

New complex housing PMO to be called 'Seva Teerth'

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (PTI)

THE new complex housing the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) will be called 'Seva Teerth', officials



said on Tuesday.

The new complex, which is in the final stages of completion, was earlier known as the 'Executive Enclave' under the Central Vista Redevelopment project.

Besides the PMO, the 'Executive Enclave' will also comprise offices of the Cabinet Secretariat, National Security Council Secretariat and India House, which will be a venue for high-level talks with visiting dignitaries.

The 'Seva Teerth' will be a workplace designed to reflect the spirit of service and where national priorities take shape, officials said, adding that India's public institutions were undergoing a quiet but profound shift.

The idea of governance is moving from 'satta' (power) to 'seva' (service) and from authority to responsibility, they said, adding that the change was not just administrative, but cultural and moral.

Raj Bhawans, the residences of Governors of States, too, are being renamed as 'Lok Bhawans'.

Officials said under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the spaces of governance have been reshaped to reflect 'kartavya' (duty) and transparency.

"Every name, every building and every symbol now points to a simple idea. Government exists to serve," they said.

DRDO conducts high-speed test of fighter aircraft escape system

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (PTI)

THE DRDO has successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of a fighter aircraft escape system at controlled velocity, validating some of the key safety parameters including complete aircrew recovery.

The test has placed India in "an elite club of nations" with advanced in-house escape system testing capability, the defence ministry said on Tuesday.

In a rocket-sled test, the system coupled with a rocket propulsion mechanism is run at a high speed on a pair of rails to simulate a moving aircraft in mid-air, a senior official said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh complimented the DRDO, IAF, Aeronautical Development Agency, and HAL on the successful test. He described it as a significant milestone for India's indigenous defence capability towards self-reliance.

Defence Research and Development Organization



INDIA IN ELITE CLUB OF NATIONS: Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducts a successful high-speed rocket-sled test of fighter aircraft escape system in Chandigarh.

(PTI)

(DRDO) has successfully conducted a high-speed rocket-sled test of fighter aircraft escape system at precisely controlled velocity of 800 km/h - validating canopy severance, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew-recovery at Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL),

Chandigarh," the defence minister's office said in a post on X. The complex dynamic test, conducted at a rail track rocket sled facility in Chandigarh, was conducted in collaboration with Aeronautical Development Agency and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, and it propelled India into "an elite club of nations" with advanced in-house

escape system testing capability, the ministry said in a statement. "A dual-sled system with the ICA aircraft forebody was propelled to precisely controlled velocity through phased firing of multiple solid propellant rocket motors," it said.

The test was witnessed by officials from the Indian Air Force (IAF), and the Institute of

Aerospace Medicine.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has "conducted a successful high-speed rocket-sled test of fighter aircraft escape system at controlled velocity," the ministry said. "The test at rail track rocket sled facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh, vali-

dated canopy severance, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew-recovery," the ministry said. It further said "the canopy fragilisation pattern, ejection sequencing and complete aircrew recovery process was simulated using an instrumented anthropomorphic test dummy, which recorded critical loads, moments, and accelerations that would be experienced by ejected pilots".

The entire sequence was captured through onboard and ground-based imaging systems.

"Dynamic ejection tests are significantly more complex than static tests such as 'net test' or 'zero-zero test', and real measure for evaluating ejection seat performance and efficacy of canopy severance system," the ministry said.

Department of Defence R&D Secretary and DRDO Chairman Samir V Kamat also congratulated the DRDO team associated with this successful demonstration.

Baloch leader warns foreign investors against Pak 'traps'

WASHINGTON, Dec 2 (IANS)

TARA Chand, President of Baloch American Congress, stated that the suicide bombing attacks in the Nokundi region of the Chagai district in Balochistan, targeting Pakistani soldiers, have reaffirmed the longstanding warnings from Baloch leaders.

He warned that any foreign investor putting money into the Reko Diq Copper-Gold Project or the Saindak copper and gold deposits in Chagai would be making a "serious mistake".

The remarks came after the Baloch Liberation Front (BLF) spokesperson Gwahram Baloch on Monday said that in the Nokundi area of Chagai, the BLF's

Sado operational Battalion (SOB) unit's sarmachar (fighters) held strong positions inside the major compound meant for the foreign staff of "exploitative" projects of Saindak and Reko Diq.

"With a strong position, sarmachars has forced the enemy to retreat. In order to cover its failure and losses, the occupying army is using internet black-out and a baseless narrative," read the statement.

The statement added that a female suicide bomber, Zarina Rafiq -- also known as Mahu Baloch -- detonated herself at the main gate to breach the entrance and allow the remaining fighters to enter the camp.

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India signs up to procure more Heron MK-II drones after Operation Sindoor

■ By Zishan Haider

TEL AVIV, Dec 2 (PTI)

INDIA has signed up to procure additional satellite-linked Heron MK II drones under emergency provisions, aiming to significantly enhance its defence capabilities following their effective use during Operation Sindoor, according to an Israeli defence industry source.

The Heron MK II Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), already in service with the Indian Army and Air Force, will now be incorporated into the Indian Navy, said the source working with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

In September, the defence ministry issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the acquisition of 87 MALE drones, with a focus on an indigenous "Make in India" programme that allows foreign collaboration.



"For us, India is a major customer," the unnamed IAI official said. "Our partnership spans over three decades and generations of systems." After Operation Sindoor, all three branches of the Indian Armed Forces have selected the Heron MK II for emergency procurement, the official stated, but did not disclose the numbers.

"We are very proud that all three branches decided to purchase and operate the Heron Mark II," he said.

The Heron MK II is a Medium Altitude Long Endurance or MALE UAV capable of reaching an altitude of 35,000 feet and remaining in the air for 45 consecutive hours. It is operated by the Israeli Air Force and over 20 other entities globally.

Regarding the 'Make in India' initiative, the IAI official said, "We are fully aware of 'Make in India' and are collaborating closely with our local partners to meet those requirements."

US sanctions cut India's Russian oil imports by nearly one-third

NEW DELHI, Dec 2 (PTI)

INDIA'S imports of Russian oil fell by nearly a third after stringent US sanctions on key Kremlin-linked exporters came into effect on November 21, and analysts expect further declines in December as refiners turned to alternatives to avoid breaching sanctions. India's crude oil imports from Russia averaged 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) in November and accounted for more than 35 per cent of its total crude import mix, according to real-time data analytics company Kpler.

The November imports, which compare with 1.5-1.6 million bpd of Russian oil flow in October, are expected to be a 5-month high, driven by increased imports before the November 21 deadline.

"Before November 21, imports were closer to 1.9-2.0 million bpd as buyers moved cargoes ahead of the deadline, after which volumes have slowed. It looks like refiners stocked up on crude ahead of the sanctions, planning to process it once the rules were in force," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst, Refining & Modeling, Kpler.

Post that, flows were tracking



around 1.27 million bpd, down 570,000 bpd month-on-month. "Based on current loadings and voyage activity, we expect December arrivals to be in the range of 1.0 million bpd," he said. "This aligns with our earlier view that, in the short term, Russian flows could ease toward around 800,000 bpd before stabilising."

India, the world's third-largest oil importer, emerged as the biggest buyer of discounted Russian crude after Western countries shunned Moscow following its February 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Traditionally reliant on Middle Eastern oil, India dramatically increased Russian imports as sanctions and reduced European demand made the barrels available at steep discounts, pushing its share from under 1 per cent to nearly 40 per cent of total crude imports.

'Resilient in face of Trump tariffs, world economy is forecast to grow 3.2 per cent this year'



WASHINGTON, Dec 2 (AP)

THE world economy has proven surprisingly durable in the face of President Donald Trump's trade wars, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said Tuesday, upgrading its outlook for global and US economic growth this year.

The 38-country OECD now forecasts that the world economy will grow 3.2% this year, down a tick from 3.3% in 2024 but an improvement on the 2.9% it had predicted for 2025 back in June. The organisation, which does economic research and promotes international trade and prosperity, expects global growth to slow to 2.9% next year.

The OECD also raised its forecast for US growth this year – to 2%, up from the 1.6% it had forecast in June. Still, even with the upgrade, the American economy – the world's largest – would have grown considerably more slowly than it did in 2024 (2.8%).

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has overhauled US trade policy, imposing taxes on imports to build a protectionist wall around the previously open American economy.

The trade barriers were widely expected to slow growth and push up costs. But his tariffs have come in lower than the ones he threatened to impose in the spring. Many companies beat the levies by importing foreign goods into the United States before they took effect. And the US and world economies are getting a boost from massive investments in artificial intelligence. "The global economy has been resilient this year, despite concerns about a sharper slowdown in the wake of higher trade barriers and significant policy uncertainty," OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann wrote in a commentary accompanying the forecasts.