

Masterstroke by Modi govt, signed Rs 3,800 crore deal to sell 'BrahMos' missile

Agency: India has once again showcased its defense manufacturing power and strengthened its position as a global exporter of advanced weaponry. The BrahMos missile, a symbol of India's growing defense self-reliance, has emerged as a sought-after product in the global arms market. This latest agreement with Indonesia underlines India's capability to produce and export sophisticated defense equipment. Earlier, India signed a similar deal with the Philippines worth \$375 million.

The deal was advanced during Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's recent visit to India, where he was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations. Along with a high-level delegation, the Indonesian Navy Chief, Admiral Muhammad Ali, visited the BrahMos Aerospace headquarters to understand the capabilities of the missile. The delegation was briefed by BrahMos

officials, including Dr. Jaierteer R. Joshi, on the weapon's powerful features. BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India and Russia, highlighted the missile's strengths during the visit. The company posted on its official social media: "A high-level delegation led by Admiral Muhammad Ali, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, visited BrahMos Aerospace. They were briefed on the supersonic BrahMos weapon system and its remarkable capabilities." The deal will make Indonesia the second international buyer of the BrahMos missile after the Philippines. Discussions during the visit emphasized deepening cooperation in defense and strategic sectors. Both nations have also agreed to enhance collaboration in maritime security, supply chains, and trade. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described Indonesia as a "key partner" in maintaining security and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.



The BrahMos missile, known as the world's fastest cruise missile, can reach speeds of Mach 2.8 nearly three times the speed of sound. It can be launched from land, air, or sea platforms. While the version exported to the Philippines has a range of 290

km, India has developed an advanced version capable of striking targets up to 500 km away.

In April 2024, India delivered the first batch of BrahMos missiles and launchers to the Philippines Marine Corps as part of its earlier deal. These systems have been instrumental in bolstering the defense capabilities of India's allies in the Indo-Pacific region. During the Republic Day parade, BrahMos missiles were prominently displayed, highlighting India's defense manufacturing capabilities. The event also featured a marching contingent of 160 Indonesian soldiers and a 190-member band, symbolizing the growing defense partnership between the two nations. This Rs 3,800 crore deal with Indonesia is a testament to India's rising stature as a defense exporter. It reflects the country's commitment to strengthening ties with key partners and establishing itself as a reliable player in the global arms industry.

Chinese DeepSeek AI chatbot hit by Cyberattack amid US competition

Agency: Chinese tech startup DeepSeek said it was hit by a cyber attack on Monday that disrupted users' ability to register on the site. The company, whose artificial intelligence chatbot has sent the tech world into a frenzy, said that it had suffered "large-scale malicious attacks" on its services. DeepSeek began attracting more attention in the AI industry last month when it released a new AI model that it boasted was on par with similar models from US companies such as ChatGPT maker OpenAI, and was more cost-effective in its use of expensive Nvidia chips to train the system on huge troves of data. The chatbot became more

widely accessible when it appeared on Apple and Google app stores early this year.

By Monday, DeepSeek's AI assistant had become the No. 1 downloaded free app on Apple's iPhone store. The jump in popularity fuelled debates over competition between the US and China in developing AI technology. But some US tech industry observers said they were worried about the idea that the Chinese startup has caught up with the American companies at the forefront of generative AI at a fraction of the cost. DeepSeek was founded in Hangzhou, China in 2023. The company released its first AI large language model later that year.

This is for the first

Agency: Sirsa-based

Dera Sacha Sauda chief and rape-murder convict Gurmeet Ram Rahim was released on parole from Rohtak's Sunaria jail on Tuesday morning. The Dera head is undergoing 20-year imprisonment in connection with the rape of two of his disciples. He has also been convicted for the murder of journalist Ram Chander Chhatrapati. As per official sources, he has been released on a 30-day parole, of which he will stay at the Sirsa ashram for the first 10 days and at Barnawa ashram in Uttar Pradesh's Baghpat district for the remaining 20 days.

This is for the first

time since the Dera chief's arrest that he has been allowed to visit his Sirsa ashram during the parole period. It is for the 11th time that he has been released from the jail on furlough/parole ever since he was awarded the jail term by a special CBI court in August, 2017. However, the release was kept secretive this time that the local police also got to know about it after the Dera chief left the jail. The grant of parole to the Dera head is also being linked to the Delhi Assembly elections as the Dera has many followers in the national capital. Several leaders of the ruling party have been visiting the Dera ashrams.

Statement: Earlier, the ED had conducted a search operation in this case on October 23 last year, resulting in the seizure of various movable assets, including bank accounts, amounting to Rs 16.42 crore, along with several incriminating documents and digital devices. So far, the ED has attached assets worth Rs 96.20 crore in the case. Further investigation is on.

Modi 'will do what's right' when it comes to taking back Indian living illegally in US: Trump

Agency: US President Donald Trump told reporters that he spoke with Modi about the issue of immigration and that the Indian PM would visit the US sometime in February. US President Donald Trump stressed the importance of India buying more American-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship in a phone call with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, the White House said. Trump later himself told reporters they also spoke about the issue of immigration and that Modi would visit the US sometime in February. The White House said earlier that plans for a Modi visit were discussed by the two leaders. Trump told reporters on Monday Modi "will do what's right" when it comes to taking back Indian immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally.

In a meeting with



India's foreign minister last week, Trump's Secretary of State Marco Rubio emphasized a desire to "address concerns related to irregular migration." Trump has pledged to crack down on illegal immigration and Bloomberg News reported last week that India and the U.S. have identified some 18,000 Indian migrants who are in the U.S. illegally. Trump has said he is open to legal migration of skilled workers and India is known for its massive pool of IT professionals, many of whom work across the world. They account for the bulk of the skilled worker H-1B visas issued by the United States. The US readouts this week and last made no mention of Washington's accusations of Indian involvement in a foiled murder plot on US soil against a Sikh separatist that were an awkward factor in relations in the latter part of the administration of former President Joe Biden. In what

the White House called a "productive call," the leaders discussed expanding and deepening cooperation and issues including security in the Indo-Pacific, the Middle East, and Europe. Trump and Modi enjoyed warm relations in the US president's first term, but during his campaign for re-election Trump called India a "very big abuser" on trade and vowed to use tariffs on global imports into the U.S. to correct imbalances. Trump has also threatened the BRICS group of nations, of which India is a

part, with tariffs if they did not accept his demand of committing to not create a new currency. In Monday's call, Trump "emphasized the importance of India increasing its procurement of American-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship," a White House statement said.

The U.S. is India's largest trading partner and two-way trade surpassed \$118 billion in 2023/24, with India posting a surplus of \$32 billion.

Infosys co-founder Kris Gopalakrishnan among 18 booked under SC/ST Act

Agency: A case was registered against Infosys co-founder Senapathy Kris Gopalakrishnan, former IISc Director Balaram and 16 others under the Prevention of SC/ST Atrocities Act on Monday. The case was registered at the Sadashiva Nagar police station based on the directions of the 71st city civil and session court (CCH). The complainant, Durgappa, who belongs to the tribal Bovi community, was a faculty member at the Centre for Sustainable Technology at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc). He claimed that in 2014, he was falsely implicated in a honey trap case and subsequently dismissed from service. He further alleged that he was subjected to casteist



abuse and threats. The other individuals accused in this case include Govindan Rangarajan, Sridhar Warrier, Sandya Vishwswaraih, Hari K V S, Dasappa, Balaram P, Hemalata Mhishi, Chattopadhyaya K, Pradeep D Sawkar, and Manoharan.

There was no immediate reaction from the IISc faculty or from Kris Gopalakrishnan, who also serves as a member of the IISc Board of Trustees.

Key provisions include, prohibition of time references other than IST for official and commercial purposes, mandatory display of IST in government offices and public institutions and requirement for time-synchronisation systems to ensure reliability, availability, and cybersecurity. The proposal comes as part of efforts to ensure precise timekeeping in critical national infrastructure, including telecommunications, banking, defence, and emerging technologies like 5G and artificial intelligence. "Precise time with nanosecond accuracy is essential for strategic and non-strategic sectors," a senior government official told PTI. Exceptions will be allowed for specialised fields such as astronomy,

navigation, and scientific research, subject to prior government approval. The Department of Consumer Affairs is collaborating with the National Physical Laboratory and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to develop a robust time generation and dissemination mechanism. Violations of the proposed rules will attract penalties, with periodic audits planned to ensure compliance across sectors. Public stakeholders have been invited to submit comments and suggestions on the draft rules by February 14.



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Stone Pelted On Mahakumbh Special Train In Jhansi

Agency: A special train travelling from Jhansi to Prayagraj was pelted with stones at Harpalpur station after passengers waiting on the platform found the doors of the compartments locked. Videos circulating on social media show the attackers throwing stones at the train and shattering its windows as the passengers scream in fear. In one of the videos, a passenger is heard saying that the train left the Jhansi station for Prayagraj around 8 pm yesterday. "The train reached Harpalpur and came under attack. They damaged the train and threw stones inside. They tried to kill passengers. There are women and children here."

This special train is being run for the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj, drawing visitors from across the country. Most passengers boarding the train are headed to the spiritual fest. According to reports, many people were waiting at Harpalpur - about two hours journey from Jhansi -- to board the train.

But they found the doors locked when they tried to get on the train. The agitated passengers turned violent and started throwing stones at the compartments. They also shattered the windows of the train's doors, sparking panic among the passengers inside. Harpalpur police station in-charge Pushpak Sharma said some people threw stones at the train when it reached the railway station around 2 am.

Railways spokesperson Manoj Singh said a crowd of passengers headed for Prayagraj were waiting on the platform. The train arrived and they tried to get inside, but found the doors locked. "They became agitated and created an uproar," he said, adding that Railway police reached the spot soon, calmed people down and sent them on their journey. "We want to appeal to the passengers to cooperate to ensure a smooth journey to Prayagraj and to prevent a repeat of such incidents."

A vast congregation of devotees is gathering in Prayagraj for Mauni Amavasya Snan, the most important of the three Amrit Snan at the Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

