



CENTRE FOR
JOINT WARFARE
STUDIES
(CENJOWS)

GEO-STRATEGIC SCAN

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Modi
Conferred
With Egypt's
Highest
Civilian
Honour 'Order
Of Nile'**

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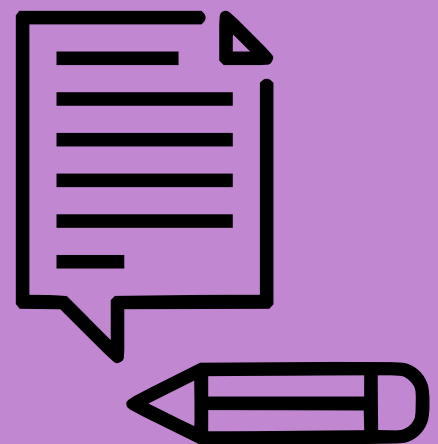
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Russia-Ukraine Conflict: A Glance

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UKRAINIAN COUNTER OFFENSIVE

Kinetic War. Ukraine's military said on Saturday that its forces had made advances near Bakhmut, one of the focal points of fighting on the eastern front, and in an area further south. Ukraine's armed forces have halted a Russian offensive towards the cities of Kupiansk and Lyman in the east of the country, and are advancing in the south. Ukraine claimed "partial success" in its counter-offensive against Russian forces in Zaporizhia, a south-eastern region. Colonel-General Oleksandr Syrsky, The commander of Ukraine's ground forces has confirmed for the first time that the main force of his offensive reserve is yet to be committed into battle with Russia. US has agreed to supply an additional package worth \$500 million modern variety of Army Tactical Missile Systems with a range of 300 kms, and 500-pound warhead to hit high value targets deep into Russia, Bradley and Stryker armoured personnel carriers on Jun 28,2023. However, Russia's defences are some of the most extensive and extend far beyond the front lines.

COMMENTS

The gains of Ukraine in the counteroffensive are slow and may steadily grow once the offensive reserve is pressed into the battle zones. It will be a massive undertaking that unfolds over months, not days. The campaign will be complex and there will likely be many surprises.



Source: Wikipedia

WAGNER REVOLT

Prigozhin, whose Wagner militia spearheaded the capture of the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut last month, had vowed on June 23, 2023 to retaliate against Russian military leadership over an alleged strike on a Wagner military camp and claimed control of military facilities in two Russian cities. Over the next 24 hours, they captured Rostov-on-Don, Russia's ninth-largest city, and embarked on a lightning-fast 1,000km charge towards Moscow, before striking a deal and turning around with about 200km to go on June 24, 2023.

He published an audio recording claiming he was turning around his troops from a march towards Moscow. Russia negotiated a deal that will exempt him from being prosecuted in the Federal Security Service (FSB) investigation for an armed uprising that carries a sentence of 20 years, as per the Russian Criminal Procedural Code. Moreover, his fighters who participated with him in the rebellion will also not face prosecution. Putin offered Prigozhin's fighters to either come under Russia's Defence Ministry's command, leave service, or go to Belarus. Prigozhin has moved to Belarus under a deal brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko to end an armed mutiny. Though there was no loss to the Army, Air Force's most significant loss was a four-engined Il-22M "Coot" Airborne Command Post. This is a modified Ilyushin Il-18 airliner, packed with communications and computing equipment to relay data and to allow officers on board to oversee and control operations below. It has a crew of ten, all of whom were reportedly lost when the plane was brought down. The helicopters lost included one Kamov Ka-52 "Hokum-B" attack helicopter and one Mil Mi-35 "Hind-E" assault helicopter, plus four Mil Mi-8 "Hip" transports. Three of the Mi-8s are said to be rare electronic-warfare variants, equipped to carry out jamming against radar and communications.

COMMENTS

Militias have existed in different forms across the world throughout history as they operate beyond the law and serve as auxiliary forces, all the while maintaining the cloak of deniability. In 2014, Dmitry Utkin, a former Russian army officer, created the mercenary organisation Wagner. Following the overthrow of the Kyiv regime in 2014, Russian soldiers invaded Crimea and have been involved in the Syrian civil war, supporting Bashar al-Assad, an ally of the Kremlin, as well as activities in other African nations, including the Central African Republic, Mali, and Sudan to finally capturing Bakhmut in 2023. Although mercenary organisations are theoretically forbidden in Russia, Wagner undoubtedly enjoyed state support and grew to become a major power on the world stage. Wagner's victory in Bakhmut and Soledar encouraged Prigozhin to challenge Russian military leadership. Though he seems to have failed to remove Sergei Shoigu, the minister of defence, he has now reportedly found refuge in Belarus under a deal brokered by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko to end an armed mutiny. Ukraine now has Russian Tactical Nuclear Weapons and the Wagner Chief positioned close to its border in Belarus.

Fierce Gurkhas are Joining PMC Wagner in Lure of Russian Citizenship; Ex-Nepal Army General Says ‘Concerning Trend’

<https://eurasianimes.com/gorkha-soldiers-joining-pmc-wager-in-lure-of-russian-citizenship/>

- In a development that can be considered a fallout of dwindling job prospects in Nepal and a new recruitment policy in India, Nepali citizens are joining the Russian Private Military Company (PMC) Wagner Group as mercenaries. Some of them have even retired from the Nepal Army and their eyes are on the citizenship that Russian President Vladimir Putin is offering to foreign fighters. The Nepal Government has been caught off guard as it doesn't have any bilateral pacts with Russia and the Nepal Embassy in Moscow has been claiming that the youngsters are going in their "personal" capacity.
- Over a dozen Nepali youths are getting trained in handling weapons and fighting. This comes as President Putin signed a decree on 16 May 2023, simplifying the process of obtaining Russian Citizenship for foreign nationals, who join its ranks in this war, an offer that is too hard for Nepali youngsters to resist, with the unemployment rate at 11.12 percent. With Russia suffering heavy losses in the self-initiated war against Ukraine, it offers fast tracked citizenship to foreigners, who enter a year-long contract with the Russian Army in what the Kremlin calls a "special military operation." To sweeten the deal, Russia is offering simplified Russian Citizenship to the family members of these foreigners as well.
- "This is a concerning situation. The Nepal Government is not able to do anything about it as they have gone in an individual capacity," strategic analyst Major General Binoj Basnyat (retired) from the Nepal Army told the EurAsian Times. He adds: "If Nepalese citizens are part of the military forces of a sovereign nation, it has to be part of the government's foreign policy, or there has to be a Memorandum of Understanding or a treaty with the other country. No such instruments are in place in this case." He maintained that the Nepal Government needs to address it at the earliest.
- Several videos have surfaced on social media sites like Tiktok, Telegram and YouTube for the past few weeks, showing Nepali youths joining the Russian Army. In some videos, the Nepali youth can be seen training and in some videos, they can be seen going to the training location.

REGIONAL SCAN: NEPAL

- One of the youngsters, the Nepal Press has gained access to, is from the Koshi Region in the country. He was studying at the Russian State University. His visa was going to expire. He elucidates that he had two options after finishing his studies - either return to Nepal and be unemployed or get a job in the Russian Army. "We are being taught how to use modern weapons. Training takes place throughout the day and sometimes even at night. Even during the training period, the salary is about fifty thousand Nepalese Rupees, along with insurance. After one year, citizenship is also available. If I don't die in one year, I will live here," the Nepali youth from Koshi says without revealing his identity.
- Another case of a youth from the Karnali Region leaving the Nepalese Army to join the mercenaries in Russia has come to light. His training in his home country's Army also came in handy in securing a place with the Russian Forces. "We are in a place with mountains like Nepal. I am here with about two hundred foreigners and three Nepali friends. We were thinking of joining the French Army. There was a long process, and it was difficult to enter Europe. Russia is easy," the youth from Karnali is quoted as saying.
- The Wagner group has waived the requirement of knowing the Russian language. Now even English suffices. Maj Gen Basnyat gives a peep into the frustration of the Nepali youth. "After completing their studies, large and large numbers of youngsters are coming out for employment, but Nepal has not been able to absorb them. The number of youth looking to leave for other countries in search of jobs and opportunities has shot up," the former Nepal Army officer added.
- According to the International Labour Organisation, Nepal is a young country, with 63.7 percent of the total population below the age of 30. The unemployment rate of youth aged 15-29 is 19.2 percent. Over 400,000 young people are estimated to enter the labor force annually. Also, the majority of employment opportunities are in the informal segments of the country with poor working conditions and wages. Hence, a large number of Nepali youngsters are migrating overseas and in Russia, the lure of citizenship for not only themselves, but also their family members is a deal clincher for these youngsters. The Indian Army's Agnipath Scheme did dent in Nepali youth's prospects.



Source: *The Hindustan Times*

COMMENTS

The unemployment problem in Nepal is huge. The approximate annual intake of Nepalese Gorkha in Indian Army Gorkha Regiments is 1300 to 1500 soldiers, which is a very small component of the Nepalese unemployed work force. In fact, the Indian Army's Agnipath Scheme offers to provide employment to more than three times of the number of youth recruited earlier. This issue however is being formulated between the two governments.



Source: The Economic Times

There had been reports of citizens of Nepal joining the French Legion, but entering Russia is easier than entering Europe. Good physical fitness makes it easier for Nepali youth to enter the ranks and files of PMC. Nepali youth stuck between unemployment and war seem to have chosen to risk dying to live better lives. This is a serious trend and needs to be addressed at priority by the Nepalese Government.

China And Pakistan Sign \$4.8 Billion Nuclear Power Plant Deal

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/06/20/asia/pakistan-china-nuclear-power-plant-deal-intl-hnk/index.html>

Pakistan and China signed a \$4.8 billion deal to build a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant, PM Shehbaz Sharif said, hailing the investment by a country that Pakistan views as its most dependable ally. The Chashma 5 project will be built in the central province of Punjab. China's support will help Pakistan make the transition away from reliance on fossil fuels. Pakistan's total nuclear energy production capacity rose to 1,400 MW, when the country's sixth nuclear power plant opened two years ago. Located in the southern port city of Karachi, that 1,100 mw plant was also constructed with Chinese assistance.



Source: CNN

COMMENTS

Pakistan is currently operating six China-built nuclear plants, four smaller reactors at the Chashma complex, and two at the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant (KANUPP). Pakistan's oldest reactor, the Canada-built KANUPP1, is now decommissioned, while KANUPP2 and KANUPP3 both use a 1,100 MW Chinese Hualong One reactor. KANUPP3, with a \$2.7 billion investment, went fully online in the past year and was hailed by Mr. Sharif as helping ease Pakistan's energy crisis.

An agreement for KANUPP3 was signed in 2013, the year Chinese President Xi Jinping launched his Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and became a flagship energy project as part of the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) of the BRI. China's civilian nuclear projects with Pakistan have come under scrutiny because the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), explicitly prohibits the transfer of nuclear technology by its members to countries that have not signed the nuclear NonProliferation Treaty (NPT). China joined the 48member grouping in 2004, and argued subsequently that the Chashma 3 and Chashma 4 reactors were "grandfathered" under its earlier Chashma deals with Pakistan that predated its joining of the NSG. India and the U.S. had to seek a waiver from the NSG for their civilian nuclear deal, which was granted in 2008, paving the way for India to enter the tent of global nuclear commerce. That was, however, only granted after India undertook a number of commitments such as placing facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) safeguards, separating civilian and military nuclear programs, and a continued moratorium on testing. Neither has China sought any such waiver from the NSG nor has Pakistan undertaken similar commitments. China has suggested that the reactors being under IAEA safeguards would suffice. Meanwhile, long-running negotiations to include India as a fullfledged NSG member have run into a Chinese wall. Beijing started to link India's aspirations for NSG membership with that of Pakistan.

Pakistan, IMF Consider New \$2.5 Billion Standby Aid, Dawn Says

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/pakistan-imf-consider-new-2-5-billion-standby-aid-dawn-says/articleshow/101334546.cms>

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund are discussing a \$2.5-billion "standby arrangement" for six to nine months, with the current bailout programme set to expire on June 30. Pakistan rushed through a recent slew of policy adjustments, including a revised budget sought by the IMF and an off-cycle hike in interest rates, hoping to secure the pending funds under the Extended Fund Facility programme (EFF) signed in 2019.

COMMENTS

For the past few months, the government has been engaged in negotiations with the IMF for a bailout package. Meanwhile, the forex reserves of Pakistan have reduced to \$3.9 billion, less than even one month of import cover. The value of the Pakistan rupee is on a steep decline and the rate of inflation is at a record high. The large financial empire of Pakistan's military on the other hand seems to be unaffected by this grave economic crisis. More than fifty business enterprises ranging from 'production of fertilizers to the construction of housing colonies' are thriving under the aegis of military-run organisations such as the Fauji Foundation, Shaheen Foundation, Bahria Foundation, Army Welfare Trust (AWT), Frontier Works Organisation (FWO) and Defence Housing Authorities (DHAs). Despite a failing economy, Pakistan's military has continued its modernization program driven mainly by Chinese assistance. Some of these key procurement programs include SH-15 155 mm wheeled self-propelled howitzers, J10 fighter aircraft, Type 054A/P class frigates etc. There have been calls for greater transparency in military spending and civil society has started to raise its voice about the ability of an impoverished nation to afford such high levels of defence budget. The military, however, has so far managed to justify its enormous expenditure by citing existential threats from India and internal security challenges faced by Pakistan. Military however remains unfazed by the public scrutiny and has refused to cede any ground. It is clearly evident though that in the absence of any meaningful adjustments in national expenditure, the current financial crisis will worsen further.



Source: TOI

Pakistan Protests US' Joint Statement With India On Cross-Border Terrorism

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/pakistan/pakistan-protests-us-joint-statement-with-india-on-cross-border-terrorism/articleshow/101306086.cms>

Pakistan has formally lodged a protest with the US over its joint statement with India against the country's involvement in cross-border terrorism. US deputy chief of mission was summoned to the ministry of foreign affairs and a demarche was issued to him regarding the US-India joint statement of June 22. "Pakistan's concerns and disappointment at the unwarranted, one-sided and misleading references to it in the joint statement were conveyed to the US side," it said.

COMMENTS

Action against all UN-listed terrorist groups including al-Qaeda, ISIS/Daesh, Lashkar e-Tayiba (LeT), Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen should be taken by Pakistan. LeT is the group behind the 2008 Mumbai attacks which claimed over 160 people while JeM claimed responsibility for the Pulwama 2019 bombing in Kashmir that killed 40 Indian paramilitary troops. In retaliation, India carried out a successful pre-emptive air strike against a militant training camp in Balakot. Against this action, Pakistan targeted military installations by its Air Force, with "deliberate" close misses. Pakistan needs to take tangible action against the terror infrastructure operating from its soil for an upward trajectory in bilateral relations. Controlling the militant groups and normalizing relations with India is in tune with Pakistan's newly announced national security policy as well. Under the new national security policy launched by former Prime Minister Imran Khan on 4 January 2022, Pakistan wants to prioritize economic security and human security by focusing on domestic issues that require external and internal stability. Cross-border terrorism and challenges are faced by both India and the US in the Indo-Pacific region and it is natural for the two countries to mitigate these challenges through cooperation. Pakistan has conveyed its strong reservations to the US for its deepening defence cooperation with India, viewing the development as a direct threat to the country's security interests. Islamabad has stated that such a cooperation between India and the US harms its interests, and will leave Pakistan with no other option but to go for counter measures.

Pak Taliban to Form New Province, Shadow Govt, Threatening Xi Jinping's CPEC, BRI Plans

<https://www.news18.com/world/pak-taliban-to-form-new-province-shadow-govt-threatening-xi-jinpings-cpec-bri-plans-8156977.html>

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), also known as Pakistan Taliban, warned last week that it is proceeding with its plans to build a 'shadow province' in the southwestern province of Balochistan. The report said that TTP is planning to establish its own 'Kalat-Makran' province and will build a parallel government in that region.

The report said that TTP is planning to establish its own 'Kalat-Makran' province and will build a parallel government in that region. This shadow government, if formed, will cover over 40% Balochistan-area, including a 760-km coastline. Pakistan Taliban will become a major problem for China and Pakistan when they restore the multibillion-dollar infrastructure projects under BRI.

COMMENTS

Gwadar Port is one of the most important parts of the BRI as well as the CPEC. Chinese engineers have faced attacks from Baloch separatists and now are likely to fear for their safety as the TTP emerges as a new threat. The rising TTP and its plans to build a shadow province will further hurt China's and Pakistan's plans and is also likely to anger Xi Jinping who has sternly told Pakistan to ensure safety and security of its citizens. This also puts the Pakistan-Iran relations in peril, as the area of the so-called shadow province also covers a 400-km border with Iran and a restive border region means that crucial energy imports from Iran could be affected.

The China factor in Iran-Pakistan relations has been rather subdued although China's bilateral relations with both Iran and Pakistan are very friendly. China is the largest importer of Iranian crude oil in the world. It is also among the few countries that have been granted exemptions from the US sanctions. China will position itself to be the major recipient of Iranian and Turkmen oil to complete the energy corridors that are a part of the bigger One Belt, One Road (OBOR) dream.

The Pakistan army has been accused of committing human rights abuses on Baloch minorities. Pakistan's government unfairly exploits Balochistan's rich gas and mineral resources. Terror attacks have been growing in numbers ever since the involvement of China through its BRI. Pakistan's Government is bolstered by its patronage of radical outfits. From a financial standpoint, terrorism hampers the growth of business and investment. The political crisis has already severely affected economic decision-making.



Source: News18

World Bank Approves \$700 Mln For Crisis-Hit Sri Lanka

https://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking_news/World-Bank-approves-700-mln-for-crisis-hit-Sri-Lanka/108-262041

The World Bank approved \$700 million in budgetary and welfare support for Sri Lanka, the biggest funding tranche for the crisis-hit island nation since an IMF deal in March. About \$500 million of the funds will be allocated for budgetary support while the remaining \$200 million will be for welfare support earmarked for those worst hit by the crisis. The IMF approved a bailout of nearly \$3 billion in March, which Sri Lanka expects will bring additional funding of up to \$4 billion from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other multilateral agencies.

'Won't Allow Our Base To Be Used For Threats Against India': Sri Lanka's Clear Message To China

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/wont-allow-our-base-for-threats-against-india-sri-lankas-clear-message-to-china/videoshow/101341835.cms>

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has spoken about the presence of Chinese Military in the country. President Wickremesinghe has said that govt will not allow Sri Lanka to be used as a base for threats against India. "We are a neutral country, but we also emphasise on the fact that we cannot allow Sri Lanka to be used as a base for any threat against India," President Wickremesinghe said. The President went on to say that the Chinese have been there for about 1,500 years and so far there has been no military base.

COMMENTS

Sri Lanka is facing a severe foreign exchange crisis. India has always stood with Sri Lanka, and will continue to support that country in all possible ways for overcoming the economic crisis. India has also provided assistance on several other fronts. India has provided a line of credit worth 1 billion US dollars, for purchasing essential food items, pharmaceutical products and so on. India has also helped Sri Lanka with a currency swap of 400 million dollars, deferral of \$ 515 million under the Asian Clearance Union, and 40,000 MT of fuel on credit. India's Exim Bank has provided credit for purchasing oil. A major infusion of capital from India's private sector has also happened. When COVID-19 hit Sri Lanka, India was the first to come to their rescue with 500,000 doses of vaccine. There have been 11 Indian lines of credit in the railway sector over the last 15 years. India has sent ambulances, which have made a great difference to facilities in the rural sector. A signature project of the Indian government has been a sanitation project in schools. India has provided "Jan Shakti" housing projects through which 45000 houses were handed over to people recently. India is the second-largest trading partner of Sri Lanka. More than one third of the total number of tourists who visit Sri Lanka, are from India. This feeling is very strong among the people of Sri Lanka, that India is a friend whom we can rely upon in all situations. Hence, the assurance from Sri Lanka to not allow any part of its territory being used, in any way, to jeopardize the security and well-being of India, is reassuring.

Netanyahu Rules Out Giving Ukraine Iron Dome Anti-Missile System

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/netanyahu-rules-out-giving-ukraine-iron-dome-anti-missile-system/>

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ruled out supplying Ukraine with the Iron Dome missile defense system, reiterating Israel's concern that the vital technology could fall into the hands of Iran. Netanyahu was asked during an interview with The Wall Street Journal published on 28th June about Israel's support for Ukraine, and how it is balanced with Jerusalem's need to maintain its ties with Moscow amid the ongoing Russian invasion of its neighbour.

COMMENTS

Netanyahu's remarks came after Jerusalem has been accused by the West of seeking closer cooperation with China and Russia in an increasingly divided geopolitical setting. This apprehension appears to be primarily driven by Israel's strategic imperative to retain military operations in Syria targeting Iranian facilities, where Russian forces dominate the air space. PM Netanyahu emphasized that over eight years, he developed an approach to avert a conflict between Israel and Russia, which could flare up if both nations' fighter jets engaged with each other under the Syrian skies.

Reports allude that Israel has prevented the US from sending two Iron Dome batteries to Ukrainians. While the Iron Dome (air defence system built by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems in collaboration with Raytheon) is regarded as one of the best in anti-short-range rocket systems, Israel has a veto over the transfer of Iron Dome technology by the USA to other countries.

Besides Ukraine's vast territory and the advanced capabilities of Russian missiles, the Iron Dome defence systems appeared to be inadequate to defend Ukraine from strikes due to logistical and technological limitations like a highly intricate network of multiple radars and intercepting devices. Installing the Iron Dome is a laborious and tedious procedure. In a hypothetical situation, even if the Israelis agreed to the tech transfer, the timeline for the total operationalization would be prolonged.

Despite opposing Russia's military intervention in Ukraine, Jerusalem has not pressed for international sanctions against Moscow and has avoided sending tactical weapons to Kiev but focused on humanitarian assistance like building up civilian early warning systems. Netanyahu's words in the interview suggest that, amid the growing schism between Russia and the West, Israel aims to stick to the path it has been pursuing with Moscow since 2015, separating Israel's struggle with Iran from a great power conflict. More precisely, Israel wishes to uphold its alliance with the US without provoking Russia.

At Least Nine Killed In Russian Air Strikes In Syria's Idlib

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/6/25/at-least-nine-killed-in-russian-air-strikes-in-syrias-idlib>

At least nine civilians were killed and more than 34 wounded after Russian warplanes carried out numerous air strikes on Idlib in northwestern Syria, including a market crowded with shoppers, according to a group of emergency rescue volunteers. The attack on Sunday targeted a vegetable market in the city of Jisr al-Shughour city, in the eastern Idlib countryside, said the Syrian Civil Defence, also known as the White Helmets.



Source: Al Jazeera

COMMENTS

The strike took place even as Moscow was experiencing domestic upheaval, with mercenary soldiers led by Prigozhin, leaving the frontlines to take upon Moscow. The Russian strikes are likely to be QPQ for the Iranian support in Ukraine. This attack also conveys an indication to Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham and other Syrian extremist factions not to attempt to capitalize on Russia's internal crisis or extended military commitments in Ukraine and Syria.

It is assessed that to address the Syrian crisis, Turkey, Russia and Iran have been collaborating jointly to establish durable peace and civil accord in the country. Given that Turkey has been reportedly supporting Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and the Turkistan Islamic Party (TIP), reports allude that there is an ongoing negotiation with Turkey. Before any normalization can take place, Syria demands that Turkey ceases its assistance for its proxy groups and also pulls out its own troops from northern Syria.

The US military has rapidly deployed F-22s to the region [1] lately in response to Moscow's escalating provocative operations in Syria. Russia maintains air force forces at the Khmeimim, Latakia, and the naval base at Tartus. Hence, a large number of fighter jets stationed near Idlib, gives Russia a tactical edge over other regional powers present in Syria.

[1][https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2023/06/15/u-s-deploys-f-22s-to-syria-to-deter-unprofessional-behavior-by-russia/#:~:text=U.S.%20Central%20Command%20\(CENTCOM\)%20announced,Russian%20aircraft%20in%20the%20region.](https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2023/06/15/u-s-deploys-f-22s-to-syria-to-deter-unprofessional-behavior-by-russia/#:~:text=U.S.%20Central%20Command%20(CENTCOM)%20announced,Russian%20aircraft%20in%20the%20region.)

China Blocks India's Bid To Tag 26/11 Plotter As Terrorist

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/china-blocks-us-india-move-to-designate-let-operative-sajid-mir-as-global-terrorist-at-un-security-council-101687287581241.html>

The US and India sought the listing of Sajjad Mir under 1267 al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee so that he would be subjected to an assets freeze, travel ban, arms embargo. China on Tuesday blocked a move at the UN Security Council by India and the US to designate Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative Sajid Mir, wanted in connection with the 2008 Mumbai attacks, as a global terrorist, people familiar with the matter said.

COMMENTS

The United Nations commemorated Counter Terrorism Week from 19-23 June 2023 during which US and India attempted to list Sajid Mir as designated terrorist under the 1267 Al-Qaeda Sanctions Committee. Sajid Mir is a proscribed terrorist in India in connection to the 26/11 blasts, who orchestrated the attacks and directed the terrorists on the phone to kill the innocents. Mir was also charged by a US court for "providing material support to terrorists, killing an American citizen outside the US, and aiding and abetting the 26/11 Mumbai attacks." Interestingly, Pakistan shrugged off its responsibility and declared him dead in Dec 2021, only to find him alive in April 2022 and then put him behind bars, that too under the pressure of FATF.

India reacted sharply, with Mr. Prakash Gupta, JS, UN Political Division at the Ministry of External Affairs, addressing the High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism said, "The mastermind of the Mumbai terror attacks Sajid Mir was listed as a proscribed terrorist under the national laws of India, of the United States, and of several other countries, but when the proposal for listing Sajid Mir did not get through the Global Listings of the UN Security Council Sanctions Regime despite several member states co-sponsoring it, we have righteous reasons to believe that something is genuinely wrong with the global counter-terrorism architecture." He further said, "In this day and age of accountability and transparency, can evidence-based listing proposals be blocked without giving any reason?"

China has a history of blocking India's efforts to list Pakistan-based terrorists in support of its iron-brother Pakistan. China in the past has blocked attempts to list Shahid Mahmood and Talha Saeed of LeT as well as Abdul Rauf Asgar of JeM.

India must take up this issue with the Chinese bilaterally as these terrorists not only impinge on India's national security but also challenge India's territorial integrity and sovereignty. India must very clearly convey to the Chinese that this is a very important issue for India and China must respect India's sensitivities.

Japan To Set Out Guidelines For Future Defense Technology Equipment

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230617/p2g/00m/0na/045000c>

- Japan's Defense Ministry plans to set out guidelines for defense technologies that the country will prioritize for development, citing a dozen areas including innovations in miniaturized robotic technology, a source familiar with the matter said Saturday.
- The guidelines are intended to encourage increased cooperation between government agencies, companies and research institutions to develop key defense technologies over the next decade, in an effort to counter Chinese and Russian state-of-the-art weaponry.
- The envisioned defense technology guidelines will vow to "think outside the box, push the boundaries and pursue new capabilities," the source said.
- The 12 areas the agency will focus on will include technologies such as insect-sized robots, electromagnetic barriers, and capabilities for utilizing large datasets to make better strategic predictions.
- The guidelines will also recommend the development of technology that utilizes unconventional methods of energy production and special materials capable of regenerating after being damaged.
- Additionally, the guidelines will call for increased collaboration not only with the country's defense industries but also with startups and universities, according to the source.

COMMENTS

The growing threats from its neighbouring states such as China, North Korea and Russia, Japan's plans on increasing and developing new and innovative technologies for defense purposes for the JSDF is reflected in its development of a set of guidelines to develop defense technologies. Some of these technologies are still work in progress such as the insect sized robots[1] and miniaturized robots[2]. Technologies such as robotic animals are currently in use to study the environment[3]. These guidelines will "push the boundaries and pursue new capabilities[4]. It will also promote thinking outside the box" [5]. In recent times, mature technologies are being refined and being made more usable during competition, crises or conflict.

[1] The Massachusetts Institute of Technology has developed such robots. Taken from- Resilient bug-sized robots keep flying even after wing damage by Adam Zewe for MIT News, published on 15 March 2023: <https://news.mit.edu/2023/resilient-bug-sized-robots-wing-damage-0315>. The have also posted videos regarding the same- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_YD01uuGtE and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50_kK9phHy8.

[2] The best example is the development of the smallest -ever remote-controlled walking robot has been created by Northwestern University engineers in the shape of small pecktoe crabs. Taken from- Smaller Than a Flea - The Smallest Remote-Controlled Walking Robot Ever by the Northwestern University for scitechdaily.com, published on 10 July 2022: https://scitechdaily.com/smaller-than-a-flea-the-smallest-remote-controlled-walking-robot-ever/?expand_article=1.

[3] These technologies are best used to study flora and fauna species that remain in isolation or in case of animals such as Hippopotamus that are aggressive. The BBC Documentary Series "Spy in the Wild" showcases the use of such technologies to study environment.

[4] Taken from-<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230617/p2g/00m/0na/045000c> and <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/06/17/national/defense-tech-guidelines/>.

[5] Taken from-<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230617/p2g/00m/0na/045000c> and <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/06/17/national/defense-tech-guidelines/>.

Apart from the development of defense technologies, the focus on the development of methods of unconventional sources for energy production [6] is a new area considering the growing focus on climate change. Japan's Defense Ministry has been encouraging commercial firms, such as Toshiba Corporation and Mitsubishi Electrical Corporation that have been for decades arming the Self Defence Forces (SDF), to ramp up production [7]. These efforts have been a part of Prime Minister Kishida Fumio's plan for military buildup plan that identifies defence manufacturing as a key pillar of national security [8]. Therefore, these new guidelines for the development of future defense technology should be seen in this light.

Japan MSDF, Coast Guard Hold 1st Field Drill Assuming Defense Chief Control

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20230623/p2g/00m/0na/016000c>

- The Maritime Self-Defense Force and the Japan Coast Guard held their first joint field drill Thursday under a scenario where Japan's defense minister takes control of the coast guard if the country comes under armed attack, the government said.
- The drill came after the government adopted its policy outline in April specifying procedures for the coast guard, under the command of the defense chief, to better facilitate cooperation with the MSDF amid China's growing military activities in nearby waters in the East China Sea.
- Under the Self-Defense Forces Law, the defense minister can take control of the non-military coast guard in case of a contingency, but there had been no regulations on the specific procedures for such a move.
- When they are placed under the emergency direction of the defense chief, the coast guard will provide logistics support, such as providing information to civilian vessels and helping evacuate residents so the MSDF can focus on defense in combat areas.
- Involving about 300 personnel, the MSDF destroyer Yamagiri and the coast guard patrol ship Sagami joined the exercise held for around two hours east of Izu Oshima Island in the Pacific, about 100 kilometers south of Tokyo, according to the Defense Ministry and the coast guard.
- The MSDF and the JCG held their first tabletop exercise last month.
- Chinese ships have repeatedly entered Japan's territorial waters or sailed through adjacent areas in recent years, particularly in the vicinity of the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea.
- China claims the Japan-controlled, uninhabited islets and calls them Diaoyu.

[6] These include sources such as bio-fuel, electro-fuel and engineered fuels. Bio-fuels can be considered as a form of bio-mass in liquid form. Electro-fuels are a form of unconventional renewable liquids that use microorganisms to create chemical or electrical energy necessary to convert Carbon Dioxide into liquid fuels. Columbia University for instance, as of 2012 are finding natural ways to create a fuel similar to gasoline. Apart from the development of biodiesel, metabolically engineered fuels are also being created from the chemical compound bisabolane. Office of Science's Joint BioEnergy Institute/JBEI researchers use an evergreen tree, yeast, microbes and E. coli bacteria to produce the compound. Taken from- <https://smallbusiness.chron.com/conventional-unconventional-sources-energy-39934.html>.

[7] Taken from- Japan battles to persuade its big brands to join military buildout by Tim Kelly and Koari Kaneko, published on 16 March 2023: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-battles-persuade-its-big-brands-join-military-buildout-2023-03-15/>.

[8] Taken from- Japan battles to persuade its big brands to join military buildout by Tim Kelly and Koari Kaneko, published on 16 March 2023: <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/japan-battles-persuade-its-big-brands-join-military-buildout-2023-03-15/>.

COMMENTS

The recent joint field drill that has been conducted between the MSDF/Maritime Self Defense Force and the JCG/Japan Coast Guard on the 22nd of June 2023 is of utmost importance. This drill has been conducted based on a manual on procedures for the defense minister to take control of the JCG in the event of an emergency[8]. This manual was released earlier this year and aimed to provide procedures for the defense minister to take command of the Japan Coast Guard if the country is attacked by a foreign country[9]. In such cases, according to the manual the defense minister will be able to give orders to the JCG commandant[10].

The manual has also set out the roles that the Self-Defense Forces and the JCG should play. Specifically, the SDF will be in charge of defense in combat areas and the JCG will provide rear-area support, including the transportation of evacuees[11]. The Article 80 of the SDF law, allows the defense minister to take control of the JCG in the event of an emergency. However, there had been no guidelines setting detailed procedures for such a move[12]. The manual laid out five missions that the JCG should undertake if Japan comes under armed attack. These include evacuating and rescuing citizens, providing information to ships and helping them escape, searching for and rescuing missing people, conducting anti-terror surveillance at ports and responding to large numbers of evacuees[13]. This is the first ever drill conducted on the basis of this manual. The need for both this manual and drill has come up due China's repeated illegal entry in Japanese waters. This is particularly true for the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea. China claims these islands as its own and has named them Diaoyu.

It is believed that the main objective behind the drill was to confirm procedures linked to information sharing and command in the event of an armed attack situation[14]. Prior to this drill on the 26th of June 2019, the MSDF and the JCG held a joint drill in South China Sea which was an attempt to rein the Chinese aggression in the region [15]. Thus, we can state that these attempts by the Japanese state to reinvent its armed forces is due to the growing threat by China in the East Asian region.



Source: The Japan Times

[8] Taken from-<https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2023062200982/>.

[9] Taken from-<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/04/29/national/japan-coast-guard-sdf-contingency-manual/>.

[10] Taken from- <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/04/29/national/japan-coast-guard-sdf-contingency-manual/>

[11] Taken from- <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/04/29/national/japan-coast-guard-sdf-contingency-manual/>.

[12] Taken from- <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/04/29/national/japan-coast-guard-sdf-contingency-manual/>.

[13] Taken from-<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2023/04/29/national/japan-coast-guard-sdf-contingency-manual/>.

[14] Taken from- <https://www.nippon.com/en/news/yjj2023062200982/>.

[15] Taken from- <https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13063174>.

SDF Beefing Up Activities In Space To Protect Japan's Satellites

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14937301>

- The Air Self-Defense Force is expanding its operations in space to protect Japan's satellites-- increasingly important tools for the country's security strategy--from "junk," "killers" and "stalkers."
- "We would like to enhance our efforts in the new field of space," Gen. Hiroaki Uchikura, ASDF chief of staff, said at a news conference following his appointment in March.
- In April, Uchikura expressed his intention to strengthen ASDF cooperation with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).
- According to JAXA, more than 12,000 satellites, including those owned by private companies, were registered around the world as of December 2021.
- In recent years, the number has been increasing by more than 1,000 annually, JAXA said.
- The industry ministry said the global number of satellite launches in 2021 was 14 times the figure for 2011.
- North Korea has been developing satellites, apparently to increase the precision of its missiles.
- In a 2007 test, China used a ground-launched missile to destroy one of its own satellites, resulting in a large amount of debris being scattered in space.
- Even space debris as small as a few millimeters wide can travel the distance between Tokyo and Osaka in one minute. A collision with a satellite would be catastrophic.
- China and Russia are apparently developing space weapons, including "killer satellites" with robotic arms that can capture other countries' satellites, as well as "stalker satellites" that can chase objects in space.
- Some of these weapons are believed capable of disrupting communications between satellites and ground stations using radio wave jamming devices.
- The squadrons will alter the Japanese satellites' orbit to avoid danger from space debris or if suspicious movements by foreign countries' satellites, such as killer satellites, are detected, the SDF said.
- "Evasion is the only and most effective way in space," a senior SDF official said.

SPACE BATTLE CONCERNS

- Yasuhito Fukushima, a senior research fellow at the National Institution for Defense Studies who specializes in space policy, said the United States has used satellite communications to operate unmanned aircraft since the late 1990s. The U.S. military has also utilized the Global Positioning System to guide bombs and other munitions.
- Other nations, such as France, Russia and China, have introduced similar systems and followed suit.
- "The number of countries with the capability to attack satellites has been increasing, raising concerns about space becoming a battlefield," Fukushima said.

JAPAN

- Under revised national security guidelines, the SDF possesses the capability to strike enemy bases that are preparing to attack Japan.
- Kazuhito Suzuki, a member of the Cabinet Office's Committee on National Space Policy and a professor at the University of Tokyo's Graduate School of Public Policy, denies the need for Japan to possess such strike capabilities in space.
- "Attacking a space system would not lead to an effective counterattack and would not deter the opponent from launching an attack," Suzuki said.
- Japan established the Basic Space Law in 2008, which expanded the scope of space development and utilization beyond nonmilitary purposes, paving the way for the SDF to engage in defense-related activities beyond Earth.
- But some people have expressed concerns about the expansion of such SDF activities.
- Yasunori Matogawa, a professor emeritus of space engineering at JAXA, said, "As military utilization expands (in space), Japan's involvement in efforts to prevent an escalation into war is being questioned.
- "Political efforts are important to actively explain Japan's stance opposing war and take a leading role in discussions," he said.

COMMENTS



Source: Asahi

In these times of growing tensions and threats across state lines as well as from other domains such as space and cyberspace, the attempt by the ASDF to expand its operations in space to protect Japan's satellites is an important move. General Hiroaki Uchikura, ASDF Chief of Staff had first expressed his intention to strengthen ASDF cooperation with the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency/JAXA in April this year.

However, this cooperation between the two agencies began much earlier. As reported in 2020, the then Defense Minister (now occupying the portfolio of the Minister of Digital Affairs) Kōno Tarō, announced that the launch of Japan's first space operations unit within the Air Self-Defense Force/ASDF to monitor threats to Japanese satellites in outer space[16]. The Ministry of Defense aims to establish a space monitoring system in collaboration with JAXA and the U.S. forces[17]. The protection of satellites is crucial as artificial satellites play a vital role not only in acquiring location information but also in enabling internet communications as well as in supporting fighter jets and guiding missiles. Hence, satellites are crucial for bolstering deterrence and their destruction directly diminishes the country's warfare capabilities[18].

[16] Taken from- <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/05/09/national/japan-asdf-space-unit-satellites/>.

[2] Ibid

[18] Taken from-<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14937301>.

As a part of their efforts to address the security situation in space, the Defense Ministry established the Space Operations Squadron at the Fuchu Air Base in Tokyo as the SDF's first unit specialized in space in 2020. Similarly, in 2022, the ministry set up the Space Operations Group as a higher organization to command the squadron. In March this year, the first Space Operations Squadron started its mission. The second squadron was established at the Hofu Kita Air Base in Yamaguchi Prefecture, and the total number of personnel in the SDF space program has increased to around 200[19].

The development of space weapons by China and Russia called “killer satellites” has made it imperative for Japan to increase its presence in this newly emerging sphere of security. As pointed by scholar Yasuhito Fukushima “the number of countries with the capability to attack satellites has been increasing, raising concerns about space becoming a battlefield”[20].

These attempts by the MOD/Ministry of Defense, can be seen as a means to bolster Japan’s defense capabilities in outer space, an area in which major powers such as the United States, Russia and China have been focusing on in recent years[21].



Source: Eurasian Times

[19] Taken from-<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14937301>.

[20] Taken from-<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14937301>.

[21] Taken from- <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2020/05/09/national/japan-asdf-space-unit-satellites/>.

Germany Introduces Its First National Security Strategy

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/06/14/world/europe/germany-security-strategy-scholz.html>

Germany unveiled its first comprehensive national security strategy on 14 June 2023, an effort to address Germany's priorities and ambitions in a Europe transformed by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The strategy was announced as part of the new government's coalition agreement when Chancellor Olaf Scholz took office in December 2021. But the war in Ukraine has since heightened Germany's sense that it had become vulnerable to new military, economic and geopolitical threats, including climate change.

In general, the strategy focuses on three pillars of German security. First, an active, "robust" defence, including a new strategic culture, commitments to high military spending, including reaching the NATO goal of 2 percent of gross domestic product from next year, and a concentration on deterrence, not disarmament. Second is resilience — the ability of Germany and its allies to protect their values, to reduce economic dependencies on rivals, to deter and defeat cyberattacks and to defend the United Nations Charter and the rule of law. Third is sustainability, a pillar that includes issues like climate change and the energy and food crises. The strategy has been long delayed because of coalition infighting — including an agreement to drop the idea of a German national security council altogether. China has been such a contentious issue that it will be dealt with in a separate paper scheduled to be published next month.

COMMENTS

The talks for a national security strategy have been going on since Chancellor Scholz formed the coalition government in December 2021. The NSS was delayed because of disagreements within the government, primarily on forming a National Security Council. In February 2023, the plan to establish a National Security Council was dropped due to the contention on which ministry should it be under. The Greens wanted it to switch between ministries, while the Social Democrats wanted it under the chancellery. The lack of NSC will make it challenging to implement the NSS. As the conflict in Ukraine intensified, pressure on Germany to release the NSS increased since it was seen that its response was far more restrained than that of other European allies. Chancellor Scholz pledged to take unprecedented measures to support Ukraine last year, but the conflict also highlighted Germany's vulnerability due to its reliance on Russian energy. Due to criticism for its late and subpar supply of weapons to Ukraine, it also brought to light imperfections in the German military. The NSS has identified Russia to be the most significant threat to peace and security in its security environment. The document states that the international order is increasingly multipolar and is experiencing emerging systemic rivalry. China is perceived to be a partner, competitor and systemic rival. China is viewed as a partner without whom global challenges and crises cannot be solved. Therefore, Germany aims to cooperate and find options and opportunities in addressing these challenges with China.

On the other hand, the NSS has emphasised close friendship and partnership with France and the United States of America. However, the document has not mentioned other relevant and significant countries like the United Kingdom and Poland. Regarding multilateral organisations and partnerships outside the region, the document states that Germany is committed to strengthening multilateral structures and countering the emergence of new blocs. The strategy has significantly focused on the European Union and NATO for security guarantees. The G7 and G20 are also mentioned multiple times, as platforms to intensify trust-based cooperation with global partners. The release of the NSS is a historical landmark, as it signifies security to be at the forefront of Germany's policy and promotes a strong strategic culture in the nation.



Source: Twitter

GERMANY'S NSS DECODED FOR INDIA

Climate Change and Social Development: The NSS of Germany has mentioned 'Climate' 71 times, signifying the seriousness of the issue. This aligns with Germany's commitment of EUR 10 billion to India to achieve climate action targets by 2030. Both India and Germany are committed to the success of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

UNSC and WTO reforms: India and Germany are part of the G4 nations, which aim to reform the UNSC's permanent membership structure for adequate representation. Though there is no mention of G4 in the document, the strategy reaffirms its commitment to reform the UNSC. The strategy has also mentioned the push for reforming the WTO framework to ensure a level playing field. Last year, India and Germany called for the reform of the WTO to "strengthen its principles and functions, especially preserving the two-tier appellate body, along with the autonomy of the appellate body." Diversification of supply chain and energy resources: The document has substantially highlighted the need to protect and diversify its supply chain and energy resources for national security. The insecurity emerged from the implications of the covid-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine. India is critical for protecting the supply chains. Germany is experiencing a labour shortage crisis; the Migration and Mobility agreement signed between India and Germany last year will aid in its strategy. At present, India exports Nuclear reactors, machineries, electronics, organic chemicals and other articles of iron and steel. With Germany's contracting economy, India's exports to the country may be hindered. This signifies the call to hasten India-EU free trade agreement process.

Indo-pacific region: The Indo-pacific is mentioned only once in the document and is not stressed upon. In 2020, Germany had already published its Indo-Pacific strategy, which may compensate for the need for more emphasis on the Indo-Pacific in the NSS. During the German federal minister of defence, Boris Pistorius' visit to India earlier this month, he mentioned that the situation in the Indo-Pacific is at a turning point and new strategic partners are needed. India is also in talks to secure a deal to buy six non-nuclear submarines for the Indian navy. This signifies India as a potential partner for the region.

WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO?

The German government is developing a space security policy that will outline future lines of action for space protection and defence and strategies for enhancing national resilience and military capabilities. With a growing space industry and increasing private players, India can seek opportunities in the German space programme.

Germany is also in the process of drafting its China strategy to be published by next month. China is Germany's largest economic trading partner, and its reliance on Beijing has raised concerns. Germany considers China as a partner as well as a threat and a challenger of the existing international system. The upcoming China strategy will be significant to India to understand how it may impact Indo-German relations and engagement in the region.



Source: The Diplomat

India's PM Modi Conferred With Egypt's Highest Civilian Honour 'Order Of Nile'

<https://www.wionews.com/india-news/watch-indias-modi-powers-delhi-cairo-ties-meets-al-sisi-visits-historic-mosque-608482>

PM Modi was on a state visit to Egypt from June 24-25. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the 'Order of Nile', Egypt's highest civilian honour on Sunday. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi conferred the Indian leader with the rare gesture in a mark of reflection of growing India-Egypt ties.

COMMENTS

Relations between Egypt and India have been cordial in the past, and high-level visits can further strengthen these relations. During PM Modi's visit to Egypt, he held talks with Egyptian President Abdul Fattah El-Sisi on various issues of common interest, such as trade and defence cooperation. With the increasing ties between India and Egypt, PM Modi's visit to Cairo came amid a foreign currency shortage in Egypt. There is speculation over India starting barter trade with Egypt on oil, fertilizers and gas, ditching trade in US dollars.

During the visit, PM Modi visited the 11th-century Al-Hakim Mosque, Heliopolis War Grave Cemetery, and the Giza Pyramid. Abdul Fattah al-Sisi visited India early this year as the chief guest on India's Republic Day. According to Arindam Bagchi, MEA spokesperson, the two governments signed agreements related to agriculture, archaeology, antiquities and competition law. Egypt is looking forward to becoming a BRICS member. During his visit, PM Modi invited the Egyptian President to attend the G-20 Summit scheduled in September 2023 hosted by India.

This 2-day visit by Modi elevated Egyptian-Indo ties with the establishment of strategic partnership. It will serve various interests of both parties, India can reap benefits from the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZONE), and India is looking forward to exporting the AKASH air defence system and TEJAS indigenously produced by HAL. In 2022, MoU was signed between the two parties to further defence cooperation. In the past, both navies conducted various exercises, and an air exercise called "Desert Warrior" was conducted in Egypt.



Source: *The Statesman*

Joint exercises by the armies of both nations have yielded fruitful results and have been successful in increasing trust among both countries. Egypt's geostrategic locations connect Africa, Europe and the Arab world providing India with the opportunity of entering these rich markets. Modi focused on three key areas during his visit to Cairo: economic, defence and security.

Ambitious Plans For US-India Technology Sharing Face Hurdles

<https://www.reuters.com/world/ambitious-plans-us-india-technology-sharing-face-hurdles-2023-06-23/>

The United States unveiled agreements this week to sell weapons to India and share with it sensitive military technology, a clear sign of the Biden administration's desire to deepen ties with New Delhi to counter China's ambitions in Asia. But those plans, announced on Thursday during a state visit by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and future defence cooperation face significant challenges from the U.S. government's own weapons export rules.

COMMENTS

The Biden administration envisions a new era of India-US Relations through comprehensive agreements covering semiconductors, critical minerals, technology, space, defence cooperation, and sales. Furthermore, an unprecedented agreement has been reached, hailed by officials as groundbreaking, to enable General Electric Company to manufacture jet engines in India specifically for Indian military aircraft. Additionally, plans are underway for India to acquire cutting-edge General Atomics armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian drones manufactured in the United States. To anticipate future challenges, we must carefully consider the stringent U.S. regulations that govern the export of defence technology, such as the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). Overcoming these obstacles will require strategic thinking and innovative solutions. The AUKUS agreement, which aims to provide nuclear-powered submarines to Australia, is an example of how these regulations can pose obstacles even for well-established U.S. allies.

THE STRATEGIC OUTCOMES OF TECHNOLOGY SHARING EFFORT ARE TWOFOLD

Firstly, "it will enhance India's deterrence capabilities against Chinese aggression. Through improved intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance assets, India will be better equipped to identify and track Chinese military manoeuvres along the disputed border. Additionally, better land mobility systems and longer-range munitions will enable India to respond more effectively to potential conflicts.

Secondly, increased technology cooperation will foster mutual trust between the United States and India. This trust will be crucial in enhancing collaboration in the Indo-Pacific region, allowing for more advanced joint assessments, contingency planning, and exercises. It will also enable both countries to share the burdens of deterring aggression and securing the Indo-Pacific commons."^[1]

[1] Source: Joint Statement from the United States and India, June 22, 2023.

URL:[https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/06/22/joint-statement-from-the-united-states-and-india/Biden, Joseph R., and Narendra Modi.](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/06/22/joint-statement-from-the-united-states-and-india/Biden,JosephR.,andNarendraModi.) "Joint Statement from the United States and India." The White House, 22 June 2023.

PM Modi's US Visit Sends 'Strong' Message To China In A Subtle Way

<https://www.livemint.com/news/world/pm-modis-us-visit-sends-strong-message-to-china-in-a-subtle-way-11687661222661.html>

Although 'China' was not categorically mentioned during the whole state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the United States, there was a 'strong' signal sent to Beijing, in a quiet and subtle way.



Source: ANI News

COMMENTS

While the India-US alliance transcends the issue of China, there is a prevailing concern. The Line of Actual Control, a contentious border between China and India, continues to be a source of significant apprehension.

Military Infrastructure: China's investments grant it advantage, displacing India from former patrolling points and creating potential for large-scale incursions.

Naval Expansion: China's rapid naval growth poses further worries, not limited to the East China Sea, South China Sea, and Taiwan, but also enabling operations in the Indian Ocean.

Navigating Beyond Geographical Boundaries: While dialogues surrounding China's territorial assertions serve as a significant catalyst for discourse, it is important to recognize that the dynamic India-US relationship is propelled by a diverse array of factors, which include but are not limited to:-

- **Economic Engagement:** Strong economic ties between India and the United States contribute significantly to their relationship.
- **People-to-People Interactions:** Regular exchange and interactions between citizens of both nations foster closer ties.
- **Technological Collaboration:** Joint ventures in the field of technology fuel innovation will strengthen bonds.
- **Indian Diaspora:** The presence of a substantial Indian diaspora in the United States acts as a cultural and economic bridge between the two countries.
- **Cooperative Ventures:** The United States seeks collaborative efforts with India to enhance monitoring and response mechanisms against Chinese maritime activities.
- **Value Congruence:** Shared values and principles between India and the US form a strong foundation for their relationship.

13 Children Die In Suspected Measles Outbreak At Internal Displacement Camps In Violence-Torn Sudan

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/news/world/sudan-suspected-measles-outbreak-internal-displacement-camps-children-died-violence-sudanese-military-conflict-medical-ngo-clinics-latest-updates-2023-07-02-879028>

According to MSF Sudan, 223 children have been treated for suspected measles between June 6 to 27, and 72 children were admitted to the two clinics it supports, including the 13 deceased. As conflict rages on in Sudan following continued fighting between the Sudanese military and its rival paramilitary squad, at least 13 children have died in a suspected measles outbreak at the internal displacement camps located in the White Nile state, according to the international medical NGO Médecins Sans Frontière (MSF).

COMMENTS

Crisis of Sudan started in April 2019 , when a conflict started to overthrow the long serving president Omar al-Bashir by the military generals and due to this widespread protests commenced. Later on, an agreement was signed between the military and the protestors due to which a new power sharing body called the Sovereignty Council was established to conduct elections of Sudan at the end of 2023. The Military overthrew the transitional government which was led by Abdalla Hamdok in 2021. Consequently, Burhan became the de-facto leader and Dalgo his commander.

A conflict occurred between the Sudanese forces(SAF) led by General Burhan and the paramilitary generals (RSF), interrupting the plan to transition to elections. Both sides are accusing each other of obstructing the transition, resulting in widespread violence and instability.

Due to the ongoing conflict, it has been reported that at least 13 children have died in suspected measles outbreaks in the displacement camps located near the White Nile state. Suspected measles and poor nutrition are the key problems that children in the camps are facing and the situation is getting critical. Thousands of people have been displaced due to the ongoing conflict. Almost 3000 people have been killed in the conflict and 2.5 million people have been displaced placing great stress on services like healthcare, food, shelter, water and sanitation.

A temporary truce was signed between both the forces but a total of nine ceasefires have failed since the start of the conflict.

In the initial period of the conflict, India launched Operation Kaveri on 15th of April 2023, to evacuate its citizens from Sudan. Around 3000 Indians were stuck in Khartoum and in distant provinces like Darfur. But on 5th of May, India completed its Operation Kaveri by rescuing 3,862 people from Sudan.