade the adversary from any misadventure. The credibility of a nuclear doctrine is nullified, if there is a huge gap in the capability of a state and the threat it is issuing to its adversary through its nuclear doctrine. In case of South Asia, Pakistan and India are two hostile nuclear neighbours, where India has a declared nuclear doctrine. On the other hand side, Pakistan does not have a declared nuclear doctrine and has adopted a “bit by bit approach”, which is gradual declaration of its policies, threshold, and development and deployment capabilities of its nuclear weapons to remain dynamic in response to Indian hegemonic actions. It is true that there was no “formal” or “explicit” nuclear doctrine by the Indian forces before August 1999, but there were indirect/unspoken options and policy for the use of nuclear weapons. In 1990s committees were formulated to examine nuclear weapon issues and advised the Prime Minister on these issues. One of the committee assessed the “cost of a nuclear deterrent” in 1985 and

reported it to the PM Rajiv Gandhi. Another committee presented the guideline to “formulate procedures for effective control of the nation’s nuclear arsenal and other issues related to nuclearization” and report was presented to the P. V. Narasimha government. These developments indicate that India was working on some of the very important tenants of its nuclear policy before the tests of May 1998. Right after the over nuclearization, India’s than national security advisor Brajesh Mishra presented the document commonly known as “Draft Nuclear Doctrine (DND) as a guiding principles for India’s nuclear capability. Indian government never approved the DND but for many coming years the DND was referred to as the parameter of India’s strategic thinking, which was misleading because when 2003 India actually operationalized its military doctrine there were many important tenants which were not present that were previously part of the DND. After a decade or so of issuance of Indian nuclear doctrine BJP’s election manifesto before 2014 election, statements from retired NSA Shivsnakar Menon, former defence minister Manohar Parikar comments and former Strategic Forces Commander Lt. Gen. B.S. Nagal views started a new wave of debate in International media and academia. Cornerstone of this debate is that India would consider a nuclear first use as a pre-emptive counterforce attack against Pakistan and that India has already relinquished the policy of NFU. Advocates of changing Indian nuclear doctrine in Indian policy making circles are of the view that as India’s security environment is changing, its nuclear doctrine should also change to add element of “credibility” and “transparency” to India’s nuclear policy, posture and review. The debate on Indian nuclear doctrine reflects India has started about taking actual measures to change its nuclear doctrine. However, in reality Indian nuclear doctrine has always been an open ended document with a lot of lacunas and jargons, which gave Indian policy makers a huge space to stir the policy in any direction that seems favourable to them. In present times there are very little chances that India might actually change its nuclear doctrine document because its current doctrine is full of ambiguities and lingual lacunas that do not commit India to any singular policy and allows it to pursue offensive capabilities. Scholars argue that it is not necessary for India to go for explicit change in policy of NFU because internally India could contemplate and plan for nuclear weapons use without diplomatically acknowledging it. Moreover on the basis of this diplomatic image of restrain through NFU, India is building its case in Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) and is trying to be accepted in global nuclear mainstream. Thus, explicit change in Indian nuclear doctrine would damage this objective of India. However, new offensive military capabilities and clash with China on border are putting evident strain on India’s claim of NFU, wherein international commentators consider India’s military build-up contrary to its NFU pledge and domestic commentators argue in favour of ending NFU pledge amid conflicts with India. With reference to South Asian strategic stability, Pakistan never considered Indian nuclear doctrine as India’s actual policy intentions because of the contradictory statements in the document and differences in actual capabilities pursuit by India from the one required by India, if doctrine is to be followed. However, this lack of clarity in Indian policy circles of issues of NFU, CMD and massive retaliation is issue for Pakistan in case of crisis and peace. In crisis, this lack of clarity fuels “uncertainty” and “higher alert” and in case of peace, it is fuelling “arms race” as India under the pressure of its industrial complex is accumulating, building and acquiring modern technologies. Ahyousha Khan is a Research Associate, Strategic Vision Institute, Islamabad



## **Title : India Demands Pakistan Stop Human Rights Violations In Baluchistan**

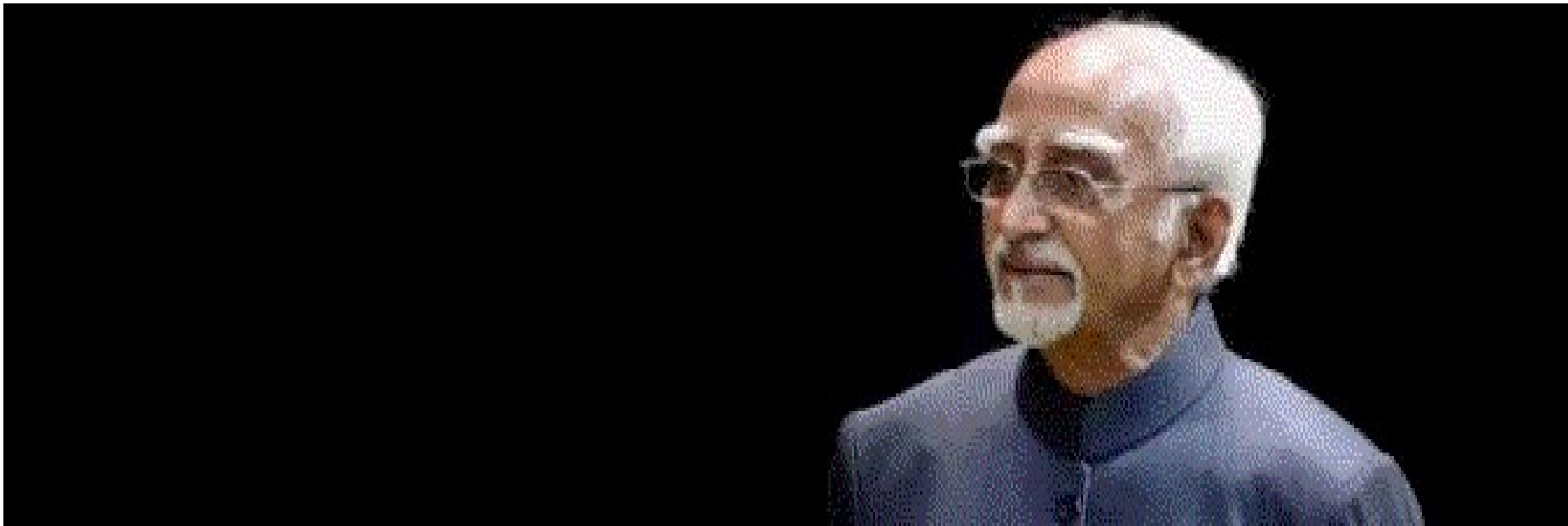
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The remarks came as rights groups demanded action over the killing of Baloch political refugee Razzaq Mandai in Afghanistan on 23 January. New Delhi: India urged Pakistan to stop human rights violations in Baluchistan province on Friday as human rights groups and activists have raised concerns over their targeted killing in the region. “We request Pakistani authorities that the human rights violations which are currently going on in Baluchistan should be stopped,” said Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs when asked what India has to say on the current situation of Baluchistan. It came as activists in the region have raised concerns over their targeted killings in Baluchistan, which is the most neglected among Pakistan’s all provinces in terms of education, health, and employment, with only 24 per cent of women are literate here in the region. Recently, the International Voice for Baloch Missing Persons (IVBMP), a collective representing family members of Baluchistan’s forcibly disappeared, has strongly condemned the killing of Razzaq Mandai, a Baloch political refugee, in Afghanistan. In a statement to the media, IVBMP said, “We are aware of his case. He fled Baluchistan to save his life. He was facing life threats because of his political struggle against Pakistani oppression in Baluchistan.” The Baloch group rejected the lies propagated by Pakistan Army-sponsored journalists and social media figures, who have falsely claimed that Razzaq was a senior commander of an armed group. “In fact, he was a refugee who went to Afghanistan because he could not flee to a third and safer country from Baluchistan.” Due to the negligence of the province by the Pakistan government, 76 per cent of Baluchistan’s girls remain out of school with a primary enrolment of 3,22,000 girls; of whom only 20,046 persist after they finish their matriculation, according to Pakistan Today. Baluchistan is the richest-in-resources province of Pakistan with a small population of 12.34 million, but still the most neglected among all the four provinces – especially when it comes to education, health and employment, reported Pakistan Today.

## Title : India Does Not Require Certification From Others: MEA Rebuffs Ansari, US Lawmakers' Remarks

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Former vice-president Hamid Ansari's statement expressing concern on "Hindu nationalism" has kicked up a new row. New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday said that India is a vibrant democracy, which does not require certification from others. The remarks came after former vice-president Hamid Ansari and four US lawmakers expressed concern over the human rights situation in India at a recent event. The ministry further stressed that the track record of the event's organisers was as well known as the biases and political interests of the participants. At a press briefing, the Ministry of External Affairs was asked about the virtual panel discussion organised by the Indian American Muslim Council on Wednesday during which Hamid Ansari and the US lawmakers expressed concern over the current human rights situation in India. Responding to the poser, MEA Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said: "We have seen reports on this event. India is a robust and vibrant democracy. It does not require certification from others." The claim that others need to protect our constitution is "presumptuous and preposterous", he added, as quoted by news agency PTI. The MEA Spokesperson further stressed that "the track record of event organisers is as well known as the biases and political interests of the participants".

**People of A Particular Religion Are Being Instigated: Hamid Ansari**

Former vice-president Hamid Ansari's statement expressing concern over "Hindu nationalism" has kicked up a new row. According to news agency ANI, Ansari had said, "Hindu nationalism is a matter of concern. People are being divided on religious lines in the country. Controversy is being created among the people regarding nationality." "Especially people of a particular religion are being instigated. Intolerance is being fuelled and an atmosphere of insecurity is being created in

the country,” he stated addressing the Indian American Muslim Council program. The former career diplomat, who served two consecutive terms as the vice-president, had expressed his reservations about “new and imaginary practice of cultural nationalism” that sought to present “electoral majority in the guise of a religious majority and monopolised power”, news agency PTI reported citing other media reports. Ansari had also reportedly said that “recent manifestations” of the political atmosphere were “chilling and reflect poorly on our claim to be governed by the rule of law”. What Hamid Ansari Said Is Wrong: Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju Union Minister of Law and Justice Kiren Rijiju on Friday countered former Vice President Hamid Ansari’s statement saying that before 2014, communal riots and violence were regular, but India is more peaceful now. Taking to Twitter, Kiren Rijiju wrote: “What Hamid Ansari Ji said is wrong. I belong to a minority community and I can proudly say that India is the safest nation”. The Law and Justice Minister stressed that the minorities facing trouble in any of India’s neighbouring countries prefer to seek refuge here because India is safe. “Some isolated incidents do take place at an individual-community level, but Indian culture is always inclusive. Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s mantra is ‘Sabka-Sath Sabka-Vikas Sabka- Vishwas Sabka-Prayas’,” he wrote. The law minister contended that “before 2014, communal riots and violence were regular but India is more peaceful now”. Kiren Rijiju further questioned: “Why do some people who enjoy the best freedom and privilege in India join the anti-India propaganda peddled by foreign-based anti-India forces? What’s the satisfaction that they acquire by defaming India? At least, people in remote villages without facilities are loyal to the motherland”. The online event, which was also attended by some US lawmakers, was titled “Special Congressional Briefing on Protecting India’s Pluralist Constitution” and co-hosted by bodies like Amnesty International US, Genocide Watch, and Hindus for Human Rights, PTI reported.

**Title : SHIPPING: India's Largest Container Ship 'APL Raffles' Berthed In Mundra Port**

**Date : Saturday, January 29, 2022 by Indian Defence News**



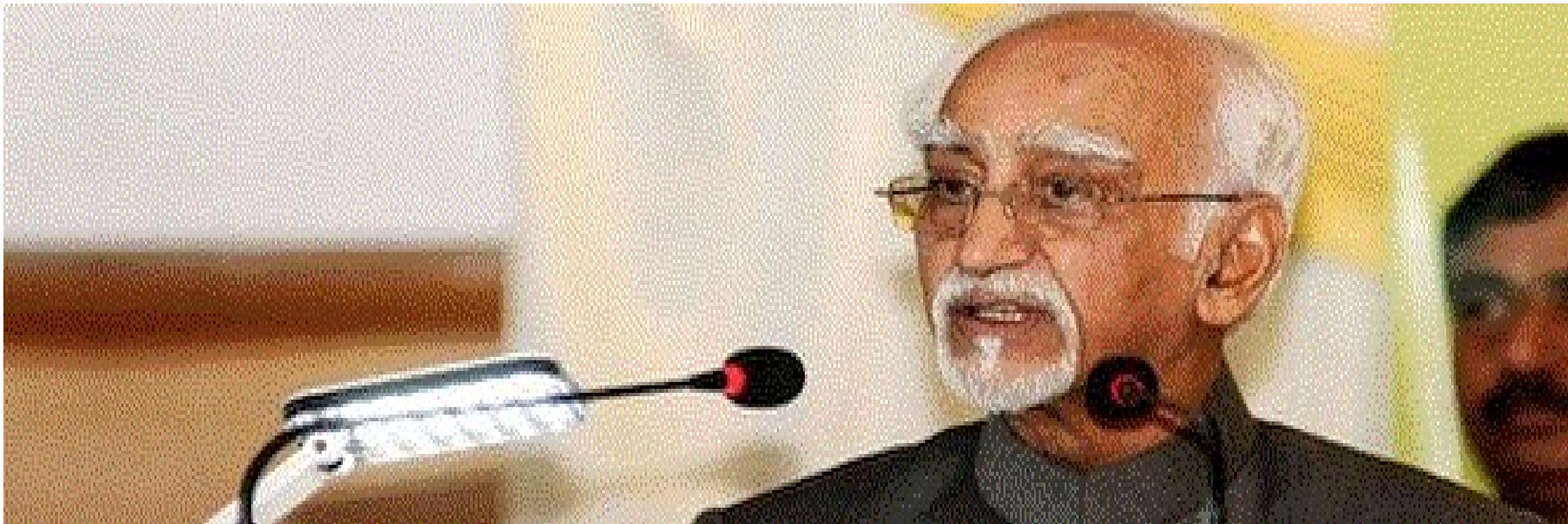
Here Are Its Features      World's largest container vessel APL Raffles anchored at Mundra port on Friday. The length of the vessel is 397.88 meters and the width is about 51 meters. The vessel is almost equivalent to four football fields.      Adani CMA Mundra Terminal Pvt Ltd (ACMTPL), a joint venture between Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd and CMA Terminals at Mundra, berthed 'APL Raffles' on Friday, making it the largest container vessel to call India. History has been made at #MundraPort as we welcomed the largest container vessel that has ever berthed on an Indian port. This is an exciting milestone in the #IndianMaritime industry and we're determined to make way for bigger ships.

#PortsOfProsperity #AdaniPorts @shipmin\_india pic.twitter.com/X3wRC6mwgs— Karan Adani (@AdaniKaran) January 28, 2022      APL Raffles is one of the largest vessels in the fleet of CMA CGM. Built in 2013, this 176727 DWT, 17292 TEUs capacity vessel is 397.88 meter long and 51 meter wide. This is almost equivalent to four football fields.      In a press release, the Adani Ports said that this is another important milestone for Mundra Port. In 2021, Mundra Port became the largest container port in India, and now the port has berthed, at one of its terminals, the largest container vessel to call India. The call of APL Raffles not only endorses the capabilities of the port to handle large container vessels, but also reiterates the role of ACMTPL in boosting trade between India and its key trading partners.      At the time of berthing the vessel's draft was 14.8 m, displacement 2,01,548 MT and had a cargo of 13,159 TEUs on board. The ship has arrived from Middle East carrying imports from Gulf, Greater China and Southeast Asia. The vessel exchanged close to 4000 TEUs of import, export and trans-shipment containers while it was berthed at Mundra Port. APL Raffles will continue her onward journey to Far East Asia.      Mundra Port continues to attract large size ships consolidating its position as the most preferred gateway of Indian EXIM cargoes, especially Agri products and manufactured goods. Other significantly large container vessels which have called on Mundra Port are MSC Regulus which has an LOA of 366.45 m MSC Valeria which has an LOA of 366 m.      The port offers 26 berths and two single-point moorings with an annual capacity to handle 248.82 MMT cargo with dedicated terminals for different cargo and commodity types.      Mundra Port, India's biggest commercial port by volumes, is a deep-water, all-weather port, equipped to handle dry bulk, break bulk, project cargo, liquid, containers, automobiles and crude oil.



## **Title : 'Madness For Modi Bashing Turning Into India Bashing': BJP Slams Ex-P Ansari Over 'Hindu Nationalism' Remark**

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BJP said people who used to exploit minority votes are anxious about positive environment in country. VHP wondered why people fall straight down as soon as they step down from constitutional posts. Hamid Ansari demitted office on August 10, 2017 after two terms as Vice President (2007-2017). Senior BJP leader and Union Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has slammed former Vice President Hamid Ansari for his comments wherein he criticised India's democracy. Responding to Ansari's statement, Naqvi said that the 'madness for Prime Minister Narendra Modi bashing is turning into a conspiracy for India bashing'. "If one gets into India bashing while bashing Modi, you can expect such voices.... People who used to exploit minority votes are now anxious about the prevailing positive environment in the country," he said. Ansari, who demitted office on August 10, 2017 after two terms as Vice President (2007-2017) and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, on Wednesday criticised India's democracy while participating in the virtual panel discussion that was organised by the Indian American Muslim Council. Expressing concern regarding the rise of Hindu nationalism in the country, he said, "In recent years, we have experienced the emergence of trends and practices that dispute the well-established principle of civic nationalism and interpose a new and imaginary practice of cultural nationalism. It wants to distinguish citizens on the basis of their faith, give vent to intolerance, insinuate otherness, and promote disquiet and insecurity." The Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) too criticised Ansari for his comments. VHP spokesperson Vinod Bansal said, "Why do people like Hamid Ansari fall straight down as soon as they step down from constitutional posts? Why does the Jihadi Islam within them dominate as soon as they come in touch with organisations like PFI and IAMC?"

## **Title : J&K: Indian Army Recovers Chinese Grenades, Pistols In Ganderbal, 3 Apprehended**

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As many as three persons were apprehended by the Indian Army on Friday at the Shuhama area of Hadura in Ganderbal district after two pistols and Chinese grenades were recovered from their possession. Two pistols, three magazines and two Chinese grenades were recovered from the possession of those apprehended. Indian Army informed, "Joint mobile vehicle check post was established today at Shuhama, Hadura in Ganderbal district. On being signalled to stop, three persons tried to escape but were apprehended along with two pistols, three magazines and two Chinese grenades." Further probe into the matter is underway.

## **Title : Finally, Jammu Airport Gets 8,000-Ft Long Runway**

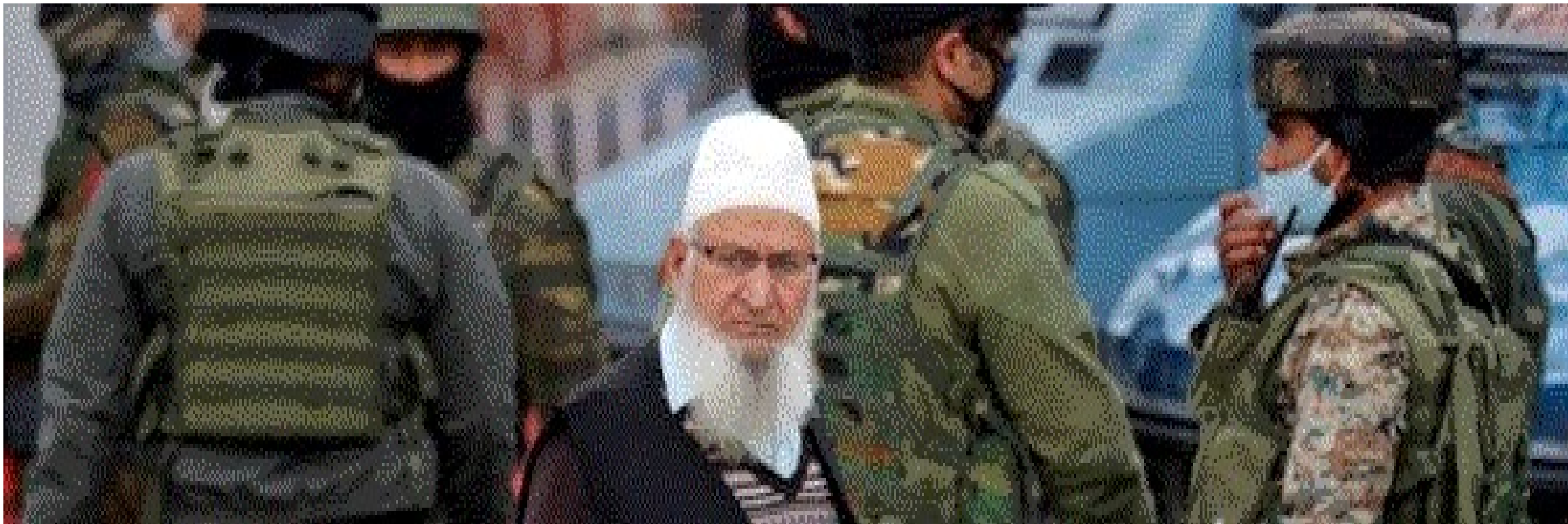
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Indigo flight 6E-137 receives a water cannon salute by Indian Air Force for being the first flight to traverse through the newly constructed portion of the extended runway in Jammu. The operationalisation of the extended portion of runway has been successfully done at the joint user airfield of the IAF and Airports Authority of India at Jammu, says Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Jammu airport director. After a wait of over a decade, the Jammu airport, one of the critical airports in the country, finally got 8,000ft-long runway operational on Friday with Indigo flight 6E-137 being the first to be traversing through the newly constructed stretch amid a water canon salute by the Indian Air Force (IAF). “The operationalisation of the extended portion of runway has been successfully done at the joint user airfield of the IAF and Airports Authority of India (AAI) at Jammu,” said Sanjeev Kumar Garg, Jammu airport director. The existing runway, which was 6,700ft long, was extended and the revised stretch of runway is now 8,000 ft, he added. The work was completed by Airports Authority of India in coordination with Indian Air Force and Military Engineering Service. On the occasion, Air Commodore GS Bhullar, AOC 23rd Wing IAF, Jammu airport director Garg and other officials from Airports Authority of India, Indian Air Force, Military Engineering Service, Airlines and Central Industrial Security Force were present. In addition to the runway, 2,800 metres of boundary wall and rigid pavement perimeter road was also constructed. “A turn pad designed for Airbus 321 was also constructed under this project,” said Garg. AOC, IAF, hailed the coordination of AAI, MES and IAF for successful completion of this project. Garg also thanked all the agencies involved in this project, especially the engineering team of AAI, and said that the construction of the new terminal building of Jammu airport at Belicharana, which will commence shortly, will be instrumental in the development of Jammu and Kashmir. As per a survey by the Director General of Civil Aviation, the Jammu airport was on the list of 11 “critical” airfields of the country. With the Tawi flowing on one side and a rivulet (nullah) and densely populated localities on the other side of Jammu airport, the flights were using 6,700-ft-long runway. An official said that in the second phase, the AAI plans to increase the strip by another 1,000 ft. “When we had 6,700ft-long runway, the flights were not operating to their full capacity load and the pilots had been facing difficulty during landings and take-offs,” he added.

## **Title : 21 Employees Served 'Show Cause' In Jk's Kishtwar For Being Absent During Duty Hours**

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Jammu: Authorities served 'show cause' notices to 21 employees who were found absent during a surprise visit at government offices in Kishtwar district on Friday, officials here said. The visits were made by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Sham Lal to check attendance in the government offices, they said. A total of 21 employees were found absent without leave, while district drug control office was found locked during his visit, they said. As a consequence, the ADDC served show-cause notice to these 21 employees and ordered withholding of their salaries, the officials said. He ordered the concerned officers to seek explanation from the absentees within three days and initiate future action against them, they said.

## **Title : French Firm Liebherr To Heat Indian helicopters**

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Liebherr Aerospace's Air Management SystemThe Light Utility Helicopter being built in India by HAL will include heating and ventilation from French company Liebherr. The Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) for the Indian Army and Indian Air Force will feature an onboard heating and ventilation system from Liebherr Aerospace & Transportation, after the French company signed a contract worth an undisclosed value with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Liebherr and HAL previously co-operated on military aviation programs such as the Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter, Tejas light fighter aircraft and Dornier Do 228 maritime patrol aircraft. The Indian Defence Acquisition Council in early November approved the procurement of 12 LUHs from HAL with the first delivery scheduled for August 2022. However, ordering a dozen LUHs will barely make a dent on Indian requirements for 187 new light helicopters to replace obsolete Chetak and Cheetah platforms.