



AKSHA DRISHTI

A quarterly chronicle, delivering strategic insights and in-depth analysis of national security and defence trends.

FORGING
SILENT STRENGTH
EMPOWERING **BHARAT'S**
NUCLEAR SHIELD WITH
STEALTH BENEATH THE
WAVES





“ PEACE IS THE FOUNDATION OF SECURITY, AND
STRENGTH RISES FROM THE DEPTH OF
SILENCE ” ~SRI AURBINDO

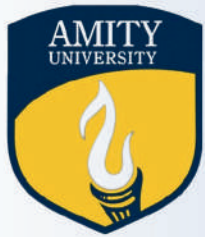
Welcome to the inaugural edition of RakshaDrishti, the defence and strategic affairs newsletter. With this first issue, we embark on a journey to bring you the most insightful analysis of global events. Every quarter, we will present in-depth perspectives on the evolving dynamics of security, diplomacy, and military innovations, offering a comprehensive understanding of the complex global landscape.

RakshaDrishti stands at the intersection of in-depth analysis and cutting-edge discourse, offering nuanced perspectives on global security, military innovations, and geopolitical manoeuvring. Curated by a team of aspiring defence analysts, our publication bridges academic rigour with practical insights, providing readers with a comprehensive understanding of both contemporary and emergent challenges facing the world.

Each issue of RakshaDrishti presents a diverse range of topics from the strategic calculus behind international alliances to the implications of breakthrough defence technologies designed to stimulate intellectual engagement and foster informed debate. We invite you to explore our pages, challenge prevailing notions, and join us on this journey to dissect and discuss the evolving landscape of global security.

RakshaDrishti is not just a newsletter; it is a forum where ideas converge, where the voices of future defence strategists find their resonance, and where the complexities of warfare, diplomacy, and security are unravelled with clarity and precision.

We welcome you to embark on this intellectual journey with us as we examine the critical issues shaping the world of defence and strategy. Let **RakshaDrishti** be your compass in navigating the challenges and opportunities in the ever-evolving realm of global security.



WHO WE ARE:

AMITY INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE & STRATEGIC STUDIES (AIDSS)



We, the students of the Amity Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies (AIDSS), take immense pride in being part of a premier academic environment that not only aligns with global standards but also emphasizes the importance of India's role in the evolving geopolitical landscape. Our academic journey here is deeply rooted in the principles of the New Education Policy (NEP), which underscores interdisciplinary learning, skill enhancement, and employability.

AIDSS offers a wide range of programs, including the BA (Honors) in Defence & Strategic Studies, which prepares students for careers in geopolitics, national security, defence technology, and conflict resolution through practical exposure and industry-focused learning. Our advanced MA in Defence & Strategic Studies, PG Diploma in Geopolitical Risk Analysis, and PhD programs cultivate strategic thinkers, researchers, and analysts equipped to address the complex challenges of global and national security.

These programs emphasize critical skills through specialized courses and quantitative analysis, supported by training, internships with government institutions, and collaborations with think tanks and military services. Our students have consistently excelled across public and private sectors, building careers in the armed forces, intelligence agencies, foreign service, think tanks, risk consultancy, and media. Prestigious organizations like McKinsey, Deloitte, KPMG, TATA Advanced Systems, and think tanks such as IDSA, ORF, and NMF regularly recruit AIDSS graduates, with entry-level salaries ranging from 5-8 lakh per annum. These achievements reflect our commitment to developing future leaders capable of making meaningful contributions to India's strategic landscape and beyond. With programs benchmarked against global leaders like King's College London and Haifa University, Israel, we remain committed to excellence, inspiring our students to thrive and represent India on international platforms.



TO KNOW MORE ABOUT US , SCAN
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FROM THE EDITOR

STRATEGIC FOREWORD

It is with great enthusiasm that I present to you the latest issue of RakshaDrishti, our Quaterly defence and strategic studies newsletter. As we continue our journey through the complexities of defence, geopolitics, and strategic affairs, this edition brings to you a collection of insightful articles, expert opinions, and student contributions that delve into the evolving dynamics of national and international security.

In this issue, we explore themes ranging from the implications of emerging military technologies to the nuanced geopolitical moves shaping global power structures. Our featured article on the shifting paradigms of Indo-Pacific security sheds light on the region's growing strategic importance. We also take a closer look at the challenges and opportunities that India faces in asserting its maritime influence in the changing global order.

This publication is a testament to the collective effort of our dedicated team of writers, editors, and designers, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that each page offers you a meaningful and engaging experience.

As a third-semester student, contributing to RakshaDrishti has been a valuable learning experience, expanding my understanding of defence studies beyond the classroom. I hope this issue sparks critical thinking and encourages you to join the conversation. Your feedback is always welcome as we strive to make RakshaDrishti even more engaging.



PUNEET PARASAR
EDITOR, RAKSHADRISHTI

FACULTY MENTOR



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ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR , AIDSS

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ART DIRECTION

PUNEET PARASAR



A B.A. 3rd sem pursuing Defence and Strategic Studies from Amity University, with hands-on experience through an internship at the strategically vital Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, where he contributed to the P75 and P17A projects. He has a keen interest in undersea warfare and the undersea domain, aspiring to make a significant impact in this specialized field.

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STRATEGIC

“Insights from the Armed Forces & Defence Industry” | PULSE

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&
ACQUISITION

ARMY

NAVY



INSURGENCY

R & D
and
ATMANIRBHARTA

AIRFORCE





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STRATEGIC PULSE / RAKSHADRISHTI

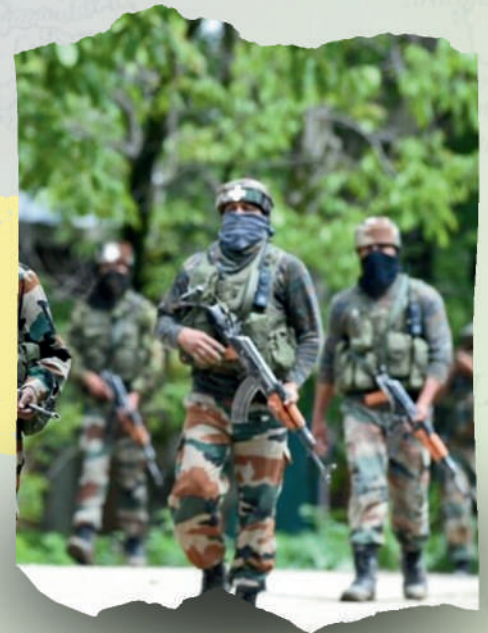
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INSURGENCY | PULSE

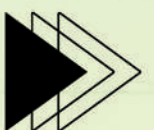


Sporadic Attacks in September-October 2024: Jammu and Kashmir have seen a steady rise in terrorist incidents in recent months. From July to September, 11 soldiers and 10 civilians were killed in various attacks, with ongoing security operations against terrorist hideouts across the region. These clashes have been frequent in districts such as Baramulla, Poonch, and Doda. Security forces, while successfully neutralizing several terrorists, continue to face challenges posed by local recruitment and arms smuggling.

Maoist Encounters in Chhattisgarh: In October, Indian security forces killed eight Maoist rebels in the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh. This operation was part of an intensified crackdown on Maoist insurgents, who have been active in the region for decades. The incident underscores the ongoing conflict between Maoist rebels and the state in central India.



Tripura Peace Accord: On September 5, 2024, the Indian government signed a peace agreement with the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF). The insurgent groups agreed to lay down arms, and the government pledged a special package of ₹250 crore for tribal development. This agreement aims to bring stability to the insurgency-prone region.



INS Arighat

THE SILENT SENTINEL OF INDIA'S NUCLEAR DETERRENCE

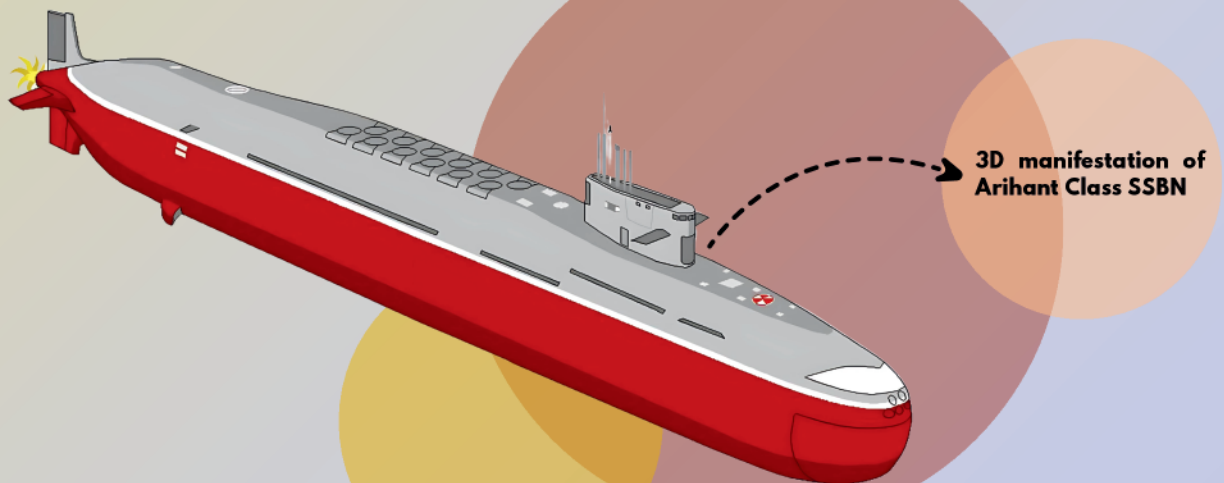
↳ Puneet Parasar

In a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape, where power projection and strategic deterrence are essential to safeguarding national interests, India's defence capabilities are evolving to meet new challenges. The commissioning of INS Arighat on August 29, 2024, marks a transformative milestone in the Indian Navy's quest to strengthen the nation's nuclear deterrence capabilities. As the second vessel in the Arihant class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBN), INS Arighat enhances India's second-strike capability—a cornerstone of its nuclear doctrine—and fortifies its position as a major nuclear power in the Indo-Pacific region.

Strategic Context and Nuclear Deterrence

India's nuclear doctrine emphasises "credible minimum deterrence" and a "no first use" policy, necessitating a robust and survivable second-strike capability. In a scenario where an adversary initiates a nuclear first strike, India must retain the assured capability to respond with a massive retaliation, deterring any potential aggressor from considering a pre-emptive attack. The commissioning of INS Arighat represents a critical advancement in this regard, as the submarine-based leg of India's nuclear triad offers the highest survivability against an enemy's first strike.

With a weight displacement of over 6,000 tons, a length of 111 meters, and a beam of 15 meters, INS Arighat is designed to be a smaller, stealthier alternative to similar SSBNs developed by other nuclear-armed nations, such as the United States' Ohio-class or Russia's Borei-class.



On the same hand, the project boasts a pan-India footprint, with its headquarters in New Delhi, a hull fabrication facility in Gujarat, missile development taking place in Hyderabad, a nuclear reactor constructed in Tamil Nadu, and a final assembly conducted in Visakhapatnam. This extensive network represents one of the largest "Make in India" industrial ecosystems, with nearly 70 per cent of the submarine's components being indigenously produced. Additionally, it stands as a testament to the enduring Indo-Russian strategic partnership; Without the design blueprints and technical assistance provided by Russia, it is highly unlikely that India's SSBN program would have succeeded in its pilot stages.

Cover Story / INS ARIGHAT

The partnership has been essential to India's deterrence capability," notes strategic analyst Bharat Karnad. The relatively compact dimensions of INS Arighat—compared to its counterparts that displace over 18,000 tons—are indicative of India's focus on developing a credible minimum deterrent rather than pursuing parity with larger nuclear powers. The smaller size offers advantages such as increased agility, enhanced stealth, and the ability to operate effectively in the shallow waters of the Indian Ocean region.

The crew of INS Arighat consists of approximately 100 members, including officers and sailors, whose roles range from navigation and propulsion to nuclear weapon systems management. The submarine's design incorporates a draft of 10 meters, enabling it to navigate effectively in deeper waters while maintaining a low acoustic signature—vital for avoiding detection by enemy anti-submarine warfare (ASW) assets.

“INS Arighat represents India's continued commitment to maintaining credible minimum deterrence with advanced stealth and nuclear capability”



INS ARIGHAT ON PATROL

Balancing Strike Capability and Stealth:

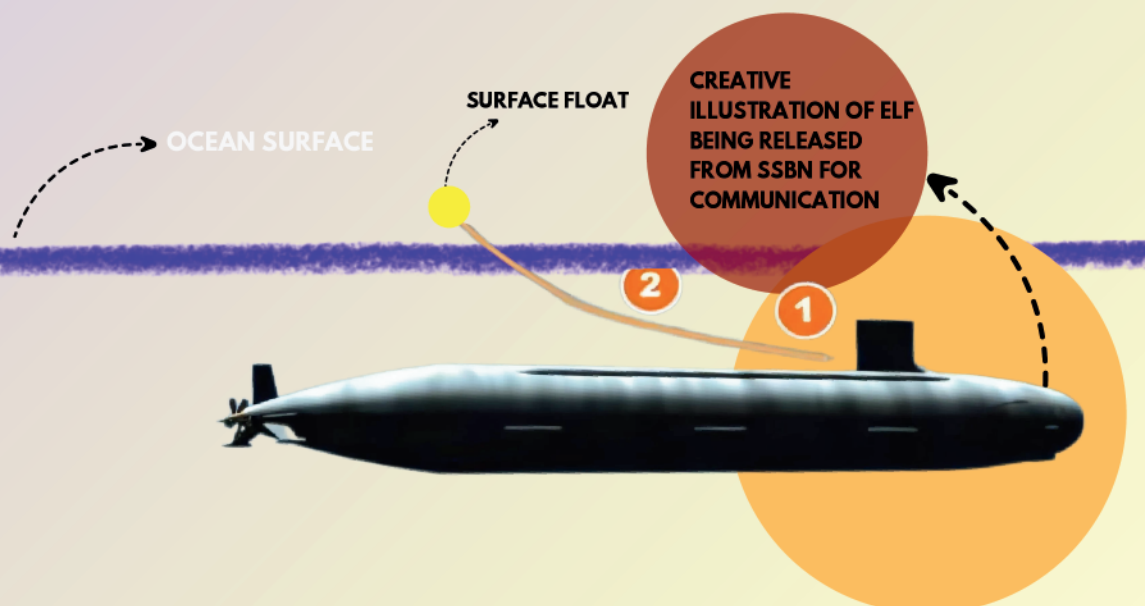
The strategic significance of India's SSBN fleet, including INS Arighat, can be understood through the lens of its operational capabilities and design philosophy. Heavy SSBNs like the Ohio-class submarines of the United States and the Borei-class submarines of Russia serve as formidable deterrents due to their ability to carry a substantial payload of nuclear missiles and maintain extended patrols. However, their larger size can render them more detectable in hostile waters. Conversely, INS Arighat, while still a potent asset, is designed with agility and stealth in mind.

Cover Story / INS ARIGHAT

Its smaller dimensions allow for enhanced manoeuvrability and a reduced acoustic signature, enabling it to operate effectively within the intricate maritime geography of the Indian Ocean Region. This emphasis on stealth allows INS Arighat to undertake covert missions while maintaining a credible second-strike capability, essential for India's strategic deterrence posture. They possess impressive strike power but are also easier to detect due to their sheer size. This design philosophy reflects India's unique strategic requirements. Given that India's principal adversaries, Pakistan and China, are relatively close geographically, the ability to stealthily navigate and avoid detection is prioritized over the capability to launch a massive number of warheads. The smaller size makes it harder for adversaries to detect INS Arighat, especially in the relatively shallow and acoustically challenging waters of the Indian Ocean. This combination of stealth and sufficient strike capability offers India a credible and assured second-strike option.

“INS Arighat will further strengthen India's nuclear triad, enhance nuclear deterrence, establish strategic balance and peace, and play a decisive role in the country's security. This achievement demonstrates India's commitment to 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.”

The effectiveness of a nuclear triad hinges on maintaining at least one operational submarine at all times. The deployment of INS Arighat as and when it enters the Bay of Bengal or any part of the Indian Ocean region, shall have the capability to remain submerged for extended periods—essentially disappearing from detection for months at a time. Its endurance is dictated solely by the crew's capacity to sustain themselves, and it communicates exclusively through extremely low frequency (ELF) antennae trailed in the water. In contrast to bombers, mobile missile launchers, missile trains, and ground-based launch systems, which can be monitored, nuclear submarines remain nearly undetectable. This characteristic elevates SSBNs as the most valuable assets within a nation's nuclear triad.



Cover Story / INS ARIGHAT

Technical Innovations: Metallurgy, Acoustic Stealth, and Propulsion

INS Arighat embodies the culmination of decades of indigenous engineering under the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) Project, which began in the late 1980s. Constructing a nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine is an intricate endeavour, involving sophisticated technology and high-precision manufacturing. A major technological achievement in INS Arighat's construction lies in the use of high-grade HY-80 steel, which provides the necessary strength for the submarine's pressure hull to withstand the intense pressures encountered at great depths. The hull design also incorporates improved hydrodynamic features, allowing the vessel to achieve a submerged speed of 24 knots (44 km/h), with a draft of 10 meters.

The submarine's stealth capabilities are further enhanced using anechoic tiles covering its outer hull. These tiles, composed of specialized rubber, absorb incoming sonar waves, reducing the submarine's acoustic signature and making it significantly harder to detect by enemy sonar. This feature is crucial for evading adversarial ASW efforts, which are increasingly becoming sophisticated with advancements in sonar and unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) technology.



One of the several manifestations of Anechoic tiles used by navies across the world

“ For INS Arighat, which is part of India's Arihant-class nuclear submarines, the use of anechoic tiles helps mask the sounds produced by internal machinery, propeller movement, and other operational noises, significantly enhancing its stealth. However, one of the challenges faced with these tiles is their tendency to shed over time due to the submarine's repeated compression and expansion as it dives and surfaces. This is a problem that has also been encountered by other navies, including the U.S. and Russian forces. ”

INS Arighat's propulsion system is powered by an 83 MW pressurized water reactor (PWR), which drives a pump-jet propulsion mechanism to achieve low noise levels and better manoeuvrability. Unlike conventional propeller systems, pump-jet propulsion minimizes cavitation—a primary source of underwater noise—allowing INS Arighat to operate stealthily even at higher speeds. The PWR not only provides the vessel with the power required for extended underwater operations but also allows it to remain submerged for extended periods, adding to its overall survivability.

The Role of International Collaboration

While INS Arighat is largely an indigenous project, international collaboration—particularly with Russia—played a key role in its success. Russian expertise was instrumental in the design and construction of the nuclear reactor and other critical components. This collaboration dates to the early days of the ATV project, when Russian shipyards provided technical assistance and access to design blueprints, helping India overcome many challenges associated with nuclear submarine construction.

INS Arighat's construction took over 13 years from keel laying in 2011 to commissioning in 2024, reflecting the inherent complexity and precision required in building a nuclear-powered submarine. The development of INS Arighat showcases the resilience and technological ingenuity of our shipbuilders and scientists, who have successfully built an advanced nuclear deterrent platform while overcoming numerous challenges."

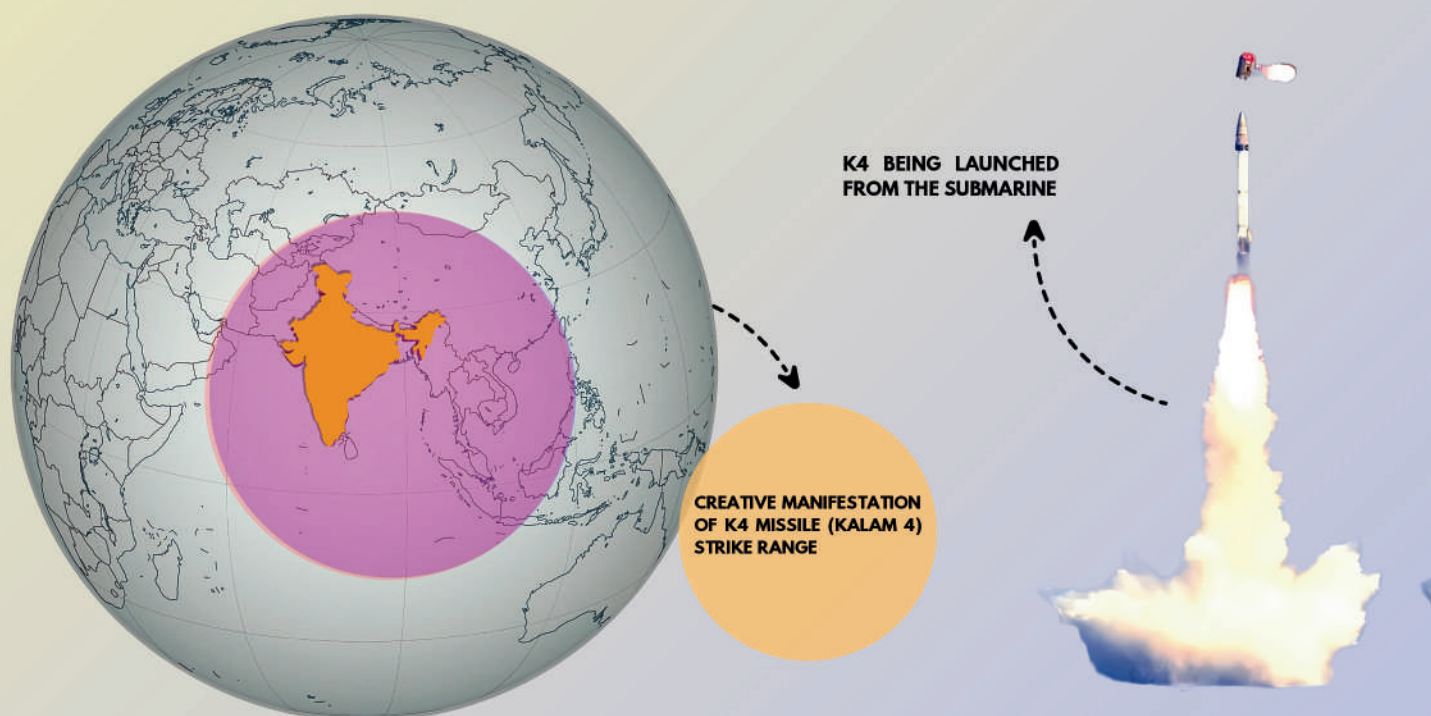
Cover Story / INS ARIGHAT

INS Arighat vs. INS Arihant: Key Differences

INS Arighat represents an upgraded version of its predecessor, INS Arihant, with several significant enhancements. While INS Arihant primarily relies on K-15 Sagarika missiles with a range of 750 km, INS Arighat is capable of deploying both K-15 and the more advanced K-4 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBMs), which boast a range of 3,500 km. This increased range allows INS Arighat to strike strategic targets located deeper within adversary territories, thereby extending India's deterrent reach.

Another major improvement is in the reactor design. INS Arighat's reactor system is an evolved version of the one installed on Arihant, featuring greater efficiency and reliability. It supports a longer operational endurance, allowing for sustained underwater patrols. The submarine's improved stealth capabilities, owing to a more advanced propulsion system and acoustic dampening technologies, further enhance its survivability.

Additionally, INS Arighat's enhanced hull design incorporates optimized hydrodynamic features, improving its submerged speed and manoeuvrability. The improved manoeuvring capabilities allow INS Arighat to effectively evade potential threats, maintaining a tactical advantage over adversaries.



Boosting Nuclear Deterrence: The K-4 Missile System

One of the most defining features of INS Arighat is its ability to carry and launch the K-4 ballistic missile system. With a range of 3,500 km, the K-4 provides India with the ability to target critical military infrastructure deep within enemy territory, including regions far beyond India's immediate neighbourhood. The K-4's increased range ensures that INS Arighat can remain within the safety of the Bay of Bengal or the broader Indian Ocean Region while maintaining the capability to project nuclear power across Asia.

The K-4 missile system also adds an element of strategic unpredictability to India's deterrent posture. By launching from undisclosed locations in the ocean, INS Arighat introduces significant ambiguity for adversaries attempting to locate and target India's SSBNs. As one naval expert aptly noted, "The combination of extended range, strategic mobility, and stealth makes INS Arighat a force multiplier in the Indian Navy's SSBN fleet, ensuring a credible nuclear deterrent at all times."

Cover Story / INS ARIGHAT

INS Arighat in Comparison: Why Smaller is Strategic

INS Arighat's relatively smaller size, compared to SSBNs fielded by other major powers, reflects a deliberate and strategic choice. Whereas the United States Ohio-class SSBNs displace over 18,000 tons and carry 24 Trident II ballistic missiles, INS Arighat's smaller displacement is intended to align with India's nuclear doctrine of credible minimum deterrence rather than pursuing numerical parity. This smaller size also has operational advantages. The Indian Ocean, with its unique acoustic profile, provides both opportunities and challenges for submarine operations. Smaller submarines like INS Arighat can navigate more effectively in these waters, using thermal layers and underwater topography to remain hidden. This focus on stealth, combined with India's secure second-strike doctrine, makes INS Arighat highly effective for India's strategic needs.

“INS Arighat will further strengthen India's nuclear triad, enhance nuclear deterrence, establish strategic balance and peace, and play a decisive role in the country's security. This achievement demonstrates India's commitment to 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.

↳ Raksha Mantri / BHARAT ”

The Future: The S4-Class and Beyond

India's SSBN program does not end with INS Arighat. Plans are underway for the development of the S4 and S5 class SSBNs, which will be considerably larger than the previous Arihant class SSBNs. These next-generation submarines are expected to displace around 7000 tons and will be capable of carrying more missiles, including the K-5 and K-6 systems, with ranges exceeding 5,000 km. The S5 class will allow India to match the missile loadout of other leading nuclear powers while retaining the stealth and operational autonomy required for prolonged patrols in strategic areas.

The development of the S4 and S5 class represents India's growing confidence in its shipbuilding capabilities and reflects its intention to be viewed as a key player in the global nuclear order. Once operational, these larger SSBNs will enable India to maintain a continuous at-sea deterrent, with at least one SSBN on patrol at any given time—critical for enhancing the credibility of India's nuclear deterrence.

Conclusion

INS Arighat stands as a pivotal component of India's strategic arsenal, embodying the nation's commitment to maintaining a credible and survivable nuclear deterrent. Its commissioning marks a significant step forward in enhancing India's second-strike capability, providing an assured means of retaliation in the event of a nuclear attack. By blending advanced stealth technology, an optimized reactor system, and long-range ballistic missile capability, INS Arighat plays a crucial role in deterring aggression and maintaining regional stability.

Cover Story / INS ARIGHAT

The relatively smaller size of INS Arighat compared to SSBNs fielded by other major nuclear powers is not a limitation but a strategic advantage. Its compact dimensions provide it with increased manoeuvrability and reduced detectability, making it a potent tool for credible minimum deterrence. As India looks to the future, the development of larger and more capable S5-class SSBNs will further bolster its ability to deter adversaries and ensure the security of the nation. Also, INS Arighat is more than just a submarine—it is the vanguard of India's strategic deterrence, a silent and unseen force that secures the nation's sovereignty. In an era marked by an increasingly deteriorating international security environment, INS Arighat ensures that India remains equipped to safeguard its national security and deter any emerging threats. As India looks to the future, INS Arighat and its successors will form the backbone of the nation's second-strike capability, ensuring that India's voice remains one of caution and strength on the global stage. It is a symbol of India's technological prowess and strategic foresight, silently patrolling the ocean depths, a **'sentinel of peace through strength'**.

“

The advanced design and engineering solutions integrated into INS Arighat signify a leap forward for the Indian Navy. The submarine's enhanced stealth and operational capabilities will play a crucial role in our maritime strategy." This reflects the emphasis on modern technology in naval warfare.

”

~ **VICE ADMIRAL(RETD) A.K. CHAWLA COMMENTED ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS.**

STRATEGIC >>>>

ARMY | PULSE



Joint India-US Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2024': The Indian Army collaborated with U.S. forces in the annual joint military exercise, Yudh Abhyas. This exercise, held in Uttarakhand, focused on enhancing counterterrorism strategies and interoperability between both nations. The drills included tactical manoeuvres and advanced battlefield technology, such as drones and communication systems, showcasing the Army's continuous push toward modernization.

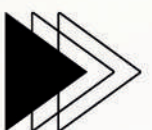
Focus on 2047 Modernization Goals

In early October, the Indian Army held high-level meetings led by the Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Pande, to chart out long-term strategies. These discussions focused on modernization, self-reliance, and readiness goals, leading up to 2047 when India marks its centenary of independence. The Army plans to continue its push for Indigenous solutions while enhancing its overall combat capabilities



Order for Indigenous Precision-Guided Munitions

To enhance its precision-strike capabilities, the Indian Army is set to place a significant order for indigenous 155mm terminally guided munitions (TGMs). These advanced munitions, developed by several Indian firms, will provide enhanced accuracy and reduce collateral damage, integrating seamlessly with the Army's existing artillery systems.



HEZBOLLAH'S GUIDE TO **STRATEGIC PARALYSIS** AMIDST ISRAELI TARGETING

↙
Kartikeya Gupt
Ph.D. Scholar

The purpose of any military conflict is to seek a change in the behaviour of a hostile power. The ability to induce preferred outcomes by means of force in a conflict utilises three concepts of warfare – Annihilation, Attrition, and Strategic Paralysis. Annihilation warfare generally refers to the complete and indiscriminate destruction of an enemy, while Attrition warfare usually aims at exhausting an enemy's resources and energy. However, these two traditional concepts of warfare may create several problems. Annihilation warfare requires a careful assessment of the enemy's capabilities and the high costs incurred while dominating those anticipated capabilities. Uncertainties emerging in a conflict, say, international disapproval over the mounting loss of life and property or having limited resources to fight a roughly equal force, may challenge continued dominance over the enemy. Meanwhile, in Attrition warfare, it is difficult to accurately foresee who shall wear out first. Though applicable in specific conditions, the pursuit of weakening an enemy through the use of this concept may not result in a quick and decisive victory. Prolonging a conflict ultimately results in greater costs and occurs when neither adversary can outmanoeuvre their opponent.



Feature/RakshaDrishti

Among several expressions defining the concept of Strategic Paralysis, Colonel John Warden, leading air power theorist, advocated the concept "as rendering an adversary impotent by eliminating or neutralising the control and decision making apparatus." This essentially translates to ravaging the war-making capacity of an enemy by focusing singularly on its leadership element. After having disrupted the control and decision making apparatus, further paralysis of an enemy's will to resist could be executed by targeting its organic essentials, infrastructure, population, and fielded military in an order that generates maximum strategic effect. By accurately striking the enemy's elements of value, the ability to initiate or continue a conflict may be obstructed. Strategic Paralysis is naturally attractive as it may achieve an earlier and less costly solution by paralysing the enemy's critical sources of strength. Because any conflict is ultimately a test of willpower, it may even persuade an enemy to give up its position before a costlier form of warfare, say a risk of complete destruction is required. This strategy thereby offers an improved alternative to Annihilation and Attrition in the context of modern warfare.

The effects of Strategic Paralysis are intrinsically linked to Targeting practices. Effective targeting ensures resources are employed effectively and efficiently. To determine the best targets, it becomes pertinent to understand the "centre of gravity" of an enemy. According to Colonel Warden, the term centre of gravity, "is quite useful in planning war operations, for it describes that point where the enemy is most vulnerable and the point where an attack will have the best chance of being decisive." The demands of any conflict also have a tendency to place an enormous load on the economic system of a nation and so eventually any targets chosen must produce decisive results and induce the enemy to make the desired concessions, keeping costs in mind. In modern irregular warfare, where a militia might not have the visible infrastructure, a subjugated population, dispersed fighting units, targeting the enemy's command element as a centre of gravity, therefore, acquires utmost importance and its speedy debilitation ensures a positive outcome for a nation that employs Strategic Paralysis.

Hezbollah is an armed group and an influential political party with a significant presence in Lebanese civilian and military institutions. Hezbollah is particularly dominant in Southern Lebanon, bordering Israel. One of their key aims is resisting Israeli influence within Lebanon and the Levant region. Since October 8th 2023, during which time Israel has been targeting Hamas in the Gaza Strip in retaliation for Operation Al-Aqsa flood, Hezbollah along with other minor Lebanese fundamental groups have launched thousands of incessant rocket attacks on Northern Israel continuing to date in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Hezbollah's leadership had also hinted that its attacks were a tactical move designed to increase pressure on Israel's military apparatus and boost its strategic position in the region. Also, Israel's retaliatory attacks against Hezbollah in the same time period were insufficient in deterring the armed group from preparing an imminent military campaign to attack the Jewish state as per Israeli claims.

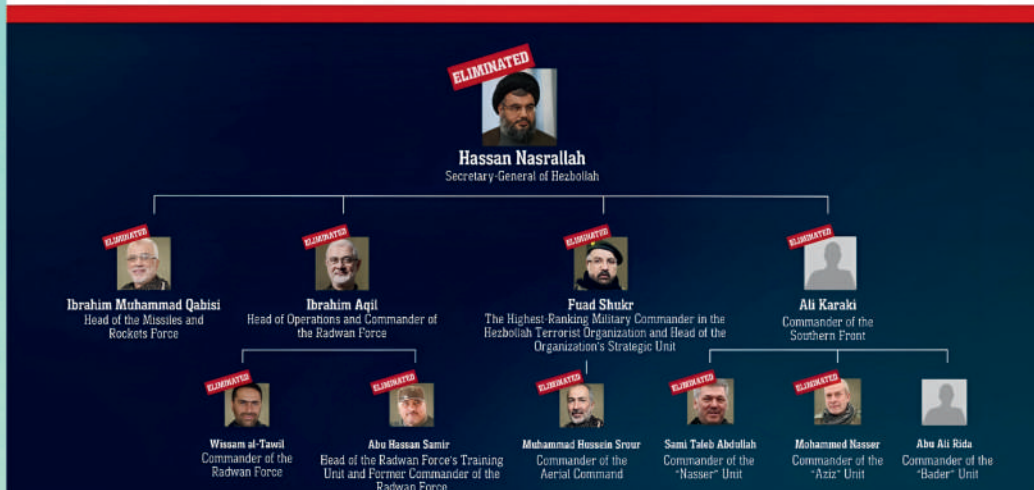
Israel is under immense international pressure to cease its military operation in the Gaza Strip, also including its ally, the United States. The mounting loss of Palestinian lives and destruction of property in the Gaza Strip has created a humanitarian crisis. However, Israel's politico-military objectives of eliminating Hamas and retrieving its hostages have not been achieved. Engaged in a protracted conflict with Hamas with no end in sight and potentially risking a new front on its shared border with Lebanon, pushed Israel to preempt a novel attack on Hezbollah's leadership, without overtly declaring war on its northern neighbour. On the 17th and 18th of September 2024, Israeli intelligence operations targeted communication devices used by Hezbollah's senior and mid-level leadership.

Feature/RakshaDrishti

Thousands of pagers were near-simultaneously detonated resulting in a large number of casualties which incapacitated its command element. Few non-combatants were also killed and injured. The following day saw hundreds of walkie-talkies and a few radio sets used as emergency alternative communications by Hezbollah's combatants detonate in a similar fashion, resulting in further casualties for the armed group.

Israel's strategic operation achieved a paralysing effect on Hezbollah, with substantial losses within its leadership ranks. Considering the criteria of proportionality, the military value of the combatant targets eliminated is far higher in proportion than anticipated civilian casualties. Israel's military operation in the Gaza Strip itself has a casualty proportion of nearly two noncombatants to one combatant as per Israeli Defence Forces. Hezbollah's paralysis has been observed in a lack of strong immediate response against Israel despite having an estimated arsenal of 120,000 to 200,000 rockets. Hezbollah, reeling under a psychological shock, is now witnessing an Israeli-targeted air campaign, striking at launchers, arms depots, and operatives. Hezbollah's continued paralysis may also have strategic ramifications if Israel were to launch a limited ground operation in Southern Lebanon to create new buffer zones.

The Military Chain of Command of the Hezbollah Terrorist Organization



The possibility of any negotiations between Israel and Hezbollah is unlikely in the near term with the death of Hezbollah's Secretary-General, Hassan Nasrallah. Israel has taken Hezbollah by surprise at a low cost and shall aim at degrading the armed group's capacity for a significant retaliation against itself. Hezbollah might focus on recovering loss of face, and its depleted leadership ranks and ponder upon Israel's remarkable ability to eliminate its leader and senior commanders. Israel may also continue undeterred with its politico-military objectives of securing all hostages and destroying the capabilities of Hamas in the Gaza Strip while keeping an eye on its northern front. In the words of Liddell Hart, a military theorist,

“ An intelligent boxer aims to strike a decisive blow as early as possible against some vital point – the jaw or solar plexus – which will instantly paralyse your opponent's resistance. ...To ensure this paralysis, even actual damage is not necessary; fear of it may suffice... ”

STRATEGIC >>>>

AIRFORCE | PULSE

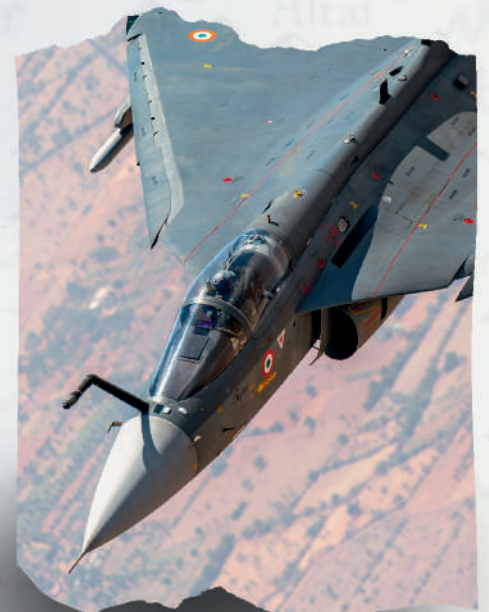


Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh Appointed IAF Chief

(September 30, 2024): Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh took over as the new Chief of the Indian Air Force, succeeding Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari. His leadership is expected to guide the IAF in modernizing its fleet and strengthening its air capabilities amid growing regional challenges

The indigenous Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA Mk-1)

demonstrated its combat capabilities during India's largest air combat exercise, Tarang Shakti 2024. Participating alongside global fighter jets, LCA impressed military leaders, showcasing its effectiveness in large-force engagements. The exercise featured various missions, further affirming India's self-reliance in defence technology. However, delays in the advanced LCA Mk-1A's delivery remain a concern.



India has ordered 240 AL-31FP engines from

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for its Su-30MKI fighter fleet, Made by HAL under a Russian license, the engines currently feature local content of 54% with a contract worth over \$3.1 billion. The engines, with increasing indigenous content, will sustain operational capabilities for years. Additionally, India is purchasing 12 new Su-30MKIs for 1.3 billion dollars to replace losses.





Decoding the Strategic goals of the recent Sino-Russian Naval Drills at the Sea of Japan



Barshan Karmakar
PhD Scholar

The naval forces of Russia and China have intensified and successfully concluded their naval drills between the 11th to 15th of September 2024. These drills were conducted on multiple stages in the maritime areas combining the Sea of Japan, as a form of a mock combat scenario between red and blue teams and alternate commands. Through this exercise, both sides sought to examine the tactical command coordination and joint operational capabilities of the Russian and Chinese naval forces. During the joint sea drill, the red team of the joint operations group locked the ships of the blue side and conducted simulated missile strikes.

These naval drills continued till the 16th of September 2024, which also involved the Pacific and Arctic Oceans, the Mediterranean and the Baltic Seas, making it the largest joint naval exercise held across the Indo-Pacific in the last 30 years. Also named 'Ocean-2024', the drills witnessed a huge involvement of many warships, vessels and aircraft taking part in the exercise.

Understanding the major strategic aspect related to the Naval Drills

As a result of a nation's armed capabilities, the aspect of naval poses an important position in terms of ensuring security and safeguarding both security and strategic interests. The naval exercises between Russia and China set an important example in the context of the present international security environment, both at the military and political levels. The joint naval exercise not only helped to develop and strengthen bilateral relations, but it also demonstrated their capabilities to shape regional stability.



We are paying special attention to strengthening cooperation with our friendly countries. This is especially important today amid rising geopolitical tension around the world.

~Vladimir Putin, President of Russia



Tracing the origin of the diplomatic relations between the two countries, there have been persisting complexities between the People's Republic of China and the former Soviet Union, with both fighting a brief border war in 1969. However, after travelling through past experiences, the relations between Russia and China have evolved into a new domain in the post-Cold War era. With the changing relations, both nations have realised the common threat, NATO and the US.

However, according to data from the CSIS (Centre for Strategic and International Studies), as many as ten joint military exercises including war games and multilateral drills have been successfully concluded between Russia and China.

The exercises accomplished certain strategic objectives, such as:

- China gained valuable experience in operating with the far experienced Russian military which has fought wars in the past against Georgia and Chechen Rebels to being actively engaged in a conflict with Ukraine that has been continuing for more than a year. The naval exercise stands as a lesson, which China sees as an opportunity to learn all sorts of modern manoeuvring tactics that are required by a nation's military to operate in the widely varied regions comprising differing climatic and relief features. Also, through this exercise, Russia is supposed to have gained deep strategic exposure and lessons to strengthen its maritime fighting tactics and capabilities, as the Black Sea Fleet of the Russian Navy has incurred heavy losses from Ukrainian sea drones and loitering munitions.

Feature/RakshaDrishti

- Accordingly, both China and Russia will have an opportunity to enhance their Logistical and Communicative Collaboration through military exercises in areas of logistics, military technologies, fuel and services for sharing data on communication channels.
- The naval exercise will also act as a symbol of countering the US and NATO movements by Russia and China in the maritime domain. Since July 2024, the Russian and Chinese armed forces have held at least three joint military drills in different parts of the world, including the South China Sea, the Gulf of Finland and Alaska.



Our joint exercises demonstrate the mutual trust between China and Russia, enhancing the capability to respond to threats and defend peace.

~Xi Jinping , President of the People's Republic of China.



However, there remains a need to observe the future course of action as to how these joint military drills have been raising speculations about the two nuclear armed powers coming together to act in case of a potential future conflict which are also not treaty allies.

STRATEGIC >>>>

NAVY | PULSE



The Indian Navy commissioned the multipurpose auxiliary ship Samarthak on October 13, 2023. Designed for versatile use, Samarthak provides advanced logistics, maintenance, and repair support for naval ships and submarines at sea. Its capabilities extend to transporting essential supplies, towing operations, and humanitarian assistance, enhancing India's maritime infrastructure and operational readiness across the Indian Ocean region.

On October 14, 2023, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated a state-of-the-art Very Low Frequency (VLF) transmitting station at the Indian Navy's INS Kattabomman base in Tamil Nadu. This new facility enhances secure communication with submarines at extended ranges, boosting India's maritime security. The VLF station is crucial for strategic operations, supporting the Navy's long-range underwater assets in the Indian Ocean region. Plays a critical role in submarine communication. VLF waves penetrate deep into the ocean, enabling secure, long-range communication with submerged submarines without them needing to surface, which helps maintain their stealth.



The 2024 Malabar Naval Exercise commenced on October 9 in Visakhapatnam, India. This marks the 28th edition of the exercise, involving the Quad nations: India, the United States, Japan, and Australia. The exercise will run until October 18, featuring both harbour and sea phases. Key naval assets include INS Delhi from India, USS Dewey from the US, HMAS Stuart from Australia, and JS Ariake from Japan. The drills focus on enhancing anti-submarine warfare, joint operations, and military interoperability



Weapon Watch /RakshaDrishti

A G N I



THE WEAPON

WATCH

Weapon Watch /RakshaDrishti

Designer: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Manufacturer: Bharat Dynamics Limited

Weight: 50-56 tonnes

Length: 17.5 meters

Diameter: 2 meters

Range: 5,000-8,000 km

Warheads: 3-10 (MIRV Nuclear-capable)

Speed: Up to 29,400 km/h

Propellant: Solid Fuel

Platform: Land and Sea-based mobile launchers

Propulsion and Speed: Utilizing a three-stage solid-fuel engine, Agni-V can reach a top speed of 29,400 km/h, making it one of the fastest missiles in the world.

Guidance and Control: The missile is equipped with a cutting-edge Ring Laser Gyro-based Inertial Navigation System (RINS), along with a Micro Inertial Navigation System (MINS), ensuring precise accuracy over long distances.



“AGNI-V: THE VANGUARD OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC DETERRENCE”

The Agni-V missile represents a pivotal achievement in India's defence strategy, embodying a sophisticated leap from earlier models of the Agni series. Developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the visionary "Mission Divyastra," Agni-V is India's first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) capable of delivering nuclear warheads over a range of 5,000-8,000 km. This advanced missile is not only a key element of India's second-strike capability but also a testament to its burgeoning status as a global military power.

Weapons Watch /RakshaDrishti

Development History

The Agni missile program was first conceived during the early 1980s as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP), aimed at fortifying India's strategic defence infrastructure. Initially, Agni's variants (I-IV) were developed with a focus on medium- to intermediate-range targets, catering primarily to regional security dynamics. However, the geopolitical landscape soon necessitated a missile that could project power far beyond India's immediate neighbourhood. Agni-V, first successfully test-fired in April 2012, marked India's entry into the realm of ICBMs. It was a deliberate response to rising strategic challenges, including the threat of extended deterrence posed by adversaries such as China.

The MIRV Leap: Mastering the Art of Multiple Warheads

One of the most transformative features of the Agni-V missile is the recent incorporation of MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicle) technology. This breakthrough allows the missile to carry and deploy 3-10 nuclear warheads, each capable of being independently targeted. The introduction of MIRV technology in Agni-V was driven by India's need to overcome adversary missile defence systems, especially as China and Pakistan have developed increasingly sophisticated anti-ballistic missile systems. Agni-V's MIRV variant serves as a force multiplier in strategic deterrence. Not only does it allow India to target multiple enemy locations simultaneously, but it also complicates interception attempts by dispersing warheads along different trajectories. This capability vastly increases the missile's destructive potential while ensuring survivability in hostile scenarios.

Development of MIRV Technology

The integration of MIRV technology into Agni-V was a multi-stage process that took years of development. DRDO's research and testing facilities, particularly the Advanced Systems Laboratory in Hyderabad, played a crucial role in miniaturizing warheads while maintaining accuracy. Early experiments in decoy systems and reentry vehicle engineering laid the groundwork for MIRV adaptation. By harnessing advanced solid-fuel propulsion and incorporating sophisticated inertial navigation systems, Indian scientists ensured that the Agni-V could deliver multiple warheads with pinpoint precision across diverse terrains.

The Agni-V missile is not just a technical achievement but a strategic necessity, positioning India at the forefront of modern military technology. Its development marks a decisive shift in India's defence capabilities, reflecting the country's growing emphasis on deterrence and security in a multipolar world. As the geopolitical environment continues to evolve, Agni-V, particularly with its MIRV variant, will remain a cornerstone of India's military doctrine.



STRATEGIC >>>>

DEFENCE | PULSE
PRODUCTION &
ACQUISITION



India's defence production hit a record INR 1.27 lakh crore in 2023-24 September, driven by the 'Make in India' initiative. Defence exports also surpassed INR 21,000 crore, with military equipment now supplied to over 90 countries. The government aims to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce arms imports, targeting INR 50,000 crore in exports by 2029

MQ-9B Predator Drone Deal: India is set to acquire 31 advanced MQ-9B Predator drones from the U.S., a \$3.9 billion deal. This agreement enhances India's surveillance capabilities, especially in high-altitude regions, and will involve domestic sourcing for over 30% of the drone components, boosting India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.



Expansion of Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO)

Capabilities: Lockheed Martin and Tata Advanced Systems have announced a partnership to enhance the C-130J Super Hercules project in India, following Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent U.S. visit. This collaboration aims to establish a Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) facility for the Indian Air Force's C-130J fleet and expand local manufacturing capabilities, potentially producing aircraft for the Medium Transport Aircraft program.



OCTOBER ISSUE
2024

EXPLORING THE NEW AGE OF WAR

ISSUE
N. 001

The Global Watchdog /RakshaDrishti



The
GLOBAL
WATCHDOG

Insights into Global
Power Shifts

~PUNEET PARASAR

ASIA SOUTH

SRI LANKA

Left-leaning politician Anura Kumara Dissanayake has been elected as Sri Lanka's next president. Dissanayake, who contested as a candidate for the National People's Power (NPP) alliance, has drawn increasing support in recent years for his anti-corruption platform and pro-poor policies – particularly in the wake of the country's worst-ever economic crisis.

PAKISTAN

The executive board of the International Monetary Fund has approved a new \$7 billion loan for cash-strapped Pakistan. The loan – which Islamabad will receive in instalments over 37 months – is aimed at boosting Pakistan's ailing economy. The global lender said its immediate disbursement will be about \$1 billion.

BHARAT

Tata Electronics has partnered with Taiwan's Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation (PSMC) to establish India's first semiconductor manufacturing plant in Dholera in the state of Gujarat. The chip fabrication plant will manufacture power management ICs, display drivers, microcontrollers, and high-performance computing chips for AI, automotive, computing and data storage, and wireless communication technologies. Total investment in the project is expected to reach around INR 91,000 crores and will create over 20,000 direct and indirect skilled jobs.

NEPAL

Nepalese capital Kathmandu was inundated by floodwaters after record-breaking rains caused the Bagmati river to breach its banks. More than 200 people have been killed and thousands of houses damaged in the worst flooding and landslides in the Kathmandu valley in years. Recovery work carried out by the police, paramilitary forces and the army helped rescue more than 4,000 people using helicopters, ziplines and rafts.

BANGLADESH

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) said it would provide Bangladesh with a \$202 million grant to promote good governance, social, human and economic opportunity and resilience. It follows a 2021 agreement where USAID pledged a total of \$954 million between 2021 and 2026, of which \$425 million had already been provided. Further economic aid would be handed to Bangladesh as the nation mulls new reforms to boost its economy.

The Global Watchdog /RakshaDrishti

ASIA SOUTH EAST

INDONESIA

The United States and Indonesia concluded a two week long joint multinational exercise, the annually conducted Super Garuda Shield, which focused on the recapture of remote islands. Japan, South Korea, France, and other countries took part to show a deeper unity towards stability in the region, including the South China Sea.

SOUTH EAST ASIA REGION

Typhoon Yagi, Southeast Asia's most powerful storm this year wreaked havoc in northern Vietnam, China's Hainan province, Myanmar, and the Philippines. Extensive flooding in Vietnam and Myanmar resulted in more than 200 casualties in both nations and damaged homes and infrastructure across the region. Emergency response authorities suggested significant economic losses and widespread power outages.

MYANMAR

Myanmar's military government allowed selected civilians to carry weapons, expanding its public mobilization beyond the draft as the fighting in its civil war edged closer to Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city. The government had established state- and district-level security groups, with certain members to be armed under the oversight of a central committee. Military spokesman Zaw Min Tun acknowledged the creation of the security groups and explained that they will consist mainly of men above the conscription age limit of 35, a portion of whom will be given firearms.

PHILIPPINES

The Philippines reaffirmed its position on Sabina Shoal in the South China Sea even as it agreed with China to explore ways to lower the tension in the area as per its Foreign Ministry. The Chinese Foreign Ministry reiterated its demand for the immediate withdrawal of a Philippine vessel and vowed to "firmly uphold its sovereignty." The contention began between both nations as China issued concern over the anchored Philippine Coast Guard vessel, Theresa Magbanua, since mid-April on the suspicion that China was undertaking reclamation activities around the shoal.

LAOS

Laos has been hit hard by inflation and a weakening currency amid plunging spending power and continuance of Chinese debt. The country's consumer inflation came in at 24.3%, according to the Lao Statistics Bureau, marking its 28th consecutive month in double digits. The sharp currency depreciation and rocketing prices have prompted many Laotians to look abroad for work, with nearby Thailand a popular destination for both legal and undocumented jobs.

ASIA WEST

ISRAEL

The Israel defence Forces (IDF) announced the appointment of Col. Elad Goren to a newly created post coordinating humanitarian relief efforts in Gaza. Goren, who will be promoted to the rank of Brigadier-General, will serve within the IDF's Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) unit, which has been tasked with coordinating humanitarian efforts in Gaza.

TURKEY

A mob of Turkish men attacked American soldiers who had been walking the streets of Izmir in southern Turkey, apparently as the US personnel were on liberty after the USS Wasp which they are attached to made a port call. The local governor's office said that 15 assailants had been detained over the incident.

WEST ASIA REGION

Middle East oil producers, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), invest petrodollars into Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure and other tech to diversify their economies and raise output. Their goals go beyond diversifying their oil-dependent economies and driving growth through AI. These nations also see technology as a way to enhance their energy production capabilities.

UAE

Dubai is launching huge infrastructure projects to further attract business and tourists. The city has approved building a new terminal at an airport in the South and also will strengthen urban functions by building a new railway and enhancing the capacity of the rainwater drainage system. The city is reinforcing urban functions to remain a hub in the Gulf amid regional rivalry at the direction of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the Prime Minister and ruler of Dubai.

ISRAEL / LEBANON

Israel killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in a powerful airstrike in Beirut, dealing a heavy blow to the Iran-backed group in an escalatory Israeli air campaign. The death of Hassan Nasrallah follows the difficulties faced by the armed group as electronic communication devices used by its fighters exploded resulting in thousands of casualties. Hezbollah and the Lebanese government had blamed Israel for what appeared to be a sophisticated, remote attack.

ASIA NORTH

SOUTH KOREA

Im Jong-seok, chief of staff to former President Moon Jae-in, faced criticism from the South Korean Presidential Office on his remarks regarding the peaceful coexistence of the two Koreas. I said South Korea should move beyond its fixation on seeking unification with the North and instead focus on peacefully coexisting as two separate states - "Let's accept the reality and live as two separate and peaceful states. Let's remove or amend the territorial clause in Article 3 of South Korea's Constitution." Article 3 of South Korea's Constitution stipulates that the territory of the Republic of Korea consists of the Korean Peninsula and its adjacent islands.

JAPAN

Shigeru Ishiba replaced Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) leader Fumio Kishida as the Prime Minister of Japan. Since becoming prime minister, Ishiba vowed to work with the Bank of Japan to coordinate fiscal and monetary policy and promised a stimulus package to boost Japan's economy. He also pointed to exiting deflation as one of his priorities. On the foreign policy front, PM Ishiba said he wanted to cooperate with "like-minded nations" and he would bolster Japan's military capability to defend itself from threats from China, Russia and North Korea under the framework of the Japan-U.S. security alliance.

CHINA

China's central bank unveiled its biggest stimulus since the pandemic to pull the economy out of its deflationary funk and back towards the government's growth target. The broader-than-expected package offering more funding and interest rate cuts marked the latest attempt by policymakers to restore confidence in the world's second-largest economy after a slew of disappointing data raised concerns of a prolonged structural slowdown.

CHINA AND JAPAN

China and Japan have reached an agreement in a year-long dispute over treated wastewater released from the latter's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant. The deal, which involves international monitoring opens a pathway for lifting a blanket ban on Japanese seafood that Beijing imposed last year. The ban came in response to the discharge of the water from the plant, which suffered meltdowns after the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. A spokesperson for China's foreign ministry told reporters that the compromise was a product of at least 10 consultations.

CHINA

China successfully fired an intercontinental ballistic missile into the Pacific Ocean. An ICBM carrying a dummy warhead was launched at 8:44 a.m. Beijing time and fell into a designated area in the high seas of the Pacific Ocean, the Chinese Defence Ministry said in a statement. The latest ICBM, known to be the DF-41, is estimated to have a range of 12,000 to 15,000 kilometres and is capable of reaching the US mainland. The Defence Ministry said the launch, by the People's Liberation Army Rocket Force, was part of its routine annual training and not directed at any country or target.

ASIA CENTRAL

KYRGYZSTAN

President Sadyr Japarov's administration of Kyrgyzstan renewed its regulatory campaign to regulate religious affairs. The bills contain provisions promoting the strict separation of church and state, retaining Kyrgyzstan's basic character as a secular society. Under the bills, political parties or associations with an explicitly religious identity or purpose would be prohibited. Politicians would additionally be barred from invoking religious rhetoric in public discussions about policy matters. In addition, clerics and other religious figures would be banned from running for or holding public office, and from campaigning on behalf of candidates.

KAZAKHSTAN

The Kazakh government is facing a media backlash over efforts to restrict journalists' access to top officials and has focused a spotlight on government accountability. Kazakh officials restricted access without advance notice for journalists seeking to cover a Cabinet of Ministers meeting. Previously, journalists had access to cabinet meetings, but recently, journalists were told that they would have to cover the meeting from a press centre. The move would prevent journalists from asking government officials questions following the conclusion of the meeting. The Kazakh government is facing a media backlash over efforts to restrict journalists' access to top officials and has focused a spotlight on government accountability. Kazakh officials restricted access without advance notice for journalists seeking to cover a Cabinet of Ministers meeting. Previously, journalists had access to cabinet meetings, but recently, journalists were told that they would have to cover the meeting from a press centre. The move would prevent journalists from asking government officials questions following the conclusion of the meeting.

TAJIKISTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN

Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have issued advisories cautioning citizens against travelling to Russia, citing additional security measures and enhanced border controls put in place by Russian authorities. The economic ramifications of the advisories are significant, given that hundreds of thousands of labour migrants from both countries travel to Russia to work. Remittances sent home to relatives in Central Asia are a major source of financial sustenance for many families. Russian lawmakers had tightened migration rules, making it easier to expel those found in the country without proper documentation as a part of a response to the Crocus City Hall terrorism tragedy.

UZBEKISTAN

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin's two-day visit to Uzbekistan with a declared aim of securing the nation's commitment to becoming a full member of the Moscow-dominated Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU). Uzbekistan officials provided no indication that they would go along with Russia's wishes. A statement issued by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's office following his meeting with the Russian prime minister offered usual platitudes on the importance of the bilateral strategic partnership without mentioning the EAEU or specific joint projects.

CAR

The five Central Asian heads of state gathered in the Kazakh capital Astana for a meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, with discussions focusing on expanding trade between the European Union (EU) and Central Asia. Germany is particularly interested in boosting natural gas imports from the region as part of a continuing pan-European Union effort to pivot away from Russian energy. No specific deals were announced at the meeting's conclusion, but all sides were upbeat about the future, holding out the possibility that agreements can be reached in the not-too-distant future.

STRATEGIC

R&D & | PULSE
ATMANIRBHARTA



CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) developed an advanced stealth radome for India's AMCA fighter jet program. This Frequency Selective Surface (FSS) radome enhances radar transmission in the X-band while reducing radar cross-section by 10 dBsm, surpassing conventional radomes. NAL fabricated and rigorously tested prototypes to meet modern combat standards. NAL, a government-led R&D institution, specializes in aerospace innovations, including variable thickness radomes and hybrid configurations

The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and IIT Delhi have developed lightweight bulletproof jackets named ABHED, made from polymers and boron carbide ceramic materials. These modular-design jackets, providing 360-degree protection, weigh between 8.2 kg and 9.5 kg depending on the protection level. The jackets meet Indian Army standards and are ready for technology transfer to Indian industries.



On September 13, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted successful preliminary automotive trials of the Zorawar light tank, designed for high-altitude deployment. The tank showcased exceptional performance in desert terrain, achieving the required accuracy in firing tests. Developed by DRDO's Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment in collaboration with Larsen & Toubro, the project highlights India's growing Indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities.



FORUM STUDENT'S

A THURSDAY CONCLAVE: A GATHERING OF MINDS



Every Thursday, students from all batches of our department, including PhD scholars, come together for a unique and enriching experience. The "Thursday Conclave" serves as a platform for open discussions, knowledge sharing, and collaborative learning, transcending academic levels. These gatherings foster a vibrant academic environment where students exchange ideas, debate contemporary issues, and present their research interests. From thought-provoking debates on global strategic affairs to informal Q&A sessions with faculty, these weekly meetings strengthen our sense of community and encourage a culture of critical inquiry. The Thursday Conclave is more than just a meeting—it's where future strategists connect, learn, and grow together.

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RakshaDarshan, a quarterly newsletter by the Amity Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, brings together the sharp insights and perspectives of its students on key defence and strategic issues. It is a vibrant platform for engaging discussions and thought-provoking analysis, enriching the discourse on global security and shaping future strategic thought.

CONNECTING IDEAS, SHAPING STRATEGIES.

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