

DRDO conducts high-altitude trials

Indigenous life support system for pilots onboard Tejas jets

NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (PTI)

THE Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted high-altitude trials of an indigenous life support system for pilots onboard Tejas Light Combat Aircraft.

The Defence Ministry said cutting-edge life support systems have been designed to generate and regulate breathable oxygen for pilots during flight, eliminating dependence on traditional cylinder-based oxygen.

The trials were conducted on Tuesday.

With appropriate modifications, the system can also be adapted for use in MiG-29K and other aircraft, the Ministry said.

"The Defence Bio-Engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory, a Bengaluru-based lab under the DRDO successfully conducted high-altitude trials of the Indigenous On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS)-based Integrated Life Support System (ILSS) for the LCA Tejas aircraft on March 4," the it said.

The ILSS underwent rigorous testing on the LCA-prototype vehicle-3 aircraft of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) meeting stringent aeromedical standards in varied flight conditions, including altitudes of up to 50,000 feet above mean sea level and high-G maneuvers, it added.

"Following flight clearance from Centre for Military Airworthiness & Certification (CEMILAC), the system successfully met all specified parameters," the Ministry said in a statement.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO, the Indian Air Force,

■ Life support systems have been designed to generate and regulate breathable oxygen for pilots during flight, eliminating dependence on traditional cylinder-based oxygen.

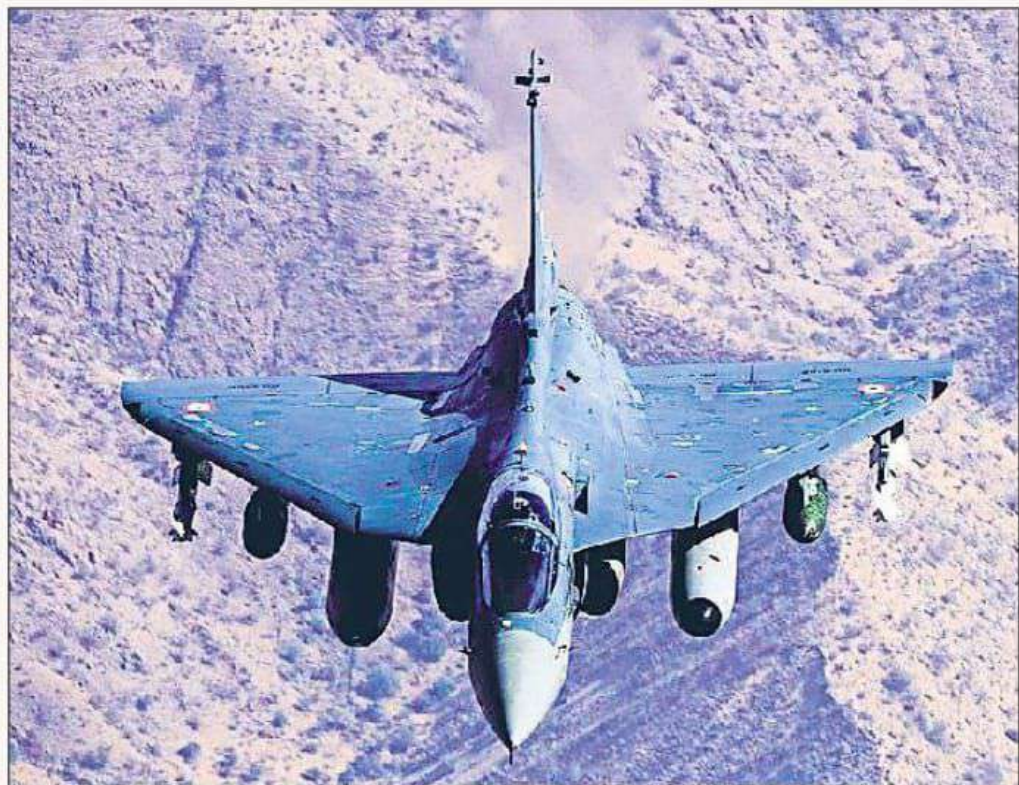
Public Sector Undertakings, and industry partners on the "remarkable achievement".

Singh emphasised that this development reinforces India's commitment to cutting-edge defence technologies and aligns with the vision of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'.

The system has been manufactured by L&T as a development cum production partner of the DRDO, reflecting a significant collaboration between the premier defence research institution and defence industries.

The ILSS has 90 percent indigenous content, furthering India's self-reliance in aerospace technology, according to the Ministry.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Samir VKamat lauded the DRDO team, the IAF, and industry partners for their contributions towards the successful high-altitude trial of the Indigenous ILSS for LCA Tejas.



Discussed ties, FTA, Ukraine conflict with UK PM: Jaishankar



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Chevening Scholars from India, at the Chevening House in London. (PTI)

LONDON, Mar 5 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on British Prime Minister Keir Starmer at 10 Downing Street in London on Tuesday evening to convey “warm greetings” from Prime Narendra Modi.

Jaishankar said bilateral cooperation and the UK’s perspective on the Russia-Ukraine conflict were among the topics covered during his meeting with the UK PM. “Discussed taking forward our bilateral, economic cooperation and enhancing people to people exchanges.

PM Starmer also shared the UK’s perspective on the Ukraine conflict,” Jaishankar said in a social media post. Earlier on Tuesday, the External Affairs Minister (EAM) held a series of ministerial dialogues on the first day of his six-day visit covering the UK and Ireland. During a

meeting with UK Business and Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, the ministers discussed the progress of the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations.

“Discussed the progress on our FTA talks,” Jaishankar said in a post on X after his meeting with Reynolds. India and the UK had officially relaunched the negotiations, aimed at boosting the GBP 41-billion annual bilateral trade partnership, during the UK minister’s visit to Delhi last month.

This was followed by a meeting with Home Secretary Yvette Cooper, which touched upon people-to-people ties and joint India-UK efforts to tackle extremism. “We discussed the flow of talent, people to people exchanges, and joint efforts in tackling trafficking and extremism,” Jaishankar stated. In a

(Contd on page 5)

From April 2: Trump's reciprocal tariffs against India, China

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Mar 5 (PTI)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump criticised the high tariffs charged by India and other countries including China, calling it "very unfair" and announcing reciprocal tariffs will kick in from next month.

In his address to a Joint Session of the US Congress, the President said that the reciprocal tariffs will commence from April 2.

"Other countries have used tariffs against us for decades and now it's our turn to start using them against those other countries. On average, the European Union, China, Brazil, India, - Mexico and Canada - Have you heard of them -and countless other nations charge us tremendously higher tariffs than we charge them. It's very unfair," Trump said Tuesday night.

Trump's address to the Joint Session of the Congress on Tuesday was the first of his second term in the White House. On January 20, Trump was sworn-in as the 47th President of the US.

"India charges us auto tariffs higher than 100%," he continued.

In February, President Trump has said that his administration will "soon" impose reciprocal tariffs on countries such as India and China, reiterating what he had said during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the US capital last month.

(Contd on page 5)

PM Modi meets Japanese business delegation, vows to deepen economic collaboration

NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met a Japanese business delegation and said he is looking forward to deepening economic collaboration with Japan, India's special strategic and global partner.

During the meeting, discussions focused on areas of high-quality, low-cost manufacturing in India and expanding manufacturing for global markets with a special emphasis on Africa. A statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the delegation from the Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee (JIBCC) comprising 17 members and led by its Chairman Tatsuo Yasunaga called on Prime Minister Modi.

After talks with the Japanese dele-



gation, PM Modi said he was encouraged by their expansion plans in India and steadfast commitment to 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

The delegation included senior leaders from leading Japanese corporate

houses across key sectors such as manufacturing, banking, airlines, pharma sector, plant engineering and logistics.

"Pleased to meet the Japanese business delegation led by Tatsuo Yasunaga today. Encouraged by their expansion plans in India and steadfast commitment to 'Make in India, Make for the World,'" Modi said in a post on X.

"Looking forward to deepening economic collaboration with Japan, our special strategic and global partner," the Prime Minister said.

Yasunaga briefed the Prime Minister on the upcoming 48th Joint meeting of Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee with its Indian counterpart, the India-Japan Business Cooperation Committee, which is scheduled to be held on March 6, 2025 in New Delhi.

Anju Rathi Rana appointed 1st ever woman Law Secy

NEW DELHI, Mar 5 (PTI)

ANJU Rathi Rana, an Indian Legal Service officer, was on Wednesday appointed the new Union Law Secretary.

She is the first woman to be appointed Secretary, Legal Affairs, who is also called the Law Secretary. Rana joined the Law Ministry as a joint Secretary in 2017. Prior to that, she was a public prosecutor in the Delhi Government for 18 years. A notification announcing her appointment was issued on Wednesday.

Niten Chandra, an IAS officer, was the last Law Secretary and the post was lying vacant for the past few months.



Trump says, Zelenskyy ready for peace, agreement on minerals and security

WASHINGTON, DC, Mar 5 (ANI)

US President Donald Trump said that he has received a letter from his Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Tuesday, where he expressed Ukraine's readiness to come to a negotiating table to bring lasting peace closer. Trump said that Zelenskyy also expressed Ukraine's willingness to sign the agreement on minerals and security.

Addressing a joint session of Congress on Tuesday (local time), Trump said that he appreciated the letter he received from Zelenskyy. He stated that his administration had serious discussion with Russia and they have strong signals that Moscow is ready for peace.

He said, "Earlier today, I received an important letter from President Zelenskyy of Ukraine. The letter reads: 'Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than the Ukrainians,' he said. "My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong leadership to get a peace that lasts. We do really value how much America has done to help Ukraine maintain its sovereignty and independ-



ence. Regarding the agreement on minerals and security, Ukraine is ready to sign it at any time that is convenient for you."

"I appreciate that he sent this letter, just got it a little while ago. Simultaneously, we've had serious discussion with Russia and have received strong signals that they are ready for peace. Wouldn't that be beautiful? It's time to stop this madness. It's time to halt the killing. It's time to end this senseless war. If you want to end wars, you have to talk to both sides," he added.

Zelenskyy's letter to Trump comes after his verbal clash with US President and Vice President JD Vance at the White House on Friday. This shouting match between the leaders was wit-

nessed by White House officials, media persons and other Ukrainian officials.

Trump stated that he is making efforts to end the conflict in Ukraine and said that 2000 people are being killed each week during the ongoing war between Moscow and Kyiv. He stated that the US has sent billions of dollars to support Ukraine's defence with no security. He said the Biden administration has spent more money in the Ukraine fight than Europe has spent.

"I'm also working tirelessly to end the savage conflict in Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians and Russians have been needlessly killed or wounded in this horrific and brutal conflict, with no end in sight. The United States

has sent hundreds of billions of dollars to support Ukraine's defence, with no security, with no way. Do you want to keep it going for another five years? Yeah, yeah, you would say, 'Pocahontas says yes.' 2000 people are being killed every single week, more than that. They are Russian young people. They're Ukrainian young people. They're not Americans. But I want it to stop. Meanwhile, Europe has sadly spent more money buying Russian oil and gas than they have spent on defending Ukraine by far. Think of that," Donald Trump said.

"They've spent more buying Russian oil and gas than they have defending. And we've spent perhaps USD 350 billion, like taking candy from a baby. That's what happened and they've spent USD 100 billion. What a difference that is. And we have an ocean separating us. And they don't. But we're getting along very well with them. And lots of good things are happening. Biden has authorised more money in this fight than Europe has spent by billions and billions of dollars. It's hard to believe that they wouldn't have stopped it and said at some point, come on, let's equalize. You got to be equal to us. That didn't happen," he added.

India, Nepal take stock of cross-border railway projects

NEW DELHI, Mar 4 (PTI)

NEPAL has assured India that it will take steps for early commencement and completion of work on the remaining sections of the Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas and Jogbani-Biratnagar cross-border railway lines.

The railway lines are being laid with financial support from New Delhi.

Issues relating to various cross-border railway links were discussed during the meetings of the India-Nepal Project Steering Committee and Joint Working Group, which were held in New Delhi from February 27-28.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday said that both sides discussed the ongoing works of Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas and Jogbani-Biratnagar broad gauge railway lines between India and Nepal.

The railway links are being developed with grant assistance from India.

"The preparedness for the commencement of work on the remaining sections of the two railway lines, from Bijalpura to Bardibas on Jaynagar-Bijalpura-Bardibas and from Nepal Custom Yard to Biratnagar on Jogbani-Biratnagar, was also reviewed," the MEA said.