

Decoding The Hindu Article

India-U.K. defence, trade ties to get a booster shot

U.K. likely to offer series of technological collaborations

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

In the backdrop of the rapid geopolitical **turmoil**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Boris Johnson on Friday agreed on a new and expanded India-U.K. defence partnership and vowed to seal an ambitious free trade agreement by the end of the year.

After his wide-ranging talks with Mr. Modi on the second and final day of his India visit, Mr. Johnson said the U.K. is creating an Open General Export Licence (OGEL) for India to “reduce bureaucracy and slashing delivery times” for defence procurement.

The British Prime Minister said both sides agreed to work together to meet new threats across land, sea, air space and cyber domains and the U.K. will partner with India on new fighter jet technology as well as in the



Strengthening bonds: Narendra Modi and Boris Johnson at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday. • R. V. MOORTHY

maritime sphere to detect and respond to threats.

‘A beacon in stormy seas’
Ahead of a bilateral meeting at Hyderabad House, the British Prime Minister on Friday described the India-U.K. relationship as a “beacon in stormy seas.”

“Our collaboration on the issues that matter to both our countries, from climate change to energy security

and defence, is of vital importance as we look to the future. I look forward to discussing these issues with Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi today and working together to deliver a more secure and prosperous future for both our peoples,” said Mr. Johnson in his first statement after a ceremonial welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

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Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Turmoil	(Noun): a state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty.	शोरगुल

Static News

The open General Licence is a type of license that is used for the export license that is issued by the government for domestic suppliers. The items that are to be exported in India are categorised into three types. They are prohibited items, restricted items, and freely importable items.

Alexander Boris de Pfeffel Johnson is a British politician serving as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and Leader of the Conservative Party since 2019. He was Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs from 2016 to 2018 and Mayor of London from 2008 to 2016.

Grammar

A noun phrase is a group of words, usually a noun in addition to a modifier—such as an adjective, adverb, or article—that functions just as a noun would. Grammatically, a noun phrase can be the subject, object, subject complement, or object complement in the sentence in which it appears.

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Decoding The Hindu Article

GRMB meet postponed again

It was first rescheduled on March 11 due to lack of **quorum**

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD**

The meeting of Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) scheduled for Friday has been postponed against for want of quorum as members from Andhra Pradesh did not turn up. The 13th meeting of the Board has been postponed twice now as it could not be held on March 11, also due to lack of quorum.

Member Secretary of the Board R. Azhagesan read the rule position and stated that the meeting could not be held due to lack of quorum and Chairman M.P. Singh may take a decision for rescheduling it again, as members of the Board and members representing Telangana

turned up. Technical Member and Engineer-in-Chief (General) of Telangana C. Muralidhar requested the Chairman to convene the meeting at shortest possible time as the rescheduled meeting could not be held.

Apart from discussing three detailed project reports (DPRs) of Telangana - Chanakha-Korata, Choutpally Hanmanth Reddy and Kaleshwaram additional one-tmc ft capacity state - the meeting was also supposed to take up two DPRs of AP - Venkatanagaram pump house and Uttarandhra Sujala Sravanthi - for approval.

Besides, budget-related issues of GRMB were also on the agenda for resolving them at the earliest.

From the Board's side, the matter of ₹200 crore each seed money deposit by the two Member States and getting approvals for all unapproved projects under implementation by July 14, the time extended by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, were expected to be taken up at the meeting.

Engineer-in-Chief (Kaleshwaram) N. Venkateshwarlu, OSD to Chief Minister and GRMB Sub-Committee member Sridhar Rao Deshpande, Chief Engineers R. Madhusudhana Rao (Nizamabad), G. Srinivas Reddy (Adilabad) and Mohan Kumar (ISWR) and Superintending Engineer R. Koteswar Rao from Telangana turned up for the meeting.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Quorum	(Noun A quorum is the minimum number of people needed to hold meetings or make decisions during certain company meetings .	NA

Static News

Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) was constituted by the Central Government as an autonomous body under the administrative control of the Central Government in pursuance of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014 (6 of 2014) for the administration, regulation, maintenance and operation of such projects, as may be notified by the Central Government from time to time. In exercise of the powers conferred by Sub-sections (1), (4) and (5) of the Section 85 of Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation the Act, 2014, the Central Government constituted Godavari River Management Board vide Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR Gazette Notification – S.O. 1403(E), dated the 28th May, 2014. The Headquarter of GRMB is located at Hyderabad.

Grammar

An infinitive is a verbal consisting of the word to plus a verb (in its simplest "stem" form) and functioning as a noun, adjective, or adverb. The term verbal indicates that an infinitive, like the other two kinds of verbals, is based on a verb and therefore expresses action or a state of being.



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Decoding The Hindu Article

NIA files chargesheet against two in espionage case

One of the accused is a Pakistani national

ABHINAV DESHPANDE
HYDERABAD

The Hyderabad unit of National Investigation Agency on Friday filed a chargesheet against two persons, including a Pakistan national, in an espionage case in Andhra Pradesh for their involvement in conspiracy and espionage activities with an intention to wage war against India.

The accused are Altafhusen Ganchibhai (27) alias Shakil from Godhra in Panchmahal district of Gujarat and Waseem from Karachi, Pakistan.

While Altafhusen Ganchibhai was booked under Sections 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and 120 B, 121A of the Indian Penal Code and 66C of Information Technology Act, Waseem was booked under Sections 17 and 18 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and 120B, 121A of

the Indian Penal Code.

The case was originally registered on January 10, 2020, by the Counter Intelligence Cell of Andhra Pradesh police, Vijayawada, and was reregistered by the NIA on December 23, 2021, pertaining to criminal conspiracy to carry out anti-national activities by Pakistani agents for obtaining crucial and sensitive information pertaining to Defense establishments from Indian Armed Forces personnel by engaging civilians as their agents using Social Media Platforms like Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram etc.

The investigation by the NIA has revealed that Altafhusen Ganchibhai, on directions of Pakistan-based handlers had **clandestinely** activated WhatsApp by passing on OTPs received on Indian SIM numbers to his handlers in Pakistan for collection/transmission of sen-

sitive information pertaining to Indian Defense forces and establishments.

"These SIM cards were subscribed in the name of Indian fishermen from Gujarat who were earlier arrested by Pakistan Maritime Security Agency in 2020 when they were fishing in the high seas," the NIA officials said.

The agency established that these SIM cards were illegally routed back to India to the arrested accused Altafhusen Ganchibhai, who activated seven such SIM cards under the direction of his handlers in Pakistan.

He was arrested on October 25, 2021. Waseem, who is currently at large, had routed money clandestinely through online Cryptocurrency exchange platforms to Indian agents for eliciting sensitive and classified information pertaining to vital Indians Defense establishments.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Clandestinely	(Adverb): in a secretive and illicit way.	गुप्त रूप से
Contentious	(Adjective): causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial.	विवाद-ग्रस्त
Anonymiy	(Noun): lack of outstanding, individual, or unusual features; impersonality.	अनामिता

Static News

The National Investigation Agency is the primary counter-terrorist task force of India. The agency is empowered to deal with the investigation of terror related crimes across states without special permission from the states under written proclamation from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founder: Radha Vinod Raju

Founded: 31 December 2008, Employees: 649

Annual budget: ₹182 crore (US\$24 million); (2021-22 est.)

Chief: Yogesh Chander Modi

Grammar

You can combine two S+V+O sentences with these coordinating conjunctions: but, or, so, and, yet, for, nor. For instance:

Anna likes coffee, but her brother prefers tea.



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ISRO to conduct RLV landing experiment soon

Cheaper access to space makes a Reusable Launch Vehicle attractive

TIKI RAJWI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is aiming to carry out a landing experiment (LEX), a critical component of the Reusable Launch Vehicle-Technology Demonstration (RLV-TD) programme, in the next few days. ISRO Chairman S. Somanath told *The Hindu* on Friday that RLV-LEX, the second in a series of experimental flights for the RLV-TD programme, will be held in April itself.

"We don't want to an-

'Reforms not for privatisation'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The reforms introduced in the country's space sector is not aimed at privatising the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Chairman of the space agency S. Somanath has said. He was speaking after inaugurating the eighth and the ninth biennial conference of the ISRO

announce the date yet, but it will be held before month-end. The final phase of tests is in progress at Chitradurga," Mr. Somanath, who chaired a review of LEX at the Vikram Sarabhai Space

Pensioners' Association held together here on Friday.

"There is a fear that the ISRO is about to be sold off. It runs fully on government funding, which means the limit of government funding will be the limit of our growth. But if private companies come in, it will expand the space economy," he said.

Centre, Thumba, confirmed.

RLV-LEX involves taking an unmanned, winged prototype to an altitude of 2.3 km to 2.4 km on a helicopter and releasing it to land at a Defence Research Develop-

ment Organisation airstrip at Chitradurga, Karnataka.

"The prototype will be released 3.7 km away from the airstrip and it must travel the distance autonomously, gain velocity, maintain control and come in like any typical aircraft, touching down with the rear wheels first. A parachute will then be deployed for braking," he said.

Cheaper access to space is what makes an RLV attractive. A major hurdle in space exploration is the prohibitive cost, which can be slashed if the launch vehicle is a reusable one. The RLV-TD programme comprises a series of experimental missions aimed at making India's dream of owning a reusable, two-stage-to-orbit vehicle come true.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Watershed moment	(Idiom): A watershed moment is a turning point, the exact moment that changes the direction of an activity or situation	ऐतिहासिक क्षण
Resilience	(Noun): the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness	पलटाव

Static News

RLV-TD is India's first uncrewed flying testbed developed for the Indian Space Research Organisation's Reusable Launch Vehicle Technology Demonstration Programme. It is a scaled down prototype of an eventual two-stage-to-orbit reusable launch vehicle.

Sreedhara Panicker Somanath is an Indian aerospace engineer serving as the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation. Somanath also served as the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram and Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

Grammar

“Who” vs “Whom”.

you can only use "who" when it is the subject of a verb. "I," "he," "she," "we," and "they" are just like "who" because they are also used as the subjects of verbs. "Me," "him," "her," "us," and "them" are just like "whom" because they are not used as the subjects of verb.



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Rajnath rolls out schemes for defence start-ups

'Opportunity to understand new technologies'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday launched Innovations for Defence Excellence (IDEX) Prime and the sixth Defence India Start-up Challenge (DISC-6) meant to encourage defence start-ups during DefConnect 2.0. The IDEX-Prime aims to support projects, requiring support beyond ₹1.5 crore up to ₹10 crore, to help the ever-growing start-ups in the sector, the Defence Ministry said.

"The IDEX has provided an opportunity to our science and technology professionals to understand futuristic technologies such as AI, Augmented Reality, block-chain and space technologies. The start-up ecosystem has also been promoted and encouraged through order placement," Mr. Singh said. He noted that the IDEX has, so far, introduced more than 100 win-



Innovation in focus: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at DefConnect 2.0 in New Delhi on Friday. •PTI

ners to the market, providing direct & indirect employment to thousands of skilled and semi-skilled people.

The DISC-6 with 38 problem statements was also launched by Mr. Singh which relate to Artificial Intelligence (AI), advanced imaging, sensor systems, among others.

Mr. Singh stressed on continuous strengthening of all sectors, especially the security apparatus, to deal with the challenges that may emanate from the fast-changing world order.

Stating that every new

threat is becoming more complex and challenging than the previous one, Mr. Singh said, "After the COVID-19 pandemic, the world is now witnessing the Ukrainian conflict. We have also witnessed instability in the Middle East [West Asia], in Afghanistan and now in Pakistan. One way or the other, such events impact our country as well. There is a need to equip the country in every area to ensure peace and stability. The development of disruptive technology is a key requirement to handle new threats and challenges of the future."

Allowances for armed forces, CAPF now on par

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Correcting an anomaly linked to the existing difference in risk and hardship allowance between the armed forces and Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), the Defence Ministry has brought military personnel on a par with their CAPF counterparts. This was announced by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Army Commanders' Conference on Thursday.

A case to increase the same was taken up by the Department of Defence in March 2019 and by the Department of Military Affairs in March 2020, defence officials said.

"After due deliberations, it was submitted by the then Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee to the Defence Minister where it was subsequently approved," an official said.

The allowance will be admissible retrospectively from February 22, 2019, and the approximate cash outgo for the government is ₹10,000 crore.

It is also admissible to National Cadet Corps units, training centres, Border Roads Organisation, Military Engineer Services (MES).

In addition, 40% of the personnel posted to Strategic Forces Command (SFC) will be paid allowance in the revised matrix, which is ₹10,500 for Officers and ₹6,000 for Junior Commissioned Officers.

In case if there is any reduction in the revised allowance in any particular location, then the existing allowance would continue and also if any location has been inadvertently left out in the annexure, the existing allowance would continue, officials added.

Vocabulary

Word	English Meaning	Hindi Meaning
Erratic	(Adjective): not even or regular in pattern or movement; unpredictable:	अस्थिर

Static News

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) was launched by Prime Minister Modi in April 2018 to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development in the field of Defence and Aerospace by engaging MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, Research and Development institutes, academia, etc.

Central Armed Police Forces refers to uniform nomenclature of seven central armed police organisations of India under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Their role is to defend the national interest mainly against the internal threats.

Grammar

Types of uncountable nouns:

Material Noun: A material noun is simply the names of various raw materials or elements which exist in nature or the environment. These nouns are not countable means we cannot count them because they are in the forms of liquid, semi-liquid or solid.

Example: Joey bought a diamond ring to propose Rachael. ('Diamond' here refers to a material that is found naturally in our environment which makes it a material noun.)

Abstract Noun: An abstract noun is a noun that indicates an intangible thing such as an emotion, a feeling, a quality, or an idea. In other words, an abstract noun does not refer to a physical object. you cannot see, hear, touch, smell, or taste such things.

Example: Leonardo Di Caprio displays love at an excellent level in all of his movies. (Here 'love' is an emotion which makes it an abstract noun.)



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