

Navy to buy indigenously developed Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles

NEW DELHI, Sept 17 (PTI)

A DEEP-TECH startup based in Odisha has inked a Rs 66-crore contract with the Indian Navy to manufacture indigenously developed Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles.

The start-up, Coratia Technologies, signed the agreement with the Indian Navy last week to supply two different underwater robots -- Jalasimha and Jaladuta, and Navya (ASV) -- enabling sonar-based mapping and real-time data analytics powered by AI and ML, serving a dual-use for defence and civil sectors.

"This is not only a recognition of our capability to design and manufacture mission-critical underwater systems but also symbolises the Navy's relentless efforts to strengthen India's research and innovation ecosystem through well-structured initiatives like the iDEX," said Debendra Pradhan, co-founder & CEO, Coratia Technologies.

The deep-tech robotics startup will sup-



ply and maintain its indigenously developed Underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (UWROVs).

The frugal design delivers advanced capabilities at significantly lower cost, marking India's first cost-efficient underwater robotics breakthrough, a statement from Coratia Technologies said. "Induction of indigenous UWROVs not only reduces costs and reliance on foreign suppliers but also combats trade restrictions and tariff uncertainties. We're here to unlock new possibilities for defence preparedness and supporting India's blue

economy," Biswajit Swain, co-founder & CTO of Coratia Technologies, said.

In July, Coratia Technologies raised Rs 17.4 crore in a pre-Series A round led by MGF Kavachh, supported by Pontaq Ventures India. It plans to deploy the funds to scale up R&D initiatives, IPR and increase exports to tap rising global demand.

The underwater robotics market size stands at USD 5.08 billion in 2025, and is pegged to reach USD 9.53 billion by 2030, according to Mordor Intelligence.

"By investing, we are not just backing a promising startup but also reinforcing the spirit of 'Make in India' and contributing to the vision of becoming a global technology leader," said Raj Sethia, founder and managing partner, MGF Kavachh.

Coratia's UWROVs are already used in the public and private sectors for wide-ranging applications from dam and bridge inspections, ocean floor mapping and monitoring marine ecosystems, to inspection of offshore energy assets, pipelines and subsea cables.

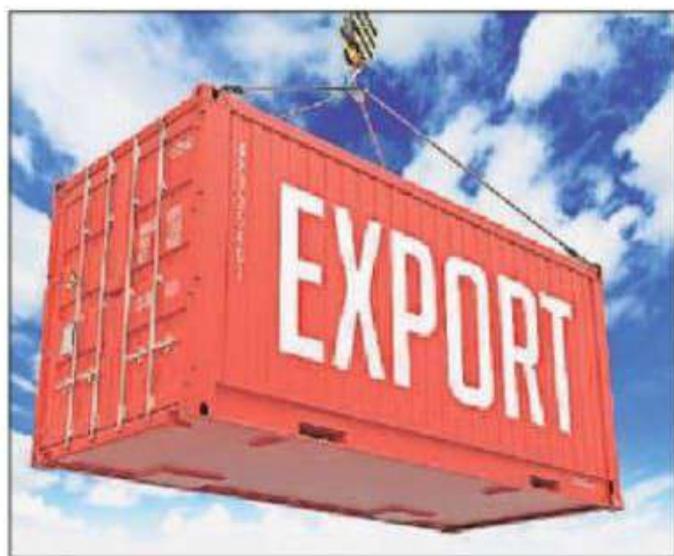
India's exports likely to grow 6% this year: Goyal

MUMBAI, Sept 17 (PTI)

UNION Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday expressed confidence that India's exports would grow by around 6 per cent this year compared to the corresponding period in 2024. Underscoring the country's strong performance in global trade despite challenges, the Minister said discussions on free trade agreements (FTAs) were advancing with several countries.

"India's exports would grow by around 6 per cent this year compared to the corresponding period last year. I believe we will end the year on a positive note," Goyal told reporters here, adding that discussions on free trade agreements (FTAs) were advancing with several countries.

"India's growing strength and the fact that we will be moving in the Amritkal from a USD 4 trillion economy to a USD 30 trillion-plus economy clearly show that India is the place to do business.



The world would like to work closer with India," he added.

The Minister emphasised that India's domestic momentum and external engagements were reinforcing each other. "We have recently come out with the lowest unemployment data at 5.1 per cent," he said. Addressing the issue of unemployment, the Commerce Minister said India is a land of opportunities.

India's patience is its strength, not weakness: Rajnath

HYDERABAD, Sept 17 (PTI)

DEFENCE Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said India's patience is its strength, not weakness. Attending the Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations here, Rajnath Singh said, "We choose the path of hard power when negotiations fail to yield any solution," the Defence Minister said while asserting a strong and resolute new India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, believes in dialogue before opting for hard power.

Speaking at the 'Hyderabad Liberation Day' celebrations organised by the Union Government here, he said 'Operation Sindoor' would resume if any terrorist attack took place in the future.

"There are some people who ask whether the ceasefire between India and Pakistan happened because of the intervention of someone. I would like to make it clear--the operation against terrorists was not suspended because of someone's intervention," he said.

"Some claim to have stopped the operation between India and Pakistan. Nobody stopped it. I would like to clarify that Mohammad Ishaq Dar, who is Pakistan's Deputy PM and Foreign Minister, also made it clear that India rejected the third-party role in mediation," he said.



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during 78th Hyderabad Liberation Day celebrations, in Secunderabad, Telangana on Wednesday.

(PTI)

PM Modi has also made it clear that it is a bilateral issue and a third party cannot interfere, he said.

In an interview with Al Jazeera in Doha, and when asked about negotiations with India or Pakistan's openness to third-party involvement, Dar had replied, "We don't mind, but India has categorically been stating it's a bilateral matter..."

Dar recalled that when he met US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in July and asked about dialogue with India, the top US diplomat clarified that India has maintained it is a "bilateral issue."

Rajnath Singh further said a Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) commander has admitted to the deaths of the terror group chief Masood Azhar's family members in the Indian missile strikes in

Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

He said a video confirming it has also been released.

Speaking about India's growing strength, he asserted that no one can challenge the country's sovereignty.

He highlighted that in the last 11 years, under the leadership of PM Modi, the country has repeatedly demonstrated its resolve

through actions like surgical strike in 2016, Balakot air strike in 2019 and Operation Sindoor this year.

According to him, these operations prove that India knows how to respond to those who do not understand peace.

Not only engaging in dialogue, today's India is capable of directly confronting its enemies, he said. On the atrocities committed by Razakars (armed supporters of Nizam rule), he drew a parallel to the Pahalgam terror attack, where people were killed after asking for their religious identity. Singh recalled the massacre in Gorta village in Bidar district, where 200 Hindus were killed, committed by Razakars.

"This village became a victim of Razakar brutality. Over 200 Hindus were made to stand in queue and ruthlessly killed," he said. Noting that the conspiracy of Razakars was thwarted by the country's first Union Home Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in 1948, he said Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and agents have been unsuccessful today.

Singh said his reference to Razakars was not about a specific community.

He cited the killing of journalist Shoibullah Khan, who supported the merger of Hyderabad with India, as an example of Razakars' enmity towards pro-India voices.

Trump begins 2-day state visit to UK

WINDSOR (UK), Sept 17 (AP)

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump arrived at Windsor Castle on Wednesday, kicking off a two-day state visit to Britain as the guest of King Charles III.

The President's Marine One helicopter landed in the private Walled Garden at the Windsor estate.

Prince William and his wife Catherine were on hand to meet the President and first lady Melania Trump, walking them over to be greeted by the King and Queen Camilla.

Trump arrived in London late Tuesday and said he loved being back in the United Kingdom, calling it a "very special place." Asked if he had a message for Charles, he said the King was a longtime friend of his and well-respected.

The backdrop for day one is Windsor Castle, an almost 1,000-year-old royal residence with gilded interiors, crenellated towers and priceless artworks. A gigantic royal standard, the flag used for official celebration days, flew from the castle's Royal Tower as the king and queen prepared for the Trumps to arrive by hel-



Britain's King Charles III and President Donald Trump sit in a carriage during a procession through Windsor Castle, in Windsor, England on Wednesday. (AP/PTI)

icopter from London, where they spent Tuesday night at the US ambassador's residence.

LONDON'S MAYOR SAYS TRUMPFANS FLAMES OF DIVISION: US President Donald Trump will largely avoid London

during his state visit. And that's fine by the city's mayor.

Sadiq Khan wrote in The Guardian newspaper that Trump and his allies have helped "fan the flames of divisive, far-right politics around the world."

Israel strikes Yemeni port of Hodeida as Houthi rebels activate air defences

ADEN, Sept 17 (AP)

ISRAEL on Tuesday launched airstrikes on the Yemeni city of Hodeida as Iranian-backed Houthi rebels activated air defences. The Israeli military said in an update that it struck “military infrastructure” used by the Houthis at Hodeida port.

“The Hudaydah Port is used by the Houthi terrorist regime for the transfer of weapons supplied by the Iranian regime, in order to execute attacks against the State of Israel and its allies,” the statement read. “Our air defences are currently confronting the Israeli aircrafts that are launching an aggression against our country,” Yayha Saree said.

Saree said that the Houthi air defences “caused great confusion” for Israeli aircraft and forced some combat formations to leave Yemeni airspace before carrying out the attacks, thwarting Israel’s incursion deep into Yemen.

STAND WITH BALOCHISTAN: UK lawmaker Calls for end to human rights abuses by Pak forces

GENEVA, Sept 17 (IANS)

BRITISH MP John McDonnell has called for an end to the human rights abuses in Balochistan by Pakistani forces and reaffirmed his commitment, together with his colleagues, to continue standing with the Baloch people.

He also stressed the importance of upholding the principle of self-determination in the province as a basic tenet of international human rights.

He made these remarks on

Tuesday (local time) while speaking at the 7th Global Balochistan Conference in Geneva, organised by the Baloch National Movement (BNM) party. The event was attended by several political figures, human rights activists, and intellectuals.

"Our strategy has been to work with Baloch organisations in the UK to provide members of Parliament with as much information as possible, enabling



John McDonnell

them to apply pressure on government ministers," McDonnell stated.

He asserted that the objective is to alert the British Government to the human rights abuses occurring in Balochistan, the exploitation of natural resources by the Pakistani government in collusion with China, and the resulting poverty and suffering endured by the Baloch people.

"From the perspective of the United Kingdom, our approach has been to press the UK Government to recognise its responsibilities toward the Baloch people -- both because of Britain's historic involvement and, frankly, its neglect of this issue. I believe the present Labour Government has a particular responsibility in this regard," the British Parliamentarian added.

He stressed that they are ensuring the names of those who have been arrested, detained, or tragically killed are being placed

directly before ministers so the human reality of abuses by Pakistani authorities cannot be ignored.

"The UK Government has tools at its disposal: it provides aid to Pakistan and maintains trade relations. Therefore, the questions we raise in Parliament are straightforward -- what action can be taken, whether through aid conditionality or trade pressure, to protect the human rights of the Baloch people and their right to self-determination?" McDonnell added.

Reaffirm mantra of Swadeshi this festive season: PM Modi

- PM lays foundation stone of country's first PM MITRA Park in Dhar district
- Gives five 'Fs' formula for development; farm, fiber, factory, fashion and foreign
- Launches Sewa Pakhwada, 'Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar'

■ By Bhavana 'Aparajita' Shukla

DHAR, Sept 17

MAKING a strong pitch for swadeshi goods, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said, "This is the season of festivals, and we must remember the mantra of Swadeshi and incorporate it into our lives."

Addressing a rally in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh, the Prime Minister said, "Over the past 11 years, welfare of the poor and improving their lives has



Union Minister and Member of Parliament Savitri Thakur felicitating Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the inauguration of the PM MITRA Park and foundation stone laying ceremony of development works, in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh.

been the Government's highest priority. He affirmed the belief that the nation can progress only when the poor progress. Last 11 years of efforts of our

Government are not merely bundles of schemes but commitment to make the lives of people easier and to reduce their hardships. To bring happiness to the lives

of our sisters and mothers.

"We are carrying forward the legacy of Maa Ahilya, who championed the Maheshwari weaving tradition establishing a centre for royal patronage and handloom industry. She developed the textile industry in the region."

The park is part of the Prime Minister's 5F Vision; Farm to Fibre, Fibre to Factory, Factory to Fashion, and Fashion to Foreign, which seeks to integrate India's textile value chain.

"I congratulate the entirety of India for these development works, especially Madhya Pradesh," said Prime Minister Narendra Modi,

The Prime Minister was speaking after laying the foundation stone of the country's first PM MITRA Park in Bhainsola village of Dhar district. The PM urges traders and commoners to support Made in India goods. They should sell India-made products and our people should purchase Swadeshi goods.

(Contd on page 4)