

Multi-domain ops will no longer be an option but a necessity: CDS

MUMBAI, Dec 22 (PTI)

INDIA should be prepared to fight short-duration, high-intensity conflicts to deter terrorism, something like Operation Sindoor, and long duration conflict because of the territorial disputes with its neighbours, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said on Monday.

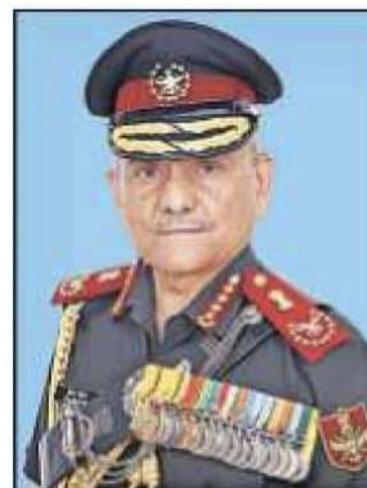
Speaking at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, General Chauhan said multi-domain opera-

tions will no longer be an option but a necessity, where the effects of one domain will be immediately felt on to the other.

“What kind of threats and challenges should India be prepared for? This should be based on two facts. Both our adversaries — one is a nuclear weapon state and one is a nuclear armed state — hence we should not allow that level of deterrence to be breached,” he said without naming Pakistan or China.

He said India has territorial disputes with both its neighbours. “We should be prepared to fight short duration, high intensity conflicts to deter terrorism, something like Operation Sindoor. We should be prepared for a land centric, long duration conflict because we have land disputes. Yet, we should try and avoid it,” the CDS said.

The country’s top military officer stressed the need to exploit new domains and create asym-



metry with a weaker adversary and yet not allow these asymmetries to be exploited by other nations. Terrorism and grey zone warfare will remain a threat, which requires defensive as well as offensive response, he added.

Navy gets anti-submarine warfare Anjadip from GRSE

CHENNAI, Dec 22 (ANI)

THE Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd delivered its fifth warship of the year to the Navy on Monday.

The Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) Anjadip is the third of eight such platforms being built at the shipyard. The ship was delivered to the Navy at the Chennai Port Trust.

Anjadip is the 115th warship built by GRSE and the 77th warship delivered to the Navy. The ASW SWC was accepted by Rear Admiral Gautam Marwaha, VSM, CSO (Tech), Eastern Naval Command.

GRSE delivered four warships in 2025 ahead of Anjadip. These include the Advanced Guided Missile Frigate Himgiri, the first two ASW SWCs of the series Arnala and Androth, and the Survey Vessel (Large) Ikshak. All four have since been commissioned into the Navy, marking a



rare achievement by any shipyard in India, according to an official statement from GRSE.

"Anjadip's delivery also comes less than four months after that of the Androth on September 13, 2025, highlighting GRSE's capability to churn out warships," the statement read.

Anjadip is also an example of how the shipyard has focused on Atmanirbharta in defence shipbuilding. Like its two predecessors - Arnala and Androth - this warship is also fitted with an

indigenous 30 mm Naval Surface Gun, manufactured by GRSE, and has nearly 88% indigenous content.

The warships of this class are capable of full-scale sub-surface surveillance of coastal waters as well as Search and Attack. They can also carry out coordinated anti-submarine operations with aircraft. These ships have Combat Management Systems on board and are armed with lightweight torpedoes as well as anti-submarine warfare rockets.

DRDO, RRU sign MoU to strengthen defence and security collaboration

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (ANI)

DEFENCE Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) and Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster collaboration in the areas of research, education, training and technology support for defence & internal security.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the MoU was inked by Distinguished Scientist & Director General (Production Coordination & Services Interaction) Chandrika Kaushik and Vice Chancellor, RRU Prof Bimal N Patel in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at South Block, New Delhi on December 22, 2025.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman,

DRDO, Samir V Kamat, was also present on the occasion.

The MoU aims to strengthen India's self-reliance in defence and internal security technologies, in line with the national vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and the whole-of-nation approach during Amrit Kaal.

It reflects a shared commitment to integrating technology, knowledge and operational insight to enhance national security preparedness and reinforce India's strategic autonomy in internal security, as stated in the release.

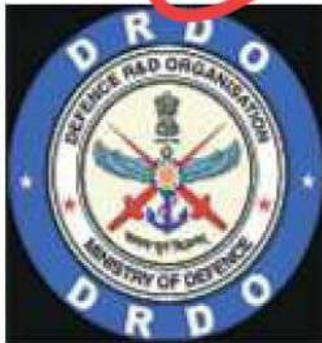
Rashtriya Raksha University, an institution of national importance under the Ministry of Home Affairs and the University Grants Commission (UGC)-designated Nodal Centre for Defence Studies, brings strong

academic, training and policy expertise in the domain of internal security.

DRDO, the nation's premier defence R&D organisation, contributes cutting-edge indigenous technologies and system-level expertise to meet the requirements of the Armed Forces and security agencies.

Under the MoU, both organisations will collaborate on joint research projects, PhD & fellowship programmes and specialised training & capacity-building programmes for security forces.

The collaboration will also include studies on emerging operational challenges, technology gap analysis, forecasting of future requirements, and life-cycle management of DRDO-developed systems inducted into the Central Armed Police Forces and other agencies under the Ministry of Home Affairs.



Indian Army, NSUT join hands to develop AI-driven defence solutions

NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (IANS)

THE Indian Army has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Netaji Subhas University of Technology (NSUT), New Delhi, to work jointly on the development of software and artificial intelligence-based solutions for defence-related applications.

The collaboration aligns with the Centre's 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative and is aimed at

strengthening indigenous innovation in defence technology, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Under the agreement, students and faculty members of the NSUT will engage in "live problem-solving projects" provided by the Indian Army, enabling them to gain practical and hands-on exposure to real-world military requirements.

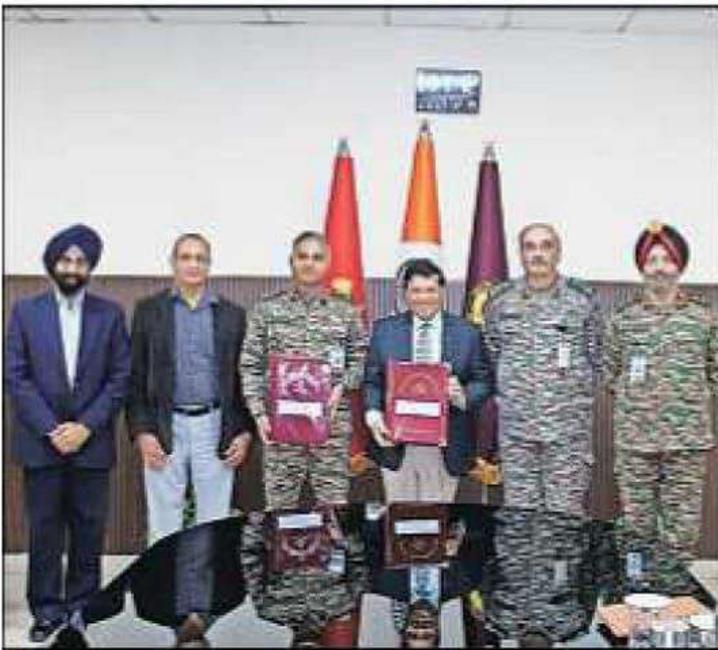
The Army stated that the NSUT will also support capacity building by conducting Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) and customised training programmes for Army personnel.

"NSUT will also facilitate capacity building through Faculty Development Programmes (FDPs) and tailor-made programmes for the Indian Army, strengthening indigenous innovation-driven defence preparedness," the statement said.

While the primary focus of the MoU is on artificial intelligence and software development, the initiative reflects a broader vision.

Similar agreements with other academic institutions point to an expanded emphasis on areas critical to modern warfare, including robotics, cyber security, data analytics and geoinformatics.

The collaboration is designed to bridge the gap between operational military experience and academic research and innovation, with the objective of building a technologically advanced and future-ready Armed Force.



Govt begins airport work on Great Nicobar Island

■ By Suchitra Mukherjee
NEW DELHI, Dec 22 (ANI)

THE Government has started work on an airport at the southernmost tip of India on Great Nicobar Island, a move expected to significantly enhance India's defence capabilities and boost tourism in the region, according to exclusive documents accessed by ANI.

The proposed airport will allow operations of larger military aircraft and substantially reduce the response time of defence aircraft in the Indian Ocean Region, a critical factor for national security. The next major airport, Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair, is located over 500 kilometres away.

According to the plan, the project's objective is to provide a long-term vision and framework for airport development while remaining realistic in the short term. The plan aims to ensure logical, balanced, sustainable, flexible, and cost-effective development to accommodate projected growth in air traffic and to optimise the use of available

land.

The site plan has been developed after carefully considering land and drainage features, with

moting trade and commerce. The project's initiation is expected to drive a sharp rise in employment opportunities, from the con-



facilities located to minimise disturbance to existing landforms and to balance cut-and-fill operations wherever possible. Sustainable and robust design principles, along with construction costs, have been key drivers in the airport's planning.

Airports play a vital role in a region's economic development by enabling faster movement of people and goods, thereby pro-

struction phase through to settlement, with increased demand for workers across various economic sectors.

The project anticipates that investments in the trans-shipment hub, tourism facilities and the airport, along with other economic activities, will generate approximately 1,05,000 jobs by 2050. This direct employment is expected to create an addition-

al 1,57,700 jobs through multiplier effects in service and support industries.

The total population potential of Great Nicobar Island by 2050 is estimated at around 6.5 lakh. In terms of phased development, it is anticipated that nearly 3.25 lakh of the population growth will occur during Phase 1 between 2025 and 2040, while the remaining 4 lakh will occur during Phase 2 from 2041 to 2055. Over the next 25 years, the population is expected to double to around 13-15 lakh by 2075.

The overall development plan includes the establishment of tourism facilities such as hotels, resorts, dining, shopping and entertainment centres within urban hubs along the coast, often located seaside to provide easy beach access. Eco-tourism resources on the island include both marine and terrestrial ecosystems, ranging from pristine beaches and seas to dense tropical forests. They are expected to attract tourists worldwide in an environmentally responsible manner.

'Knowledge most powerful tool for India to become USD 5 trillion economy'

PUNE, Dec 22 (PTI)

KNOWLEDGE is the most powerful tool for India to become a USD 5 trillion economy and the third largest economy in the world, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Monday.

Speaking at an event in the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, he said the future of any country is based on the type of futuristic technology it possesses.

"The IITs and its students have have a great contribution towards the country's development and progress. While working in the Government, if we face any challenge, we refer it to the IITs first. The credibility of IITs is so good that the solution we get is wide-



ly accepted. In a nutshell, you are the capital of knowledge," the Union Minister said.

"The progress of the country, resources, technologies are important but what is more important is the

futuristic technology and knowledge. The future of any country is based on what type of futuristic technology it possesses," he added.

PM Narendra Modi has put forth a target in the form of a mission and that is making India a USD 5 trillion economy and the third largest economy in the world, Gadkari said. "If we want to become a USD 5 trillion economy and third largest economy, knowledge will be the most powerful tool," the Minister said.

Jaishankar in Lanka as PM's spl envoy

COLOMBO/NEW DELHI, Dec 22
(PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar landed in Colombo on Monday to hold talks with Sri Lanka's top leadership as the island nation begins reconstruction efforts following Cyclone Ditwah.

Jaishankar is visiting Sri Lanka as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special envoy.

"The visit underscores India's Neighbourhood First Policy and takes place in the context of Operation Sagar Bandhu launched to address the devastation caused by Cyclone Ditwah," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in New Delhi.

The cyclone that hit the island nation in late November killed over 640 people and damaged crops, tea estates and critical transport infrastructures includ-



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar receives a warm reception upon his arrival, in Colombo on Monday. (ANI)

ing roads and bridges.

India had launched Operation Sagar Bandhu to help Sri Lanka deal with the crisis. On Tuesday, Jaishankar will hold talks with the top Sri Lankan leadership.

"Landed in Colombo this evening. Thank Deputy @TourismMin Ruwan Ranasinghe for the warm reception. Look forward to my meetings with Sri Lankan leadership

tomorrow," the External Affairs Minister said on 'X'.

Since the launch of Operation Sagar Bandhu on November 28, India has provided over 1,134 tonnes of humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka, including dry rations, tents, tarpaulins, hygiene kits, clothing, water purification systems, and 14.5 tonnes of medicines and surgical equipment.

Several Indian naval ships including INS Vikrant, INS Udaygiri, INS Sukanya and INS Gharial delivered large volumes of relief material to Colombo and Trincomalee.

Two teams of the National Disaster Response Force conducted immediate search and rescue operations, while an 85-member Indian Army Field Hospital set up in Mahiyanganaya provided life-saving medical care to more than 7,000 patients.