

SAMARTHAK India's first multi-purpose vessel

Indian Navy inducts indigenous warship

KARWAR (Karnataka), Oct 16 (PTI)

SAMARTHAK, India's first multi-purpose vessel built by a private shipyard, was commissioned into the Navy on Friday, marking a major milestone in expanding the role of domestic industry in warship construction.

Addressing the commissioning ceremony in the presence of Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan at the Navy's base at Karwar, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan said the vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro (L&T) at its Kattupalli



Vice President CP Radhakrishnan attends the commissioning ceremony of INS Samarthak, in Karwar, Karnataka.

(PTI)

shipyard in Tamil Nadu, has more than 75 per cent indigenous content. Karnataka Minister for Labour Santosh Lad was also present on the occasion.

Admiral Swaminathan described the commissioning as a significant step towards 'Aatmanirbharata' (self-reliance), noting that the vessel was designed, engineered and built entirely in-house at L&T's Warship Design Centre and shipyard.

Samarthak is the first of the four multi-purpose vessels inducted into the Indian Navy.

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Jaishankar meets ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, discusses ties

ABU DHABI, Oct 16 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday met Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, the Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah and a member of the UAE's Supreme Council, and discussed bilateral ties and the Gulf situation.

Jaishankar arrived in Abu Dhabi on Wednesday for a three-day visit to review the progress of the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

"An honour to meet HH Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, the Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah & member of the UAE Supreme Council," Jaishankar said.

"Grateful for his insights on further strengthening India-UAE ties and deepening engagements with the region. The situation in the Gulf also came up for discussion," he added.

Ras Al Khaimah, one of seven emirates that make up the UAE, is located near the northernmost point of the country. The emirate, which shares its international border with Oman, stretches along the shore of the Gulf, adjacent to the Strait of Hormuz.

On Wednesday, Jaishankar met his UAE coun-



S Jaishankar meets Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah. (PTI)

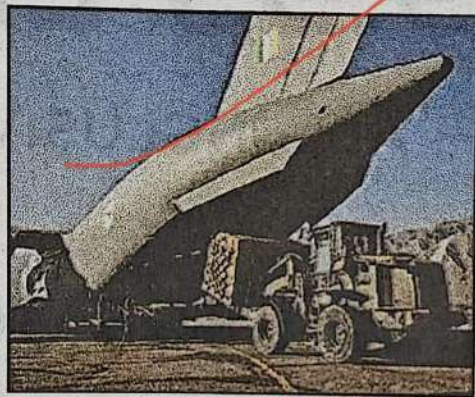
terpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan and exchanged perspectives on bilateral and global issues. India and the UAE have expanded their cooperation across trade, investment, energy, defence and security in recent years.

India developing integrated defence logistics system for three services

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New Delhi: In a move to integrate defence logistics infrastructure that will help in seamless coordination among three services, especially during conflicts, govt is developing an integrated logistics structure on the lines of the US to support its planned theatre commands.

The details of the project, being spearheaded by department of military affairs (DMA), have been outlined in a letter that Rear Admiral Kunal Singh Rajkumar, a joint secretary (navy and defence staff) in DMA, wrote to Rajya Sabha MP Ajeet Madhavrao Gopchade in response to his missive to PM Narendra Modi in which he gave suggestions for "examining a unified



OPERATIONAL EDGE

defence logistics and fuel management framework on the lines of the US Defence Logistics Agency".

In his letter, the MP has drawn attention to the functioning of US DLA, which serves as a single centralised combat logistics support agency for the entire US department of defence. US DLA manages fuel supply, military procurement, spare parts, logistics AI systems, defence

standardisation, petroleum quality assurance, warehousing, technical support, and global supply-chain management under an integrated tri-service structure. He also told PM that at present, logistics management in India is largely distributed across multiple service-specific structures such as Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, EME, Naval logistics branches, Air Force maintenance systems, fuel depots and various procurement and inventory mechanisms.

While talking to TOI, RS MP Gopchade said DMA has informed him that "all best practices relevant in India's context are being incorporated in creation of an integrated logistics structure to support planned theatre commands".

Built by private shipyard, Navy gets 1st desi MPV

New Delhi: India's first multi-purpose vessel (MPV), INS Samarthak, built by a private shipyard, was commissioned into Indian Navy during a ceremony at Karwar naval base in Karnataka Friday, reports **Surendra Singh**.

INS Samarthak will be the first-of-its-kind vessel that will act as a mothership for unmanned and autonomous surface and aerial vehicles, a testbed for weapons and sensors, a platform for maritime surveillance, towing, disaster relief and also double up as a hospital ship. Vice-President C P Radhakrishnan, along with Navy chief Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and Karnataka labour minister Santosh Lad, led the commissioning ceremony.

The vessel has more than 75% indigenous content.

US military mulls use of largest non-nuclear bomb against Iran, says report

Washington: US military is considering using the largest non-nuclear bomb in its arsenal against Iran's energy infrastructure and nuclear sites, subject to President Donald Trump's approval, CNN reported on Oct 16.

Deployment of the GBU-43/B Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb (MOAB), known as the mother of all bombs, would mark a significant escalation in the war on Iran, now in its eighth month, the report said.

Trump told Newsmax Thursday that US might strike Iran's nuclear facilities again, including the fortified Pickaxe Mountain. Asked about reports he was considering using MOAB, possibly after the Nov 3 midterm elections, Trump said it was not nuclear and that he would not use a nuclear weapon because it was unnecessary.

The MOAB weighs approximately 21,600 pounds and was first used in combat in April 2017, during Trump's first administration, against an Islamic State group tun-

2 dead in blasts near Yemen govt palace

At least six explosions struck Thursday near the palace used by Yemen's internationally recognised govt in the port city of Aden, witnesses said. An official said at least two people were killed, and Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility. The Houthis said they attacked a military operations headquarters with the "Saudi enemy," part of their strategy of attacking Saudi targets that has included a series of attacks on airports and oil facilities. AP

nel complex in Afghanistan. Unlike the GBU-57 Massive Ordnance Penetrator, a bunker-busting bomb for deeply buried targets, MOAB is designed primarily to create a massive surface blast. However, the report said officials have questioned whether the weapon could destroy Iranian nuclear facilities buried deep underground. PTI

Order to limit satellite system used by Ukraine came from WH: Report



'TECHING' OFF: A Ukrainian drone company, SkyFall, demonstrates StarGate, an aerial medical evacuation drone designed to carry wounded soldiers from front-line positions, potentially saving lives where conventional rescue vehicles cannot reach

New York/Washington: The order to limit a satellite system used by Ukraine for battlefield communications and drone operations came from inside the White House, according to two US officials and a Western official briefed on the matter. The officials said leaders at the defence department received a message that the SpaceX Starshield service for the Ukrainian military needed to be slowed.

The officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, did not specify who in the White House made the decision or who was responsible for implementing the order. The Pentagon is the biggest customer of Starshield, which is the military-grade version of the Starlink service.

Ukrainian officials said this week that military-grade Starlink receptors stopped working in Ukraine when mounted on fast-moving objects, interfering with the performance of Ukrainian drones that rely on them for onboard

guidance systems over Ukrainian territory.

Trump didn't order limits on Kyiv's SpaceX access: US

President Trump didn't order any limitations on Ukraine's access to SpaceX's Starshield satellite technology, according to a senior US official. The US official's comment didn't preclude the possibility that another US official or agency directed Kyiv's access be curbed, but it does rebut Zelenskyy's claim that Trump was responsible.

Starlink speed not yet fully restored, says Zelensky

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Friday that Starlink services in his country were still being restored, after partial curbs impeded the military's ability to defend against Russia. "Has the speed been fully restored to what it was before? No. Is the speed being restored now? Yes," Zelensky said at a presser in Brussels. AGENCIES