

'Talks on to procure more S-400 units'

NEW DELHI, May 28 (IANS)

RUSSIAN Ambassador to India Denis Alipov on Wednesday said that discussions between India and Moscow on the procurement of more S-400 air defence system units are "ongoing" as both countries continue to solidify the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.

In an exclusive chat with IANS, Alipov, while citing various Operation Sindoor reports, termed the performance of the S-400 system and jointly-manufactured BrahMos missiles as "exemplary".

"From what we know, India has clearly stated the goals and undertook actions after having identified the targets and the terrorists it promised to do. As far as we know, during the operation, the S-400 system was used and the BrahMos missiles were engaged. Judging by the reports available, the performance of these weapons was exemplary," Alipov told IANS.



India has longstanding and wide-ranging cooperation with Russia in the field of defence. The cooperation is guided by the IRIGC-M&MTC mechanism, headed by the Defence Ministers of both countries.

Longstanding and time-tested partners, both countries have been involved in several bilateral projects, including the supply

of S-400, licensed production of T-90 tanks and Su-30 MKI, supply of MiG-29 and Kamov helicopters, INS Vikramaditya (formerly Admiral Gorshkov), production of Ak-203 rifles in India and BrahMos missiles.

New Delhi and Moscow acknowledge that the military technical cooperation has evolved over time from a buyer-



Performance of S-400 air defence system and jointly-manufactured BrahMos missiles is 'exemplary', says Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov

down several incoming missiles from across the border.

Sources indicate that considering the strategic planning and military preparedness, New Delhi may soon procure more S-400 air defence systems soon.

"Our discussion, on this particular topic, as on many others, is ongoing. It is a continuous one, but it would be incorrect for me and also premature to speak about the results of it at the moment," confirmed Alipov.

He mentioned that Moscow is also "very satisfied" with the 'Made in India' BrahMos missiles, a product of joint collaboration with Russia.

"We have a joint venture, designing and producing of these weapons. We are very satisfied with the results of this collaboration. It has, very promising prospects. And, we wish, to expand on that track, as on many other, that we discussed are in the pipeline or are being implemented already," Alipov remarked.

seller framework to one involving joint research and development, co-development and joint production of advanced defence technology and systems.

As the Indian Armed Forces successfully retaliated and also inflicted significant losses on Pakistan earlier this month, the S-400 air defence system has been credited with shooting

Indian Navy to welcome two women officers after historic 50,000 km Sagar Parikrama

NEW DELHI, May 28 (IANS)

THE Indian Navy is all set to welcome the triumphant crew of Navika Sagar Parikrama II on the successful completion of circumnavigation of the Globe onboard Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini.

Accomplishing this rare feat in double-handed mode, young women officers of the Indian Navy, Lt Cdr Roopa A and Lt Cdr Dilna K, are set to touch the shores of Goa on May 29. This extraordinary sailing expedition was flagged off from the Naval Ocean Sailing Node, Goa, on October 2, 2024. Over a period of eight months, the Naval duo (famously called DilRo) covered a distance of 25,400 nm (approx 50,000km) across four continents, three oceans and three Great Capes, braving extreme weather conditions and challenging seas relying solely on sails and wind power.

The Flag-in ceremony of this landmark event will be presided over by the Defence Minister



Rajnath Singh at Mormugao Port, Goa, formally marking the culmination of the circumnavigation. According to the Ministry of Defence, the expedition symbolises India's maritime endeavours, showcasing the nation's prominence in global maritime activities and the Indian Navy's commitment to excellence and Nari

Shakti signifying the motto 'Courageous Hearts Boundless Seas'.

As the proud flag bearers of resurgent India, the duo commenced their circumnavigation with port calls at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttleton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Falkland Islands) and Cape Town (South

Africa). The officers engaged in numerous diplomatic and outreach engagements, interacting with parliamentarians, the Indian diaspora, school children, Naval cadets and university faculty across the globe. In a rare gesture, they were honoured as special invitees at the Western Australian Parliament in recognition of their achievements.

The Ministry said that their accomplishments received accolades from local communities, international sailing bodies and foreign parliaments, serving as a beacon of women empowerment, maritime excellence and national pride.

The crew encountered winds up to 50 knots (93 kmph) coupled with stormy weather conditions and extremely cold temperatures during the journey, setting the ultimate test of human endurance, perseverance and sailing skills. Though each leg had its own challenges, the third leg of the journey from Lyttleton to Port Stanley was one of the most arduous. The crew encountered

three cyclones, navigated through the treacherous Drake Passage and successfully rounded Cape Horn.

The circumnavigation highlights the unwavering spirit, exceptional valour, courage and perseverance of the officers amidst challenging conditions of the sea and nature, an official said.

During the voyage, the crew had the opportunity to interact with the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on the eve of International Women's Day. The Defence Minister congratulated the crew for their remarkable milestone and acknowledged the invaluable role of women in bolstering national security and reaffirming India's commitment to expanding opportunities for women in the Defence sector. Besides this, Adm Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, the Chief of the Naval Staff, also interacted with the crew on various occasions and commended their exemplary skills, professionalism, camaraderie and teamwork.

India to be growth engine of South Asia in '25: WEF

NEW DELHI, May 28 (PTI)

CHIEF economists from across the world are the most optimistic about a strong economic expansion in South Asia, with India looking set to be the primary engine of growth in 2025 and 2026, a new survey showed on Wednesday.

The chief economists, however, warned of the overall global growth coming under strain from trade policy shocks and AI disruption, the World Economic Forum (WEF) said in its latest 'Chief Economists Outlook' report.

A majority of surveyed economists saw the current US economic poli-

cy as having a lasting global impact, with 87 per cent expecting it to delay strategic business decisions and heighten recession risks.

The global growth outlook was divided, with weak prospects in North America, resilience in Asia-Pacific and cautious optimism in Europe.

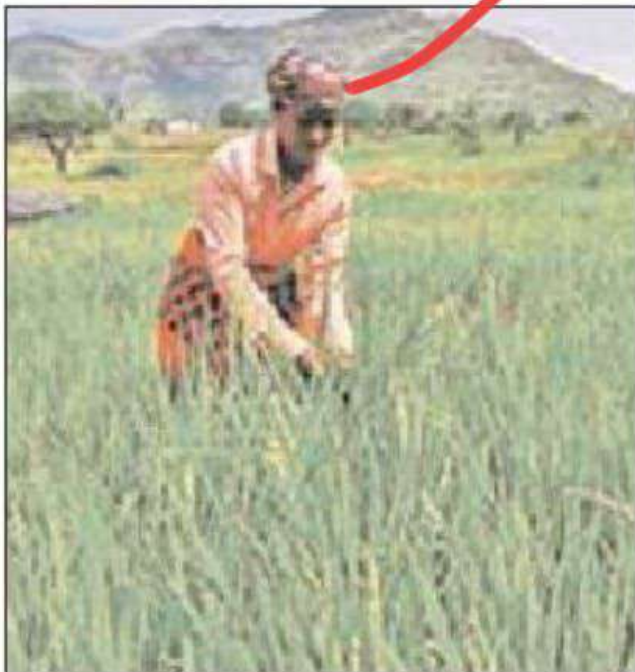
"The outlook for China remains muted, and the chief economists were divided over whether it will reach its target of 5 per cent GDP growth this year.

"Optimism remains highest for South Asia, where 33 per cent expect strong or very strong growth this year," the WEF said.

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Govt raises paddy MSP by 3% MSP of pulses, oilseeds raised by up to 9pc

NEW DELHI, May 28 (PTI)



THE Centre on Wednesday raised the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy by 3 per cent (Rs 69) to Rs 2,369 per quintal, while up to 9 per cent rise in pulses and oilseeds rates for the 2025-26 kharif marketing season. The Agriculture Ministry's proposal on MSP for the new kharif season was approved in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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EXTENSIVE DAMAGES

OPERATION SINDHUR

This heavily protected complex with double fencing might have served as storage for special equipments or as shelter for personnel, said Damien Symon, a defence analyst.

IAF strikes created 3-meter wide crater at Murid air base: New satellite images

NEW DELHI, May 28 (IANS)

PAKISTAN'S Murid air base suffered extensive damages, in May 10 strikes by the Indian Air Force (IAF), destroying not just its buildings and concrete structures but also damaged the underground facility at the vital air station, fresh satellite images revealed on Wednesday.

The high-resolution satellite images shared by the Intel Lab on X, shows a three-metre wide crater, just 30 metres from one of the two entrances at the strategic air base. The damages to buildings and rooftops of structures at the Murid air base, a hub of Pakistani drone and missiles, have already been



April 16 high-resolution satellite image shows (L) undamaged building at Murid air base. (R) Post-strikes image shows structural damages.

documented in the satellite imageries, earlier.

The fresh satellite images have been shared on X by the defence analyst Damien Symon. He has been instrumental in digging out details of destruction at Pakistan's crucial airbases – from structural to underground complex damages.

"This complex is heavily protected with double fencing, has its own watch-towers and access control, thus making it a high-value target. This site might have been made to withstand any bombardment and might have served as storage for special equipments or as shelter for personnel," said

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