

DRDO releases radio software to enable interoperability in Military Communication

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (IANS)

DEFENCE Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the Tri-Services, formally released Indian Radio Software Architecture (IRSA) standard 1.0 to enable interoperability in Military Communication, an official said on Tuesday.

The IRSA was released during the National workshop organised at DRDO Bhawan on Monday, the official said in a statement.

The Architecture is a comprehensive software specification for Software Defined Radios (SDR), defining standardised interfaces, APIs, execution environments, and waveform portability mechanisms. IRSA is designed to ensure waveform portability, SDR Interoperability, Certification and Conformance, the statement said.

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The specification is designed to evolve with operational requirements. It also lays the foundation for integrating future technologies, it said.

The workshop covered the journey of IRSA, its technical overview, ecosystem roles and future directions. It also provided a platform for industry, academia and the tri-services to discuss collaboration opportunities, pilot projects and adoption pathways.

The event brought together representatives from the Indian Armed Forces, Department of Defence Production (DDP), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), industry, academia and research institutions, highlighting a comprehensive and collaborative approach towards

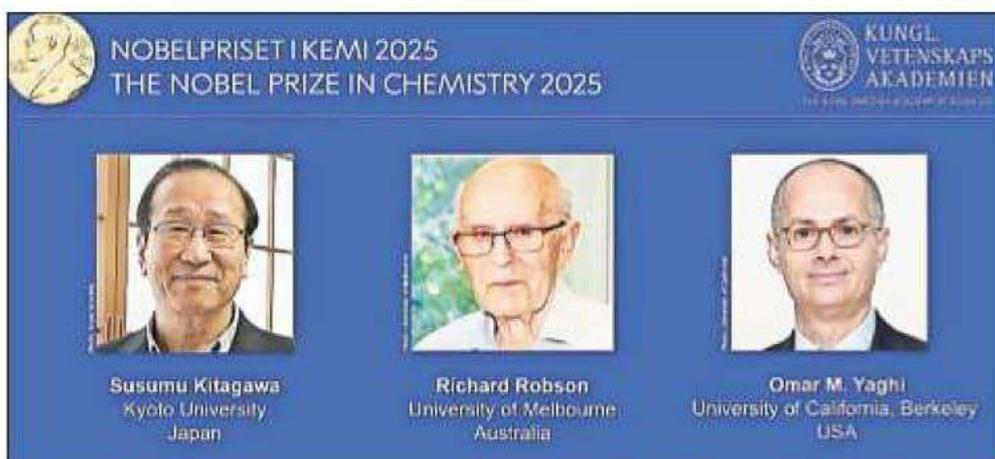
developing indigenous communication technologies.

Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary DD R&D and Chairman DRDO, was the Chief Guest of the event. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff, and Dr Rajat Moona, Director, IIT Gandhinagar, were the Guests of Honour. The National workshop was organised under the guidance of Dr B.K. Das, DG (ECS).

The IRSA initiative traces its origin to 2021, when the critical role of SDRs in modern military communication was highlighted and the need for a national software standard was felt.

A core technical team led by DRDO initiated work in 2022, engaging with the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the Services to capture operational and user requirements.

3 get Chemistry Nobel for 'molecular architecture'



STOCKHOLM, Oct 8 (AP)

SCIENTISTS Susumu Kitagawa, Richard Robson and Omar M Yaghi won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry on Wednesday for their work in the development of metal-organic frameworks that dates back to 1989.

The Nobel committee said that the three laureates "have developed a new form of molecular architecture".

"They have created molecular constructions with large spaces through which gases and other chemicals can flow," the com-

mittee said. Hans Ellegren, Secretary-General of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, announced the Chemistry prize in Stockholm. It was the third prize announced this week.

"These constructions, metal-organic frameworks, can be used to harvest water from desert air, capture carbon dioxide, store toxic gases or catalyse chemical reactions," the Nobel Committee said in a statement.

Robson, 88, is affiliated with the University of Melbourne in Australia, Kitagawa, 74, with Japan's Kyoto University and Yaghi, 60, with

the University of California, Berkeley.

The chemists, working separately but adding to each other's breakthroughs with research that dates back to 1989, devised ways to make stable metal organic frameworks — which may be compared to the timber framework of a house.

These structures can absorb and contain gases inside these frameworks, with many practical applications today — such as capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or sucking water out of dry desert air.

"Metal organic frameworks have enormous potential, bringing previously unforeseen opportunities for custom-made materials with new functions," Heiner Linke, chair of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, said in a news release.

Olof Ramström, a member of the Nobel Committee for Chemistry, described the trio's discovery as similar Hermione Granger's enchanted handbag in the fictional "Harry Potter" series: small on the outside but very large on the inside.

Kitagawa spoke to the committee, and the press, over the phone on Wednesday after his win was announced.

"I'm deeply honoured and delighted that my long-standing research has been recognised," he said.

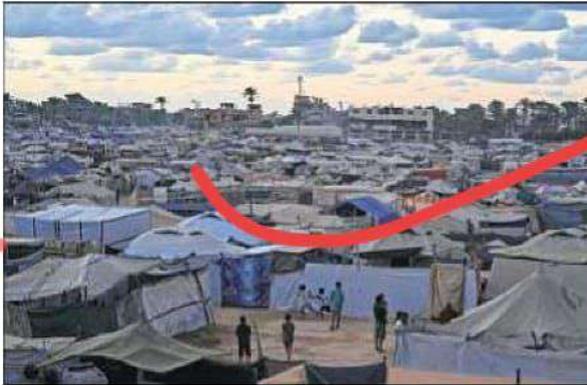
Release of last hostage must coincide with final Israeli pullout from Palestinian territories: Hamas

GAZA, Oct 8 (IANS)

A HAMAS source said that the group has demanded that any release of Israeli hostages be "directly tied to" a clear timetable for Israel's complete withdrawal from Gaza, as the group's indirect negotiations with Israel continue in Egypt.

The Hamas delegation, during the negotiations in the Red Sea city of Sharm El Sheikh, insisted that "the release of the last hostage must coincide with the final Israeli pullout from Palestinian territories," the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, Hamas's senior



Dusk falls as children play at a temporary tent camp for displaced Palestinians in the central Gaza Strip. (AP/PTI)

official Khalil al-Hayya, who is leading the Hamas delegation, told Egypt's state-affiliated Al Qahera News TV channel on Tuesday that his group is ready "with all responsibility" to stop the war, and his delegation arrived in Egypt with the direct and explicit goal of achieving an immediate and permanent halt to the conflict as well as a prisoner-hostage swap, Xinhua news agency reported.

Israel "continues its killing and destruction and repeatedly breaks its promises regarding halting aggression," al-Hayya said, urging "international guarantees to ensure a final and comprehensive end to the conflict."

Tuesday marked the second day of the indirect talks between Israeli and Hamas delegations in Sharm El Sheikh.

An Egyptian source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity that the talks on Tuesday focused on a prisoner-hostage swap, the entry of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and the transfer of governance in the enclave, among other core issues.

Israeli military intercepts another flotilla heading to Gaza, detains scores

Air prowess on display on 93rd Air Force Day

PM Modi greets Air Force personnel

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday greeted Air Force personnel on the Air Force Day, and said they have played a vital role in safeguarding Indian skies during the most challenging situations.

Modi said, "Greetings to all the courageous Air Warriors and their families on Air Force Day. The Indian Air Force epitomises bravery, discipline and precision. They have played a vital role in safeguarding our skies, including during the most challenging situations."

Their role during natural calamities is also very commendable, Modi said, asserting that their commitment, professionalism and indomitable spirit make every Indian proud.

HINDON, Oct 8 (IANS)

THE 93rd Indian Air Force Day was celebrated at the Hindon Air Force Station on Wednesday, honouring the valour and dedication of the men and women in blue who safeguard the nation's skies.

This year's celebrations carried a special tribute to Operation Sindoor, a defining moment in the IAF's legacy.

The Indian Air Force (IAF), the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces, was officially established on October 8, 1952, as an auxiliary air force of British India.

Its primary mission is to secure Indian airspace and conduct aerial warfare during armed conflicts. The force has since evolved into one of the most formidable air powers in the world.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi arrived at the Hindon Airbase to mark the occasion.

Air Chief Marshal A P Singh inspected the ceremonial parade,



CDS General Anil Chauhan, Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A P Singh at the National War Memorial after paying tribute on the 93rd Indian Air Force Day, in New Delhi on Wednesday. (PTI)

held to honour the guardians of India's skies and their bravery during Operation Sindoor.

The Air Force's rapid deployment capabilities were on full display during the operation, which took place in May 2025 as part of India's military retaliation

following the Pahalgam attack.

Air warriors carried out a grand march past alongside fighter jets showcased on the tarmac, as spectators witnessed the strength and precision of India's air power.

'Air Force made nation proud with its strength'

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu greeted all air warriors, veterans and their families on Air Force Day.

In a post on X, she said "Warm greetings to all air warriors, veterans and their families on Air Force Day! The Indian Air Force has always demonstrated courage, commitment, and excellence. Our Air warriors protect our skies and serve the nation with tireless dedication during disasters and humanitarian missions."

"Our Air Force has made the nation proud with its strength and readiness to face every challenge. I extend my best wishes to the Indian Air Force for success in all future endeavours," the President said.

Indian Govt's debt to decrease to 77% of GDP in 4 years: Report

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (IANS)

WHILE Governmental debts are rising globally, India's general Government debt will moderate to 77 per cent of GDP by FY31 and further to 71 per cent by FY35, from the current level of 81 per cent, a report said on Wednesday.

The report from the ratings firm CareEdge Ratings attributed this decline to Centre's fiscal consolidation and sustained GDP growth of approximately 6.5 per cent. However, the firm maintained that the sticky aggregate state debt amid the distribution of freebies by some states remains a monitorable going forward. While India's Government debt is projected to moderate, the elevated interest payments relative to revenue receipts are expected to remain a challenge, the report flagged.

The report, titled Global Economy Update, said that higher inflation in most

developed economies is being driven by persistent core pressures, rising service costs, increasing wages, and a surge in debt levels. Additionally, rising tariffs have contributed to inflation in the US, the report noted. In contrast, inflation is moderating faster in emerging markets due to earlier monetary tightening, a relative

weakening of the USD and declining food prices. Thus, it provides monetary space for interest rate cuts, the ratings agency said.

The US Federal Reserve had lowered its policy rate by 25 basis points in September

and has indicated two more cuts this year. CareEdge ratings flagged that a prolonged Government shutdown could weaken consumer and investor sentiment and slow overall economic activity. Inflation in Japan has been easing but has consistently stayed above the Central Bank's 2 per cent target for more than three years.



Myanmar military strikes village in glider raid, 24 die

AFP

Bangkok: Myanmar's military carried out a paraglider strike on a village that killed at least 24 people including children, and wounded more than 50 others, according to a member of a resistance group, villagers and media reports. The Monday night attack was carried out by a motorised paraglider, and targeted a village in the country's central Sagaing region that was celebrating a Buddhist festival that included a rally calling for the release of political prisoners, the reports said.

Myanmar is in a civil war that began after the army seized power in Feb 2021 from the elected govt of Aung San Suu Kyi. Much of the country, including the village of Bon To village where the attack took place, is under the control of resistance forces. The area is about 90 kilometers west of Mandalay, the country's second-largest city. "The sickening reports emerging from the ground in central Myanmar following a nighttime attack late on Monday should



Damaged vehicles at the site of a strike in Myanmar on Wednesday

serve as a gruesome wake-up call that civilians in Myanmar need urgent protection," the human rights group Amnesty International said.

A paraglider dropped two bombs at about 7.15pm, killing an estimated 20 to 40 people, including children, villagers and members of local political activist groups and armed anti-military groups, said the resistance fighter, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The resistance fighter said an alert had been issued through mobile phones and walkie-talkies that had tracked the paraglider from army's northwestern command in Monywa, about 25 kms north of Bon To village. AP

Starmmer sidesteps query on India's import of Russia oil

'UK Not Easing Visa Rules For Indian Citizens'

Naomi Canton

London: UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer insisted he will not relax visa rules to offer more to Indians just before his flight touched down in Mumbai on Tuesday night in his first major trade mission to India.

Accompanied by 125 CEOs, entrepreneurs, cultural institutions and 14 university vice-chancellors, it is the largest delegation to India in decades.

Starmer also promised he would raise with Prime Minister Narendra Modi the case of Jagtar Singh Johal, the British Indian Sikh activist detained in India on terror charges, according to reports in the UK media.

The visit seeks to build on the momentum from the UK-India trade deal, signed in July, which will lower tariffs on exports to either country.

Starmer was repeatedly



UK PM Keir Starmer attends an event in Mumbai on Wednesday to celebrate the upcoming Diwali festival. He is on a two-day visit to India

asked by the press on the flight if he would increase visas for highly-skilled Indian workers and students. "The issue is not about visas. It's about business-to-business engagement and investment and jobs and prosperity coming into the UK," he told UK mediapersons accompanying him on the flight.

He said visas "played no part" in the trade deal with India and that situation had not changed. He said no business leaders in his delegation had "raised with him the

question of visas" either.

Instead, the visit to India was about providing opportunities for Indian and UK businesses to take advantage of the UK-India trade deal.

Asked whether Britain might consider poaching Indian-origin tech entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley in the wake of US President Donald Trump upping new H-1B visa fees to \$100,000 for fresh applications, the UK PM said: "Broadly, and not necessarily related to India, yes, where there is very top talent across

the globe. I want to have top talent in the UK to help us grow our economy."

Starmer also said the UK would not seek to bring more Indian students to Britain, and instead would encourage UK universities to establish campuses in India, as several have done.

Starmer confirmed the UK govt was looking at linking visas to whether a country accepts returns of its citizens. "With India that is a non-issue

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because we have got a returns agreement that is operating really well," Starmer said. "We've returned, I think, 6,300 or so (Indians) already — that's a 55% increase."

Asked about India's purchase of Russian oil, Starmer joked he had not "sent birthday congratulations to (Russian President Vladimir) Putin, nor am I going to do so", and sidestepped the question, saying the UK's focus was on Russia's shadow fleet of oil tankers which bypasses Western sanctions.