

PRIME MINISTER CONDOLES PASSING OF DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today, condoled passing of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, a towering figure in India's scientific and educational journey. Shri Modi stated that Dr. K. Kasturirangan served ISRO with great diligence, steering India's space

programme to new heights. "India will always be grateful to Dr. Kasturirangan for his efforts during the drafting of the National Education Policy (NEP) and in ensuring that learning in India became more holistic and forward-looking. He was also an outstanding mentor to many young scientists

and researchers", Shri Modi added.

The Prime Minister posted on X:

"I am deeply saddened by the passing of Dr. K. Kasturirangan, a towering figure in India's scientific and educational journey. His visionary leadership and selfless contribution to the

nation will always be remembered.

He served ISRO with great diligence, steering India's space programme to new heights, for which we also received global recognition.

His leadership also witnessed ambitious satellite launches and focussed on innovation."

ARMY CHIEF REVIEWS SECURITY SITUATION IN SRINAGAR

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Amid the rising tension between India and Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, for the first time, reached Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar and reviewed the security situation of the Union Territory.

Upon his arrival, the 15 Corps Commander briefed him about the ongoing security situation and he met with senior Army commanders deployed in the Kashmir Valley, along with officials from other security agencies. The Indian Army Chief General

was also briefed on the actions being taken by the formations against terrorists inside own territory and Pakistan Army's attempts to violate the ceasefire along the LoC.

Earlier today, Pakistan Army troops opened fire at some places along the Line

of Control (LoC), prompting an immediate retaliation from the Indian Army, officials said. "Small Arm Firing at some places on Line of Control initiated by the Pakistan Army. Effectively responded to by the Indian Army. No casualties," Indian Army officials said

PRESIDENT MURMU TO ATTEND POPE'S FUNERAL

Chennai, 26 April 2025: President Droupadi Murmu will be visiting Vatican City for two days from today to attend the State Funeral of Pope Francis and offer condolences on behalf of the Government and people of India.

of Saint Peter in Vatican City today. Tomorrow, President Murmu will attend the funeral Mass of Pope Francis at Saint Peter's Square in Vatican City, which will be attended by dignitaries from around the world, a statement said.

President Murmu will pay homage to Pope Francis by laying a wreath at the Basilica

"Pope Francis passed away on April 21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had

expressed condolences at the demise of Pope Francis and noted that his affection for the people of India will always be cherished.

"Minister of State for External Affairs and Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh had visited the Apostolic Nunciature (Embassy of the Holy See) in New Delhi on

April 22 to sign the condolence book.

India has declared three days of State Mourning on the passing of Pope Francis.

"His Holiness Pope Francis will be remembered as a beacon of compassion, humility and spiritual courage by millions across the world," it said.

GENESYS UNVEILS EXECUTIVE BRIEFING CENTRE

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Genesys, a global cloud leader in AI-Powered Experience Orchestration, unveiled its state-of-the-art Executive Briefing Centre (EBC) in Chennai, underscoring its ongoing expansion and commitment to India. The newly established experiential facility offers business an immersive look at how Genesys is helping businesses transform customer and employee experiences through the latest advancements in AI, workforce engagement, and customer journey management.

According to the Genesys State of Customer Experience (CX) report, AI is becoming a top priority for businesses, with CX leaders surveyed expecting to allocate 33% of CX budgets to the technology over the next year. As the third-largest R&D hub in India, Genesys India is a leading contributor to patent filings for the company, playing an important role in advancing AI-driven, cloud-based experience orchestration solutions.

In 2021, Genesys became the first global CX organisation to establish an in-country

cloud deployment in India. Today, it empowers leading Indian enterprises such as AionOS and Hexaware with secure, reliable and resilient solutions to help organisations increase customer satisfaction, operational efficiency and employee productivity.

Raja Lakshmi pathy, Vice President and Managing Director for India & SAARC, Genesys said, "As we navigate the AI and cloud hype cycle, this facility offers a collaborative space for customers and partners to co-innovate with our R & D teams, experience the

transformative value our solutions can provide, and build tailored engagement strategies.

The Executive Briefing Centre reinforces our long-term commitment to helping customers in India drive impact and highlights the region's importance as a critical source of talent and innovation.

We believe Genesys is well-positioned to be a key enabler of India's digital transformation, empowering Indian organisations to provide exceptional customer experiences which can fuel growth in a competitive market."

KEEL LAYING OF FOURTH NEXT GENERATION OFFSHORE PATROL VESSEL YARD (3040)

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Keel laying ceremony for Yard 3040, the fourth (ex-GRSE) Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), was held at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) in Kolkata, on 24 Apr 25.

The ceremony was attended by Vice Admiral Rajaram Swaminathan, Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition, as the Chief Guest. Cmde PR Hari (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director of GRSE, along with other senior officials



from the Indian Navy and the shipyard, were also present. This milestone marks a significant step forward in the construction of the NGOPV, further showcasing India's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.

The contracts for indigenous design and

construction of eleven Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPV) were concluded on 30 Mar 23 with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL), Goa and Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, with seven ships to be constructed by Lead Shipyard GSL and four ships by Follow Shipyard

GRSE.

The NGOPVs, with an approximate tonnage of 3000T, are designed for Coastal Defence & Surveillance, Search & Rescue operations, Protection of Offshore Assets and Anti-Piracy missions. Keel Laying of the vessel marks a significant milestone in the overall project timeline.

The eleven NGOPVs are being built in consonance with the nation's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India' and are poised to augment the Indian Naval maritime prowess.

RUSSIA OFFICIALLY LIFTS 2-DECADE BAN ON TALIBAN

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Russia recently officially lifted its two-decade old ban on the Afghan Taliban, a symbolic gesture removing the group from its list of designated terrorist organisations.

The move, confirmed by Russian state media on Thursday, marks a significant shift in Moscow's diplomatic posture toward the de facto rulers of Afghanistan.

Russia's Supreme Court on Thursday

removed the Taliban's designation as a "terrorist organisation", a friendly ties with Afghanistan's rulers.

The Islamist group seized power in Afghanistan in August 2021, after American forces pulled out.

The Russian Supreme Court's decision to lift the ban, imposed in 2003, takes effect immediately and paves the way for broader engagement



between the Kremlin and the Taliban.

Although no country has formally recognised the Taliban-led Government since it seized power in August 2021, Moscow has gradually

deepened its ties with the group in recent years.

President Vladimir Putin previously described the Taliban as a partner in combating terrorism. Russia now views cooperation with the group as a strategic necessity, especially amid growing regional security threats from extremist organisations, Khaama reported.

The Taliban remains isolated on the international stage due to its human rights record-particularly concerning women's rights. The group has imposed sweeping restrictions on Afghan women, including banning them from secondary and higher education and limiting their public presence without a male guardian.

The Taliban claims its policies are aligned with Islamic principles.

Russia's latest move, while not constituting formal recognition of the Taliban government, signals a pragmatic step toward deeper relations.

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Who We Are

In the year 2011, Oasis Grace established its operations in India and has since then been providing international services in the field of

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was personally handed over to Ja U, the Central Ambassador appointed to the Myanmar, at the Embassy of the embassy office of the Republic of India in New Delhi.

EPFO SIMPLIFIES TRANSFER CLAIM PROCESS THROUGH REVAMPED FORM 13 FUNCTIONALITY; MORE THAN 1.25 CRORE MEMBERS TO BENEFIT

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Simplification of Transfer Claim Process through Revamped Form 13 functionality

To ensure ease of living for its members, EPFO during January this year, has greatly simplified the process for transfer of PF account on change of jobs by removing the requirement of the approval from employer in majority of the cases.

Till now, the transfer of PF accumulations used to happen with the involvement of two EPF Offices. One, from which the PF accumulation is transferred (Source Office) and two, the EPF Office in which the transfer is actually credited (Destination Office).

Now, with an aim to further simplify the process, EPFO has removed the requirement of approval of all transfer claims at the

Destination Office by launching a Revamped Form 13 software functionality.

Henceforth, once the transfer claim gets approved at the Transferor (Source) Office the previous account will automatically get transferred to the present account of the member at the Transferee (Destination) Office instantly furthering the aim of "Ease of Living" for Members of EPFO.

This revamped functionality also provides the bifurcation of taxable and non-taxable components of PF accumulations to facilitate accurate calculation of TDS on Taxable PF interest.

It is expected to benefit more than 1.25 Crore Members facilitating the transfer of around Rs. 90,000 Crores every year henceforth as the entire transfer process shall

be speeded up.

Bulk generation of UAN by Employers without seeding Aadhaar

With a view to further Ease of Doing Business and to address the grievances being raised w.r.t proper accounting of the Past Accumulations that had been remitted to EPFO by the Exempted PF Trusts consequent to the surrender/cancellation of exemption and also in other cases involving remittance of past period contributions consequent to quasi-judicial/recovery proceedings, it has been decided by EPFO to relax the requirement of Aadhaar for generation of UAN/credit of Past Accumulations for such members. Also, a facility for bulk generation of UANs based on the Member Id & other member information available on record so as to enable prompt

crediting of funds in the accounts of such members has been provided.

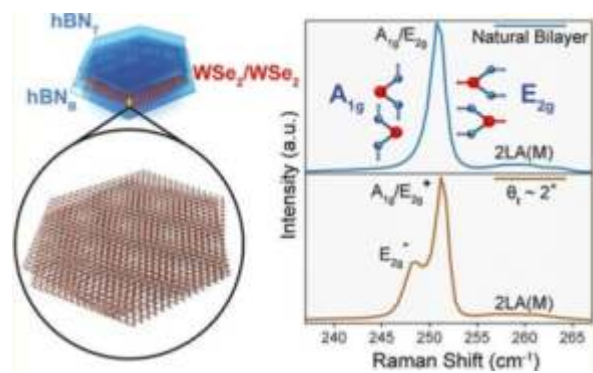
To that effect a software functionality has already been deployed and made available to the Field Offices in the FO Interface for bulk generation of UANs in the above said cases and also account the Past Accumulations without the requirement of Aadhaar in EPFO Application.

However, as a measure of risk mitigation to protect the PF accumulations, all such UANs would be kept in a frozen state and subsequently made operational only after the seeding of Aadhaar. All these measures are expected to significantly improve services to members and reduce long standing grievances including further streamlining of validations for auto settlement of eligible claims.

BREAKTHROUGH RESEARCH PAVES WAY FOR ENGINEERING MATERIALS VITAL FOR EMERGING QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY

Chennai, 26 April 2025: A breakthrough method of controlling properties of phonons--energy wave travelling through crystal lattice on vibration of atoms of the material, through twist angles between layers of two-dimensional materials, can help engineer materials with tailored thermal, optical, and electronic characteristics, vital for quantum technology.

A phonon is a collective excitation in a periodic, elastic arrangement of atoms or molecules in condensed matter like a tiny wave of energy that travels through the crystal lattice when atoms in the material start to vibrate. They are similar to movement of ripples in a pond on dropping of a stone.



Phonon properties and their interactions can play a crucial role in developing optoelectronics tunable photonic devices. Scientists are exploring different methods in controlling properties of phonons for the purpose.

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, have uncovered a method to vary twist angles in WSe2 (Tungsten diselenide) homobilayers to influence phonon hybridization and other key properties. This

study, published in ACS Nano highlights the intricate relationship between periodic structures that form when two or more two-dimensional (2D) lattices overlap (moiré superstructures) and their impact on phononic and electronic interactions.

Using Raman spectroscopy, the team demonstrated that twist angles between 1° and 7° in WSe2 homobilayers induce splitting in phonon modes. They also showed that unusual temperature-driven changes in Raman

frequencies and line widths, particularly at low temperatures (below 50 K), emphasizing the interplay of electron-phonon coupling and phonon anharmonicity (restoring force in the system is not perfectly proportional to the displacement from equilibrium) in twisted systems.

This research which used the Raman facility, set up with support from the FIST (Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions) program of Department of Science and Technology, and received funding support of DST, opens new pathways for the design of advanced materials for photonic, quantum, and electronic applications.

TELECOM REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF INDIA (TRAI)

Chennai, 26 April 2025: TRAI convened a meeting of the Joint Committee of Regulators (JCOR) on 25th April, 2025, at its headquarters in New Delhi to deliberate issues needing cross-sectoral regulatory collaboration and formulate collaborative measures including dealing with unsolicited commercial communication (UCC)/ spam and fraudulent communications.

Members of the JCoR, including representatives from RBI, IRDAI, PFRDA, SEBI, MoCA, and MeitY, participated in the meeting. Additionally, DoT, and MHA representatives attended the meeting as special invitees.

The Joint Committee of Regulators (JCOR), an initiative of TRAI, was established to foster collaborative efforts among sectoral regulators from the telecommunication, IT, Consumer Affairs, and financial and insurance sectors to deliberate cross sectoral regulatory issues in the digital world and work collaboratively on adopting appropriate regulatory measures.

Members of the committee have since leveraged this platform



measures to counter fraudulent communication and the problem of Digital Arrest scams.

In this regard, measures such as deletion of unused message headers and content templates to avoid their misuse by spammers, prompt action on fraudulent SMS headers, blocking of the Mobile Numbers/IMEI utilized in sending fraudulent messages etc. were discussed.

The members agreed to work further on modalities for implementation of the same.

The issue of spam and scam through OTT and RCS communication platforms were discussed.

MeitY will engage with the stakeholders in this regard to take measures analogues to those for conventional telecommunication.

The JCoR members agreed to further strengthen the collaborative efforts to address these issues collectively so as to increase cross sectoral collaboration and also protect consumers from the harms of spam and fraud while ensuring a more secure and efficient telecom commercial communication ecosystem.

to reinforce their regulatory framework and ensure its effective implementation.

The JCoR has provided a very useful collaborative forum to address the issue of UCC & regulatory challenges in the digital era and enhance regulatory frameworks to control UCC through collective effort.

In his opening address, TRAI Chairman Shri Anil Kumar Lahoti highlighted the critical need for a collaborative approach to combat spam messages and calls creating inconvenience and defrauding the citizens, especially, the progress made by JCOR in this regard and the challenges ahead.

The following are some important items deliberated in the meeting:

Modalities for implementation of 1600 series numbers, allocated specially for making transactional and service voice calls by the entities

belonging to the government and financial sector, were discussed.

The committee members agreed to take up the issue with entities within their jurisdiction for expediting its implementation in a time bound manner and regular monitoring.

The CoAI also made a presentation before the committee regarding various solutions that can offer an entity one 1600 series number CLI to be presented to the recipients across all the TSPs and LSAs in the country.

Modalities for onboarding of senders of commercial communication on Digital Consent Acquisition (DCA) platform were deliberated.

JCOR members agreed to engage with the senders/Principal Entities (PEs) within their jurisdiction to onboard them on DCA.

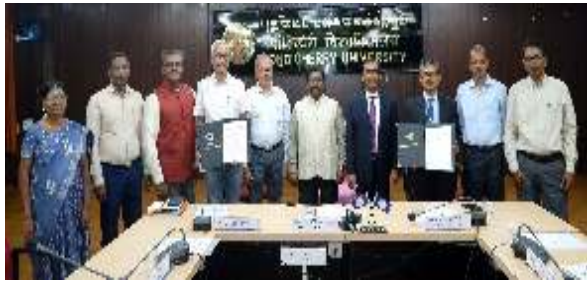
During the deliberations, IAC discussed various

PONDICHERRY UNIVERSITY SIGNED MOU WITH CENTRAL POWER RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BANGALORE

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Pondicherry University and Central Power Research Institute Bangalore officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking a significant milestone in fostering academic and research collaboration. The agreement, signed in a ceremony brings together two premier institutions to drive innovations in the electrical power systems, renewable energy technologies, and sustainable development solutions.

Prof. P. Prakash Babu, Vice-chancellor, Pondicherry University, emphasized the strategic importance of this partnership, stating that it aligns well with the university's aspiration to strengthen industry-academic linkages.

"This partnership represents a perfect synergy between academic excellence and industrial expertise. At Pondicherry University, we are committed to creating industry-relevant knowledge ecosystems, and this



collaboration with CPRI will enable our students and faculties to work on transformative projects that address India's growing energy demands while maintaining the environmental sustainability. Together, we will develop cutting-edge solutions that can be implemented at both national and global levels," he said.

Shri. B.A. Sawale, Director General of CPRI, echoed these sentiments, stating, "As India's premier power research institution, CPRI recognizes the critical importance of bridging the gap between the laboratory research and commercial applications. This MoU with Pondicherry University allows us to combine our state-of-the-art testing facilities and decades of industry experience with the Pondicherry University's strong

academic foundation and research capabilities"

The MoU establishes multiple avenues for the collaboration, including joint research projects, faculty exchange programs and expert lectures, student internships and hands-on training at CPRI facilities, shared access to research facilities and laboratories and organization of national conferences and workshops leading to an enhanced academic and research co-operation.

In his address, Prof. S. Victor Anandkumar, Dean (International Relations), Pondicherry University, spoke about the university's expanding global and industrial outreach as well as the similarities and potential synergies with CPRI Bangalore leading to transformative partnership in the field

of Energy and Power systems.

Prof. P. Elumalai, MoU co-ordinator and faculty member of the Department of Green Energy Technology, elaborated "This collaboration is the result of nearly a year of careful planning and discussions. It is particularly significant that it creates a structured platform for continuous interaction between our faculties and CPRI's scientists, ensuring that the partnership remains dynamic and productive." Prof. B. M. Jaffar Ali, Dean of Madanjeet School of Green Energy Technologies, expressed his delight at the potential impact this partnership will have across the university's academic landscape. The MoU signing ceremony was attended by faculty members and representatives from both institutions. This collaboration marks a pivotal step in advancing academic exchange between Pondicherry University and CPRI, laying the foundation for a vibrant, knowledge-driven partnership.

EVIDENCE-BASED POLICY MAKING NEEDED IN AGRICULTURE SECTOR: ICAR DG DR. M L JAT

Chennai, 26 April 2025: The National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and the Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS) jointly organized an interactive meet and felicitation ceremony to honour two eminent agricultural scientists - Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICARISAT, and Dr. M.L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) & Director General, ICAR—on their appointments to prestigious leadership roles in their respective institutions, in New Delhi today.

A significant highlight of the programme was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TAAS and NAAS, aimed at enhancing collaborative initiatives in agricultural science, research, and policy development.

During the event, Dr. M.L. Jat called upon the agricultural fraternity to come



together in achieving Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Amrit Kaal. He emphasized the urgent need for science and evidence-based policymaking in agriculture and bringing smile on their faces, while also underscoring the importance of creating sustainable livelihoods for farmers. It is a time for common collaborative mission to bring smiles in famers face and align our goals to our nation's goals, he added.

“We must study emerging agricultural demands in the context of global megatrends. Strengthening both internal systems and external capacities, and ensuring their synergy, is key to building a resilient agricultural ecosystem,” he stated.

He further highlighted the challenges arising from the diversity of Indian agriculture and the necessity for well-planned, integrated approaches to address them.

Dr. Himanshu Pathak spoke on the critical role of science in societal transformation. He emphasized that every society must adopt and promote scientific thinking, and acknowledged the past successes of collaborative efforts between the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and NAAS.

He expressed optimism that continued partnership particularly between ICAR, CGIAR, and the Special Innovation

Team (SIT) would further strengthen agricultural research and innovation in India.

Dr RS Paroda, Chairman, TAAS, stated that our agricultural challenges encompass national food security, nutritional security, and environmental sustainability. These can be addressed by mitigating climate change, transforming grey areas into green spaces, and promoting regenerative agriculture, he added.

The ceremony also featured addresses from leading agricultural experts and dignitaries, including Dr. P.K. Joshi; Dr. Ashok K. Singh; and Dr. W.S. Lakra, who emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration to address future challenges in Indian agriculture.

The event concluded with a collective reaffirmation of commitment to innovation, evidence-based policymaking, and inclusive growth in the agricultural sector.

CBIC INTRODUCES SEVERAL TRADE FACILITATIVE MEASURES RELATING TO TRANSHIPMENT AND AIR CARGO

Chennai, 26 April 2025: In line with the announcement in the Budget Speech 2025-26 by the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, on facilitating upgradation of infrastructure and warehousing for air cargo including high value perishable horticulture produce and streamlining the cargo screening and customs protocols and making it user-friendly, the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has introduced several trade facilitative measures in Air cargo in particular and transshipment movement in general.

For logistical convenience or other business decisions, Logistics operators sometimes undertake movement of imported cargo during the customs clearance between Customs areas (Ports/Container Freight Stations/Inland Container Depots etc.) without payment of duty by following transshipment procedure under The Customs Act, 1962.

Since old times, transshipment permit fee is required to be paid for every transshipment permit. Over a period of time, due to increase in volume of trade, including transshipped cargo, some experienced delay in the process.

As a measure for ease of business, CBIC has examined this matter and with effect from 24th April 2025, CBIC has decided to waive transshipment permit fee henceforth for all the transshipment movements.

Changes to the Regulations has been issued vide Notification No. 30/2025-Cus (N.T) dated 24th April 2025 (<https://www.cbic.gov.in/f2d0927b-945d-411c-8c34-65d272a6d047>) in this regard.

Further, with increase in the volume of air cargo, need was felt by the trade for temporary removal of Unit Load Devices (ULD) outside Customs Area in certain cases of high-value or perishable

cargo. Currently, the cargo is being off-loaded in the Air cargo Complexes from ULD before the clearance.

As a first step towards streamlining Customs Protocols, and aligning with the international best practices for movement of Unit Load Devices (ULD) outside Customs Area, CBIC has stipulated simplified and harmonised procedure for temporary import of ULDs on the lines of procedure already stipulated for marine containers being handled through the seaports since 2005.

With this simplified procedure, ULDs/air containers could also be imported temporarily outside the Customs area on execution of a Continuity Bond by the air carriers/air console agents, who take responsibility to export back within the specified time period.

Earlier, it required the importer of the goods to under the responsibility of exporting the ULDs/air containers back, in case of such temporary import. It is clarified

that, the option of importer taking up the responsibility for re-export still exists, if he opts so.

It is further to inform that, the facility of 'All-India National Transshipment Bond' at air cargo complexes is operational since 2022. This facility has been intended to avoid multiplicity of the bonds that are submitted by airlines at multiple Customs stations for transshipment of import cargo.

In addition, Online filing of Transshipment application has also been enabled in ICEGATE, obviating the need for visiting Service Centre at the Air cargo.

Board Circular No. 15/2025-Customs dated 25th April 2025 may be referred to, for more information.

Above measures are aimed easing of compliances and facilitating trade at Air cargo complexes. The Airlines, Console Agents or other stakeholders are encouraged to use the above facilities.

INAUGURATION OF AIR FORCE MUSEUM HQ MAINTENANCE COMMAND IN NAGPUR

Chennai, 26 April 2025: The Air Force Museum Vayusena Nagar in Nagpur was inaugurated on 25 April 2025 by Air Marshal Vijay Kumar Garg, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command.

The Air Force Museum houses a rich collection of memorabilia of Indian Military Aviation and displays the history of Indian Air Force.

The Museum displays a Mi 8

helicopter, MiG-21 fighter aircraft and Pichora missile at the entrance. The various sections of museum include History of IAF, Audio Visual section, equipment display section, weapon section etc.

The Museum also has having flying Simulator section where visitors can have real time experience of fighter flying.

The museum will be open for public on all days except Tuesday



and Gazetted holidays as per timing 1000-1400 hrs and 1600-1800 Hrs.

The primary purpose of Air Force museum is to preserve and showcase the

history, evolution and achievements of Air Force. It provides a platform for education, research and remembrance of the Air Force's personnel and their contributions.

UNDER ROZGAR MELA, PM TO DISTRIBUTE MORE THAN 51,000 APPOINTMENT LETTERS TO NEWLY APPOINTED YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANISATIONS ON 26TH APRIL

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly appointed youth in various Government departments and organisations on 26th April, 2025 at around 11 AM through video conferencing. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. In line with Prime Minister's

commitment to accord highest priority to employment generation, the 15th Rozgar Mela will be held at 47 locations across the country.

It will provide meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and effectively contributing to national development. The new recruits, selected from



across the country will be joining the Central Government in various Ministries/Departments including Department of Revenue, Ministry of Personnel and Public Grievances and

Pensions, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Labour & Employment among others.

DRDO ACHIEVES SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN SCRAMJET ENGINE DEVELOPMENT

Chennai, 26 April 2025: Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), a Hyderabad-based laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has achieved a significant milestone in the field of Hypersonic Weapon Technology. DRDL conducted long-duration Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor ground testing for more than 1,000 seconds at the newly built state-of-the-art Scramjet Connect Test Facility at Hyderabad on April 25, 2025.

The ground-test is in continuation of the earlier test reported for 120 seconds in January 2025. With the

successful test, the system will be soon ready for full scale flight worthy combustor testing.

Hypersonic Cruise Missile is a class of weapons that can travel more than five times the speed of sound (> 6100 Kmph) for long duration and is powered by Air breathing engine. Air breathing propulsion systems, having supersonic combustion, plays a critical role for long-duration cruise conditions.

This test validates the design of long duration scramjet combustor as well as test facility. It is an outcome of an integrated effort put by the DRDO labs along with industry &



academia and paves a strong base for the nation's Hypersonic Cruise Missile R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated Director General (Missiles & Strategic Systems) Shri U Raja Babu, Director DRDL Dr GA Srinivasa Murthy and the complete team for demonstrating the supersonic combustion for more than 1,000 seconds involving cutting edge technologies.

He termed the success as a reflection of the Government's strong commitment in realising critical Hypersonic Weapon

Technologies for the nation. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated Director General (Missiles & Strategic Systems) Shri U Raja Babu, Director DRDL Dr GA Srinivasa Murthy and the complete team for demonstrating the supersonic combustion for more than 1,000 seconds involving cutting edge technologies.

CHINA ASSAILS US-PHILIPPINES MILITARY DRILL

Chennai, 26 April 2025: A Chinese defence spokesperson on Thursday said the Philippines' collusion with the United States to make provocations - conducting so-called patrols and exercises and deploying strategic

and tactical weapons, seriously undermines the common interests of regional countries. "We firmly oppose any country strengthening military deployment in the region and provoking tensions and confrontation under the

excuse of the Taiwan question," Zhang Xiaogang, spokesperson for the Ministry of National Defence, told a press conference.

Zhang made the remarks in response to recent media reports

about the deployment of an anti-ship missile system in the Philippines for the first time -- believed by some analysts to be intended to simulate a blockade of the Bashi Channel in the event of a crisis in the Taiwan Strait.