

# India successfully test-fires long-range cruise missile

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (PTI)

INDIA on Tuesday successfully carried out the maiden flight-test of a Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile from an integrated test range off the coast of Odisha. The Defence Ministry said all sub-systems of the missile system performed as per expectation and met the primary mission objectives.

It said the missile followed the desired path using way point navigation and demonstrated its capability to perform various manoeuvres while flying at various altitudes and speeds.

The missile is also equipped with advanced avionics and software to ensure better and reliable performance.

'The Defence Research and Development Organisation

(DRDO) completed the maiden flight-test of Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) from the integrated test range Chandipur off the coast of Odisha from a mobile articulated launcher,' the ministry said.

It said the missile performance was monitored by several range sensors like radar, electro optical tracking system and telemetry deployed at different

locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path. LRLACM has been developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru along with contribution from other DRDO laboratories and Indian industries. Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad and Bharat Electronics Limited, Bengaluru are the two development-cum-production-partners for

LRLACM and they are engaged in the missile development and integration.

The test was witnessed by senior scientists from various DRDO laboratories along with the representatives from the three Services, the users of the system.

LRLACM is a Defence Acquisition Council-approved mission mode project.

It is configured to launch from

ground using mobile articulated launcher and also from front-line ships using universal vertical launch module system, officials said. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented DRDO, armed forces, and the industry on the successful maiden flight test.

It paves the way for future indigenous cruise missile development programmes, he said.

# COUNTER -TERRORISM POLICY

*"We need to work together to fight terrorism, terrorists and their ecosystem. And that's why, we will soon bring a new national counter-terrorism policy and strategy."*

-Home Minister Amit Shah

**I**N THE recently concluded "Anti-Terrorism Conference 2024" held at New Delhi, Home Minister Amit Shah committed that India will soon come out with a new national counter-terrorism (CT) policy and strategy. While our track record in dealing with terrorism has improved, it is also a fact that our security agencies continue to struggle with the evolving nature of terrorism. The recent hoax threats to airlines, hotels, schools and malls are some of the examples of various shades of terrorism as also the ability of the law of the land to deal with such challenges. As rightly highlighted by the Home Minister, terrorism does not follow geographical boundaries and areas of jurisdiction, as familiar to our policing.

Terrorism has afflicted most of the nations in the last fifty years or so but surprisingly there is no universally accepted definition of terrorism. Your terrorist is my freedom fighter is often quoted as the reason for not accepting any nuanced definition. Even after the 9/11 attacks in the USA, which led to the aggressive US led global war on terrorism, terrorism has flourished in one way or another throughout the world. Each country has largely fought terrorism in stand-alone mode and there has not been much coordination among the nations to come out with a definite plan to tackle terrorism right from the grass roots level.

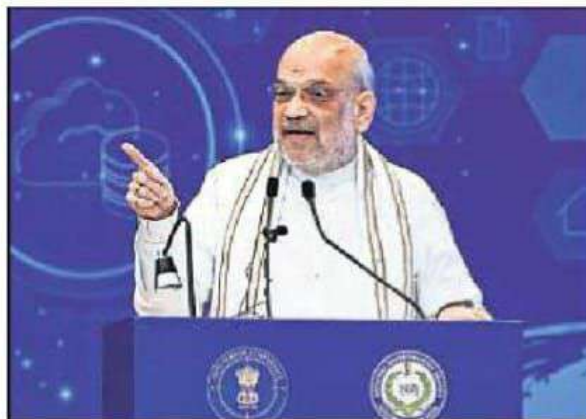
Prime Minister Modi has been advocating the idea of an acceptable definition of terrorism in various international forum including the United Nations but unfortunately there has not been much agreement.

Indian Army's Sub Conventional Doctrine, published in 2006 and made available in the public domain has defined "Terrorism is the unlawful use or the threatened use of force or violence against people or property to terrorise, coerce or intimidate governments or societies; this is most often resorted to with the aim of achieving political, religious or ideological objectives."

A universally accepted definition is unlikely to come

■ **LT GEN MK DAS, PVSM, SM\*\*, VSM (RETD)**

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Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah addresses the Anti-Terror Conference - 2024, at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi on November 7, 2024. (ANI)

*Even as Home Minister Amit Shah recently committed that India will soon come out with a new national counter-terrorism (CT) policy and strategy, the most challenging part of the new policy is going to be Centre-State coordination and synergy. The internal political dynamics of States which lead to dissonance even in the matters of national security has been a major failure of India's federal structure. Law & Order is a State subject but terrorism which does not follow any boundaries cannot be a purely State subject.*

any time soon but the definition propagated by the Indian Army should meet our immediate and medium-term legal obligations. Indian Army which has the experience of tackling terrorism in some form or another, right from the Pak aided and abetted 1947-48 tribal invasion of Kashmir, which was a classical case of state sponsored terrorism. It continues to tackle terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and India's North East till this day and thus Indian Army has to remain embedded in any future CT strategy of India.

Next important step in the policy should be clearly

delineate the responsibility and accountability in the fight against terrorism. A large number of agencies have come up both at the Centre and State/UT level and at times, they work at cross purposes and sometimes do not have much synergy among themselves. While CRPF has been designated as the CT Force amongst the para military forces, we still find other para military forces operating in CT domain. The States have come up with their own forces to deal with terrorism and Naxal threat. Indian Army has Rashtriya Rifles (RR) and Assam Rifles (AR)

as the designated CT Force. The proposed policy has to offer clear guidelines in a CT and for a particular State, area or region with clear accountability in case of failure. The strategy can postulate the combination of forces best suited to tackle the menace of terrorism in most effective way. One of the key essentials is seamless communication which still remains a challenge among the various security agencies.

The new CT policy also has to clearly define Human Rights (HR) from the perspective of terrorism. The issue of HR in the fight against terrorism has been the biggest stumbling block for the security forces. Unlike basic HR which is available to a criminal, a terrorist can only be given the shield of HR which justifies strong action against a scourge that affects the whole society.

The most challenging part of the new policy is going to be Centre-State coordination and synergy. The internal political dynamics of States which lead to dissonance even in the matters of national security has been a major failure of India's federal structure. Law & Order is a State subject but terrorism which does not follow any boundaries cannot be a purely State subject. The States take any action by Central agencies as infringement of their domain and often it leads to friction between the security forces and Intelligence agencies. The assurance of the Home Minister that the new policy in no way would reduce the rights of the States is welcome. The proposed model Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and model Special Task Force (STF) appears to be good step to bring common structures and platforms which can be adopted by the States to fight terror more efficiently. Here I would like to suggest deputation of experienced Army officers to the states as part of ATS and STF.

The international dimension of terrorism should also be enunciated in the new policy. The strategy on diplomatic engagement, foreign assistance and information sharing should evolve, particularly at a time when India has regained its status as a responsible global player. The new CT policy should be discussed and analysed before it is finalised and should remain apolitical discourse, in the larger security interest of India.



# Delhi chokes as AQI remains above 300, residents demand long-term solution

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (ANI)

RESIDENTS in Delhi urged the administration to check on the alarming level of pollution in the national capital demanding long-term solution as the Air Quality Index (AQI) continue to remain in the 'very poor' category for the second week post-Diwali.

Several parts of the city was covered in smog on Tuesday morning with many residents complaining difficulty in breathing amid the deteriorating air quality.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) data, the Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi was recorded at 355 as of 8 am today, categorised as 'very poor.'

Varun, a cyclist at Kartavya Path, said, "I have been staying in Delhi for the last 25 years, I have been cycling here regularly from last two to three years, the pollution increases during this period only, government focuses only on crackers but they



A thin layer of smog envelops Bhikaiji Cama Place area as the air quality categorised as 'very poor' according to the Central Pollution Control Board, in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI)

are not the main reason behind this. The main reason is stubble burning in the nearby States."

Another Delhi resident, Ankit Sachdeva, said, "We pay taxes to the Government for facilities but we have to fix this as well. Government needs to check pollution." Ashok Vihar recorded an

AQI of 390, Dwarka Sector 8 at 367, DTU at 366, Jahangiripuri at 417, Lodhi Road at 313, Mundka at 404, Najafgarh at 355, Narela at 356, as per SAFAR India.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in the Anand Vihar area dipped to 'severe' category, as per the CPCB data.

# India confident of reaching \$100 bn trade with Russia ahead of 2030 timeline: EAM

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (PTI)

**INDIA** is confident of achieving USD 100 billion in annual bilateral trade with Russia well ahead of the timeline of 2030 and a more substantive relationship between the two nations has a larger global resonance, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Tuesday.

There have been challenges to trade, especially with regard to payments and logistics and perceptible progress has been made

in that regard, but there is still some work to be done, he said. The External Affairs Minister was speaking at the 25th India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC).

The Russian delegation at the meeting was led by First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov.

In his televised opening remarks at the 25th session of the (IRIGC-TEC), Jaishankar said the



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Russia's first Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov during the 25th meeting of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission, in New Delhi. (PTI)

trade between the two countries needs to be "more balanced and that would require addressing current constraints and undertaking greater facilitative efforts."

"As two major nations in an increasingly multipolar world, a more substantive relationship between us has a larger resonance," he said.

The External Affairs Minister said New Delhi welcomes and fully reciprocates Moscow's growing interest in exploring economic opportunities in India.



# COP29 adopts establishment of global carbon market under Paris Pact's Art 6

■ By Uzmi Athar  
BAKU, Nov 12 (PTI)

**I**N A landmark decision on the first day of the global climate talks here, COP29 has officially adopted the new operational standards for a mechanism of the Paris Agreement under Article 6, setting the stage for a global carbon market.

This adoption of article 6.4, achieved during the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), sets the stage for operationalising Article 6, which has faced years of deadlock. Article 6 of the Paris Agreement facilitates international collaboration to lower carbon emissions.

It offers two pathways for countries and companies to trade carbon offsets, supporting the achievement of emission reduction targets set in their climate action plans, or nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The first option, known as Article 6.2, allows two countries to establish a bilateral carbon trading agreement under their own terms.

The second, Article 6.4, seeks to develop a centralised, UN-managed system to enable both countries and companies to offset and trade carbon emissions.

The Article 6.4 Supervisory Body, tasked with creating a United Nations-governed carbon market, finalised essential standards covering carbon removal projects and methodology guidance.

These include guidelines on the development and assessment of

## Developing countries must not leave Baku empty-handed: UN Secy-General



Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, speaks during a plenary session at the COP29 UN Climate Summit, on Tuesday in Baku, Azerbaijan. (AP/PTI)

■ By Uzmi Athar  
BAKU, Nov 12 (PTI)

**UN SECRETARY-GENERAL**  
Antonio Guterres on Tuesday urged

methodologies and requirements for carbon removal activities. While previously delayed by conflicting views over transparency and quality, the early adoption of these standards is intended to streamline carbon market operations.

Despite the historic agreement, concerns arose over the process. Some delegates questioned whether the Presidency's swift push to adopt these standards at the start of COP29 undermined traditional governance procedures.

Negotiations had previously fal-

tered due to divergent views on how permanent and reliable carbon credits should be. At COP28, disputes over forest credits and deforestation risks hindered progress, leading some stakeholders to worry that the expedited adoption at COP29 could set a precedent for sidestepping scrutiny. Environmental organisations expressed cautious optimism.

John Verdick, Global Climate Policy Lead at The Nature Conservancy, noted, "The Art 6.4 decision is a helpful start to COP29." (Contd on page 5)

world leaders to ensure that COP29 must tear down the walls of climate finance, warning that "developing countries must not leave Baku empty-handed". Addressing the opening ceremony of the World Leaders Climate Action Summit at COP29 here, Guterres sought urgent measures to support developing nations, which are bearing the brunt of climate-fuelled catastrophes despite contributing relatively little to global emissions. "The rich cause the problem, the poor pay the highest price," Guterres said, pointing out that developing nations face disproportionate impacts from climate change, such as food insecurity, (Contd on page 5)

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# First all-women CISF reserve battalion soon

NEW DELHI, Nov 12 (PTI)

A FIRST-EVER all-women CISF reserve battalion comprising more than 1,000 personnel has been sanctioned by the Union Government keeping in mind the burgeoning duties of the force at airports and other vital installations. Officials told PTI that the unit will be raised from within the sanctioned manpower of the force of about two lakh personnel.

The Union Home Ministry issued a sanction order this week approving an exclusive women reserve unit in the force with a total strength of 1,025 personnel led by a senior commandant-rank officer, they said.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has 12 reserve battalions under its establishment at present.

As the name suggests, these units are kept



in reserve and used as reinforcement when the force gets a new job like temporary duties of conducting elections and permanent tasks of guarding an installation like the Parliament House complex that came under CISF cover this year, an official said. The force has a huge women interface at facilities like the 68 civil airports that it guards, the Delhi Metro and historical monuments like the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort.

# Do Today's Wars Really Ever End?

The largest share of them fizzles away from global discourse but continues on a low ebb. Involvement of foreign govts doesn't help. Trump, therefore, has his task cut out in Ukraine and West Asia

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Politics doesn't thrive on qualifiers. So, when Donald Trump says in his victory speech that he is "going to stop wars" or promises in his election campaign that he is going to end Russia's war in Ukraine "in 24 hours" and "have peace in the Middle East", he probably doesn't mean it literally. But assume for a moment that he did, notwithstanding his fickle relationship with truth and meaning. What would that end of war look like?

Probably not as dramatic as most would imagine.

Less than one-third of armed conflicts since World War II have ended with a definite victory for a side, data from Uppsala University's Conflict Data Program show. What happened to the rest? Over a quarter ended with peace treaties or ceasefire agreements – which is

does not figure in global discourse as a full-blown conflict anymore. It could be because one side has been weakened by another. Or it could be because one side is reframing its strategy. People may die, sporadically, unnoticed – because when have lower-than-critical-mass deaths ever counted?

It's not surprising, then, that low-activity conclusions have historically led to the recurrence of conflict most often. Of post-World War II conflicts that ended for a bit and were revived, just over 10% were those that ended with peace agreements and 46% concluded with low activity. Even ceasefires have had better long-term success rates.

This uncertain congealing of hostility has become more probable now. Before 2000, about 33% of conflicts used to die out with low

Uppsala conflict data shows that about 45% of conflicts that go on for more than a year simmer down into "low activity" against 35% of those that end within a year.

It's true that armed conflicts are likely to drag on for longer now – but only slightly more. Between World War II and the end of the 20th century, about 45% of conflicts would go on for more than a year. In the past two decades, nearly half the conflicts that eventually ended lasted for more than a year.

**Foreign hand** | What has changed massively is the involvement of foreign govts in conflicts that take place within a country. Before 2000, internationalised internal conflicts used to account for less than 10% of all conflicts. In the past two decades, that share has increased to nearly 30%. There has also been a change in how they end. When foreign govts would get involved in internal conflicts earlier, those battles would conclude with "low activity" 15% of the time – more than half would end in a definite victory for either side. Now, it winds down with a low-activity conclusion 60% of the time and victories about 7% of the time.

While there's no right way to end a war (except not starting one in the first place), this might be the least right of all.

Which brings us back to the US president-elect who wants to involve himself with the two major ongoing wars. His concern about the conflicts is said to be how expensive they are, echoing a loud Republican complaint. Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, US has sent out \$64bn in military aid to Ukraine. For Israel, it has spent about \$18bn since last Oct. Besides, who doesn't want to say they ended an entire war? (Two, at that.)

After all, war has been a cultural commodity for as long as people have expressed themselves creatively. But for that, the end of war has to be rendered with a flourish – a spirited closure with war heroes, treaties, surrenders and victory speeches. Blurry outcomes don't usually sit well with that.



activity. But in the past two decades, that share has shot up to more than half, 54%.

**A global trend** | It has happened across the globe – in regions that already had high rates of uncertain closures (like Asia, where it has gone from 48% before 2000 to 60% after) and in those with really low rates (like the Americas, where the share has surged from 9% to 43%). And it has happened across all types of conflict – interstate ones (from 26% before 2000 to 38% since) to internal ones (from 39% to 54%).

Logically, a low-activity tapering off is tied to the duration of fighting – the longer a war, the greater the chances of violence morphing into a kind of stasis. The

the best one could hope for. But about 40% fizzled away with "low activity", a situation in which the conflict slows down but does not exactly go away.

**Conflict on slow burn** | It's how the largest share of conflicts ends. The fighting continues in a reduced capacity. But because the number of deaths drops below a threshold (25 in a year in the Uppsala dataset), it