

MoD signs **Rs 26,000cr** contract for Su-30MKI engines with HAL

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

THE Defence Ministry on Monday sealed a Rs 26,000-crore deal with State-run aerospace major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the procurement of 240 aero engines for Su-30MKI aircraft.

The aero-engines will be manufactured by the Koraput division of HAL and are expected to fulfil the need of the Indian Air Force to sustain the operational capability of the Su-30 fleet.

In a major boost to the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative, the Defence Ministry signed a contract with HAL for 240 AL-31FP aero engines for Su-30MKI aircraft at a cost of over Rs 26,000 crore, an official readout said.

The contract agreement was



The supply of all 240 AL-31FP aero engines would be completed over the next 8 years

Inked by senior officials of the Ministry and the HAL in the presence of Defence Secretary Girdhar Aramane and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

The HAL would supply 30 aero-engines annually as per the contractual delivery schedule.

The supply of all 240 engines would be completed over the next eight years, according to the defence ministry.

"During manufacturing, HAL plans to take support from the country's defence manufacturing ecosystem, involving MSMEs and public and private industries," it said.

Army, IAF sign MoU with GSV to boost logistics ops

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

THE Indian Army and the IAF on Monday signed an agreement with Vadodra-based Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), as Defence Minister described the collaboration



Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw with Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and other officers after Army and Indian Air Force signed an MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. (PTI)

as a "monumental partnership" towards further strengthening the logistics backbone of the Armed Forces in sync with the vision of 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence.

The Memorandum of Understanding will enable the two Services to acquire high-

er expertise on logistics. It will ensure development of in-house expertise on various facets of logistics operations and contribute effectively towards the national devel-

opment plans -- PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan 2021 and National Logistics Policy 2022, the Defence Ministry said in a statement. (Contd on page 5)

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

J&K polls: Omar, Karra, Raina among 239 candidates in fray for phase 2

JAMMU, Sept 9 (PTI)

A TOTAL of 239 candidates are in the fray from the 26 constituencies going to polls in the second phase of the three-phase Jammu and Kashmir assembly elections as 27 nominations were withdrawn on Monday.

Prominent among those are NC leader Omar Abdullah who is contesting from two seats, Pradesh Congress Committee Chief Tariq Hamid Karra, Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Ravinder Raina and jailed separatist leader Sarjan Ahmad Wagay alias Barkati.

According to a statement issued by the office of chief electoral officer, J&K, 27 can-

didates withdrew their candidature in the office of respective returning officers across six districts, leaving 239 candidates in the poll fray.

The highest nine candidates withdrew their nominations in Budgam district, followed by six in Srinagar district, five each in Rajouri and Poonch districts, and two in Reasi district. No candidate withdrew their nomination in Ganderbal district.

With this, 93 candidates remain in the final electoral fray in Srinagar district, followed by 46 in Budgam district, 34 in Rajouri district, 25 in Poonch district, 21 in Ganderbal district, and 20 in Reasi district, the statement said.

Cong releases 3rd list of 19 candidates

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

THE Congress on Monday released its third list for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls, fielding JKPC working president Raman Bhalla from RS Pura-Jammu South, Chaudhary Lal Singh from Basohli, and former NSUI chief Neeraj Kundan from Bishnah (SC).

With this list, the Congress has declared a total of 34 candidates for the Assembly polls.

India supports **Israel-Hamas ceasefire** 'as soon as possible', says Jaishankar

RIYADH, Sept 9 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday described the situation in Gaza as India's "foremost concern" and said New Delhi supports an Israel-Hamas ceasefire "as soon as possible".

Jaishankar made the remarks while speaking at the first India-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Ministerial Meeting for Strategic Dialogue in the Saudi capital. "The current situation in Gaza is now understandably our foremost concern. India's position in this regard has been principled and consistent. While we condemn acts of terrorism and hostage taking, we are deeply pained



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Oman Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi during a meeting in Riyadh. (PTI)

by the continuing death of innocent civilians," he said.

He said that any response must take into account the

principles of humanitarian law. "We support a ceasefire as soon as possible," he added.

(Contd on page 5)

India, UAE ink 4 energy sector pacts

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

INDIA and the United Arab Emirates on Monday inked four agreements to expand energy cooperation as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held wide-ranging talks with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, focusing on boosting overall strategic ties.

An Agreement for long-term LNG supply between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd and another between ADNOC and India Strategic Petroleum Reserve Ltd (ISPRL) are among the four pacts. Emirates Nuclear Energy Company (ENEC) and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd (NPCIL) also inked an



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan during a meeting at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Monday (PTI)

MoU for the operation and maintenance of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant, accord-

ing to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

(Contd on page 5)

PHOTO COURTESY

59 killed as storm hits Vietnam

HANOI, Sept 9 (AP)

A BRIDGE collapsed and a bus was swept away by flooding on Monday as more rain fell on northern Vietnam from a former typhoon that has caused at least 59 deaths in the Southeast Asian country, state media reported.

Nine people died during the typhoon, which made landfall in Vietnam on Saturday before weakening to a depression, and 50 others died during the consequent floods and landslides. The water levels of several rivers in northern Vietnam were dangerously high.

A passenger bus carrying 20 people was swept into a flooded stream by a landslide in mountainous Cao Bang province on Monday morning. Rescuers were deployed but landslides blocked the path to



A bridge collapse due to floods triggered by typhoon Yagi in Phu Tho province, Vietnam, on Monday. (AP/PTI)

where the incident took place.

In Phu Tho province, rescue operations were continuing after a steel bridge over the engorged Red River collapsed on Monday morning. Reports said 10 cars and trucks along

with two motorbikes fell into the river. Three people were pulled out of the river and taken to the hospital, but 13 others were missing.

Pham Truong Son, 50, told VNExpress that he was driving

on the bridge on his motorcycle when he heard a loud noise. Before he knew what was happening, he was falling into the river. "I felt like I was drowned to the bottom of the river," Son told the newspaper, adding that he managed to swim and hold on to a drifting banana tree to stay afloat before he was rescued. Typhoon Yagi was the strongest typhoon to hit Vietnam in decades when it made landfall on Saturday with winds up to 149 kph. It weakened to a tropical depression on Sunday, but the country's meteorological agency has still warned the continuing downpours could cause floods and landslides. On Sunday, a landslide killed six people including an infant and injured nine others in Sa Pa town, a popular trekking base known for its terraced rice fields.

US announces partnership with India in semiconductor

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

IN A significant move, the US State Department on Monday announced a partnership with India to diversify the global semiconductor ecosystem under the International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) fund.

The initial phase of the partnership includes a comprehensive assessment of India's existing semiconductor ecosystem and regulatory framework, as well as workforce and infrastructure needs.

The State Department said the partnership with India's semiconductor mission under the Ministry of Electronics and IT underscores the potential to expand New Delhi's semi-

conductor industry to the benefit of both nations.

The US Department of State will partner with the India semiconductor mission, the Ministry of Electronics and IT, to explore opportunities to grow and diversify the global semiconductor ecosystem under the International Technology Security and Innovation (ITSI) Fund, created by the CHIPS Act of 2022, a US readout shared by its embassy said.

"This partnership will help create a more resilient, secure, and sustainable global semiconductor value chain," it said.

The initial phase of the partnership includes a comprehensive assessment of India's existing semiconductor ecosys-

tem and regulatory framework, as well as workforce and infrastructure needs, it said.

"The United States and India are key partners in ensuring the global semiconductor supply chain keeps pace with the global digital transformation currently underway," the readout said.

"Manufacturing of essential products ranging from vehicles to medical devices relies on the strength and resilience of the semiconductor supply chain," it said.

"This collaboration between the United States and India underscores the potential to expand India's semiconductor industry to the benefit of both nations," the US State Department added.

fighter's operational life.

IAF, Army & Navy vice-chiefs fly Tejas fighters in joint drill

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: IAF, Army and Navy vice-chiefs took to the skies in indigenous Tejas fighters Monday, in an 'unprecedented joint endeavour' aimed at underlining self-reliance in defence production as well as growing integration among the armed forces ahead of impending creation of tri-Service theatre commands in the country.

Air Marshal A P Singh flew the 'lead single-seat Tejas fighter', while Lt-General NS Raja Subramani and Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan flew in the twin-seat variant, during the ongoing multi-nation 'Tarang Shakti' exercise at Jodhpur.

"It was a landmark event. Their joint participation in the exercise demonstrates the growing focus on cross-domain cooperation, with land, sea and air forces working together to face modern challenges," an officer said.



(Left to right) Group Captain Chhetri, Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt General NS Raja Subramani, Vice Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal AP Singh, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and CO of 18 Squadron, Group Capt Samrat, during the Tarang Shakti exercise Monday

India is showcasing the homegrown single-engine Tejas during its largest-ever air combat exercise Tarang Shakti, in which 67 fighters and military aircraft from 10 countries are taking part. The aim is to strengthen India's military interoperability & strategic partnerships.

Tejas is crucial for IAF to make up its depleting numbers, grappling as it is with 30 fighter squadrons when 42 are authorised to tackle Chi-

na and Pakistan. IAF, however, has till now inducted 35-36 of the first 40 Tejas Mark-1 jets ordered for Rs 8,802 crore due to delays by PSU HAL.

There is also an ongoing delay in delivery timeframe of next 83 Tejas Mark-1A jets to IAF, contracted from HAL under the Rs 46,898 crore contract in Feb 2021. Reason for this is delay in supply of GE-F404 turbofan jet engines, which currently power the jets, to HAL by US firm GE.

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan unveils joint doctrine for amphibious operations

NEW DELHI, Sept 9 (PTI)

CHIEF of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan on Monday unveiled a joint doctrine for amphibious operations in a key move in the national security domain.

The doctrine, released at a meeting of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC), came as the Government is looking at implementing the ambitious theaterisation project.

The release of the key document came nearly three months after the unveiling of the joint doctrine for cyberspace operations. It was aimed at guiding military commanders in conducting cyberspace operations.

"In a landmark event, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan released the joint doctrine for amphibious operations during the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting," the Defence Ministry said.

"The doctrine is a keystone publication which will provide guidance to the commanders for the conduct of amphibious operations in today's complex military environment, it said.

The amphibious capability empowers the armed forces to conduct a multitude of operations in the Indian Ocean



Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari and others during the release of the Joint Doctrine for Amphibious Operations during the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting, in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI)

Region, both during war and peace. "These operations are a crucial component of multi-domain operations and serve as the best example of the cohesion and integration amongst the armed forces," the Defence Ministry said.

The doctrine provides due

focus on jointness and integration of armed forces in general and amphibious operations in particular.

The Government has been focusing on boosting synergy among the armed forces as it looks at rolling out the theatre commands.