

India's defence exports crossed record **Rs 21,000 crore**: Rajnath

■ Our Correspondent
and Agencies
MHOW (MP), Dec 30

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh said on Monday that India's defence exports have crossed a record Rs 21,000 crore from Rs 2,000 crore a decade ago.

Addressing officers at the Army War College (AWC) in more than two-centuries-old Mhow Cantonment, Singh said a target has been set to achieve defence exports of Rs 50,000 crore by 2029. He said mastering frontier technologies is the need of the hour in the constantly evolving times, noting that military training centres are playing a crucial role in equipping and readying soldiers to deal with future challenges.

"Our defence exports, which were around Rs 2,000 crore a decade ago, have crossed the record figure of Rs 21,000 crore today. We have set an export target of Rs 50,000 crore by 2029," Singh said. He said Made-in-India equipment is being exported to other countries. Singh mentioned



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Upendra Dwivedi and others during his visit at Army War College, at Mhow, in Indore district of Madhya Pradesh on Monday.

radical changes in warfare in his speech, saying that unconventional methods like information warfare, Artificial Intelligence

(AI)-based warfare, proxy warfare, electromagnetic warfare, space warfare, and cyber-attacks are posing a big challenge. He

stressed the need for the military to be well-trained and equipped to fight off such attacks and
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Former US President Jimmy Carter passes away at 100

■ By Lalit K Jha

WASHINGTON, Dec 30 (PTI)

JIMMY Carter, the 39th US President and the third American head to make a trip to India, during which a village in Haryana was named Carterpuri in his honour, has died peacefully at his home in Plains, Georgia surrounded by his family.

Carter, who died Sunday at 100, was the longest-lived President in US history.

"Today, America and the world lost an extraordinary leader, statesman and humanitarian," President Joe Biden said in a statement.

Carter is survived by his children -- Jack, Chip, Jeff, and Amy; 11 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren. He was prede-



ceased by his wife Rosalynn and one grandchild.

"My father was a hero, not only to me but to everyone who believes in peace, human rights,

and unselfish love," Chip Carter said. Carter, a Democrat who served a single term from 1977 to 1981, had been in home
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Carter a statesman of great vision: PM Modi

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday condoled the demise of former US President Jimmy Carter and praised him as a statesman of great vision who worked tirelessly for global peace and harmony.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of former USA President Mr. Jimmy Carter. A statesman of great vision, he worked tirelessly for global peace and
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DEFENCE MINISTRY SIGNS Rs 2,867 crore contract for Kalvari-class sub torpedos



NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (PTI)

THE Defence Ministry on Monday signed two key contracts with a cumulative worth of nearly Rs 2,867 crore for development of capabilities to enhance endurance of conventional submarines and for integration of electronic heavy weight torpedo (EHWT) onboard the Kalvari-class submarines.

While the first contract with Mumbai's Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited is worth around Rs 1,990 crore, the second one with Naval Group, France, is worth Rs 877 crore, according to a statement issued by the Ministry. Both contracts were signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi.

"The Ministry of Defence has signed two contracts, worth approximately Rs 2,867 crore, for the construction of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) Plug for DRDO-AIP system and its integration onboard Indian Submarines; and the integration of electronic heavy weight torpedo (EHWT) onboard the Kalvari-class submarines," the statement said.

The AIP technology is being indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). "The project pertaining to construction of AIP-Plug and its integration will enhance the endurance of conventional submarines and significantly contribute towards the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative. It would generate employment of nearly three lakh man-days," it added. The integration of EHWT onboard the Kalvari-class submarines will be a collaborative effort by the Indian Navy, the DRDO and Naval Group, France, the Ministry said.

"It would greatly augment the firepower capabilities of Kalvari-class submarines of the Indian Navy," the statement said.

INDIA'S ORBITAL DOCKING

2 spacecraft injected into orbit, ISRO eyes ANOTHER TECH FEAT

SRIHARIKOTA, (Andhra Pradesh) (PTI)

TWO spacecraft that would aid ISRO in demonstrating space docking, a critical technology for future space missions got separated successfully and were placed into the desired orbit late on Monday, ISRO said.

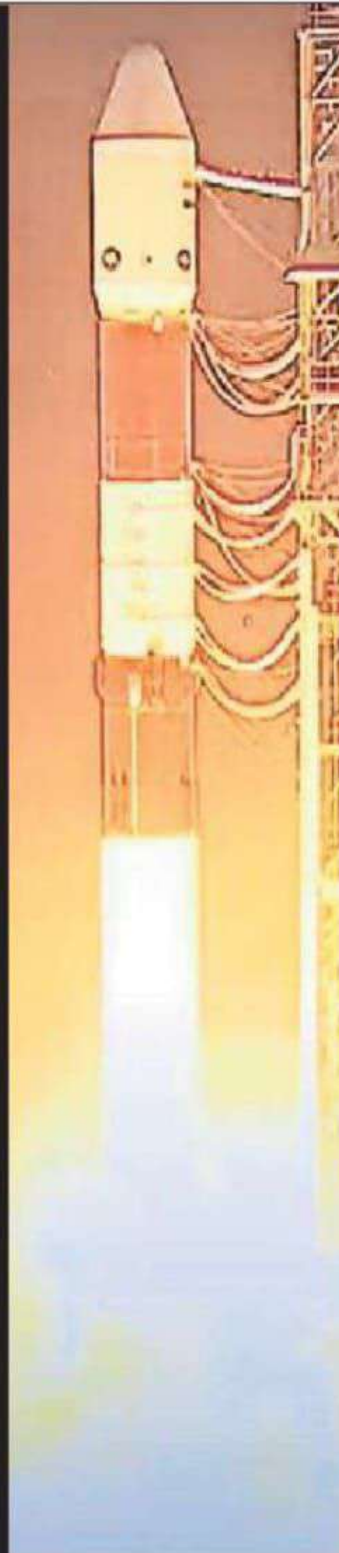
"PSLV C60 mission accomplished as of SpaDeX spacecraft is considered," said Mission director M Jayakumar.

ISRO chief S Somanath said the rocket has placed the satellites in the right orbit of 475 km circular orbit, after over 15 minutes of flight.

"So, as far as we are concerned, the rocket has placed the spacecraft in the right orbit and the Spadex satellites have moved one behind the other, and over the period of time, it will pick up further distance, travel about 20 km away and then the rendezvous and docking process will start. And we hope that the docking process can happen in another one week and the nominal time is going to be approximately January 7," he said in his address from the Mission Control Center.

And in this mission the very important part is POEM-4 (which was currently on) with 24 payloads from startups, industries, academic institutions and also from ISRO centres, he said.

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S Korean authorities seek warrant to detain impeached President Yoon

SEOUL, Dec 30 (AP)

SOUTH Korean law enforcement officials on Monday requested a court warrant to detain impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol as they investigate whether his short-lived martial law decree on December 3 amounted to rebellion.

The Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials, which is leading a joint investigation with police and military authorities into the power grab that lasted only a few hours, confirmed it requested the warrant

from the Seoul Western District Court. They plan to question Yoon on charges of abuse of authority and orchestrating a rebellion. Yoon has dodged several requests by the joint investigation team and public prosecutors to appear for questioning and has also blocked searches of his offices. It's not clear whether the court will grant the warrant or whether Yoon can be compelled to appear for questioning.

Under the country's laws, locations potentially linked to military secrets cannot be seized or searched without the consent of

the person in charge, and it's unlikely that Yoon will voluntarily leave his residence if he faces detention. Yoon's presidential powers were suspended after the National Assembly voted to impeach him on December 14 over his imposition of martial law that lasted only hours but has triggered weeks of political turmoil, halted high-level diplomacy and rattled financial markets. Yoon's fate now lies with the Constitutional Court, which has begun deliberations on whether to uphold the impeachment and formally remove Yoon from office

or reinstate him.

Yoon has defended the martial law decree as a necessary act of governance, describing it as a warning against the liberal Opposition Democratic Party, which has been bogging down his agenda with its majority in the Parliament.

Parliament voted last week to also impeach Prime Minister Han Duck-soo, who had assumed the role of acting President after Yoon's powers were suspended, over his reluctance to fill three Constitutional Court vacancies ahead of the court's review.