



# Daily News Analysis

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**Wednesday, 11 September 2024**

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**DR.G.S.GIRIDHAR SIR**





Wednesday, 11 September 2024

## India-UAE Sign Five Agreements in Various Fields

- India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed five agreements to enhance cooperation in diverse fields, including nuclear energy and petroleum.
- **Nuclear Energy Cooperation:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant Operations and Maintenance between Emirates Nuclear Energy Company and Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited.
- **Petroleum Sector:** A long-term agreement for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) supply was signed between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL). Another MoU was signed between ADNOC and India Strategic Petroleum Reserve Limited.
- **India-UAE Strategic Partnership:** Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the significant progress under the India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, highlighting the success of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT).
- **Future Collaboration:** They discussed exploring untapped potential in nuclear energy, critical minerals, green hydrogen, artificial intelligence, and advanced technologies.

**Q.** Under which strategic agreement did India and the UAE express satisfaction for their recent progress?  
**Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA)**





Wednesday, 11 September 2024

## Defence Ministry Signs ₹26,000 Crore Contract with HAL for Aero Engines

- The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth ₹26,000 crore with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture 240 AL-31FP aero engines for Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft.
- **Manufacturing:** These engines will be produced by HAL's Koraput Division, enhancing the operational capability of the Sukhoi-30MKI fleet, crucial for India's defence preparedness.
- **Production Timeline:** HAL will supply 30 aero engines annually, with the entire batch of 240 engines to be delivered over the next eight years.

### HAL's role in India's defence production:

#### Aircraft Manufacturing:

- HAL is the principal designer and manufacturer of aircraft for the Indian Armed Forces. It produces and maintains several fighter jets, helicopters, and transport aircraft, including the Sukhoi-30MKI, Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), and Dhruv Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH).
- HAL is involved in the production of Sukhoi-30MKI aircraft under license from Russia and the indigenous development of Tejas, which has become a symbol of India's growing capability in indigenous fighter aircraft design and manufacturing.

**Q.** What is the total value of the contract signed by the Defence Ministry with HAL for 240 AL-31FP aero engines ? **₹26,000 crore**





**Wednesday, 11 September 2024**

## Indian Army and Indian Air Force Sign MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya

- The Indian Army and Indian Air Force have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to enhance logistics operations and capability building within the defense sector. This MoU aims to develop a world-class logistics system, ensuring self-reliance and effective resource mobilization for the Armed Forces.
- **Objective:** Improve logistics skills and capabilities for better resource mobilization and operational efficiency.
- **Partnership Role:** Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya will contribute through advanced education, research, and innovation in logistics.
- **Infrastructure Plan:** The master plan includes multimodal connectivity infrastructure supporting various economic zones.
- **Significance:** The MoU will enhance the movement of troops, equipment, and supplies, critical for quick and efficient force mobilization.

**Q.** What is the purpose of the MoU signed between the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya? **To develop a world-class logistics system**





Wednesday, 11 September 2024

## Nepal Joins International Solar Alliance as 101st Member

- Nepal has officially become the 101st member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA). The Ministry of External Affairs announced that Nepal has handed over its Instrument of Ratification to the ISA in New Delhi. The exchange took place during a meeting between Nepal's Charge d'Affairs, Dr. Surendra Thapa, and Abhishek Singh, Joint Secretary (ED&MER) in the Ministry of External Affairs.

### International Solar Alliance (ISA):

- **Formation:** The ISA was launched on November 30, 2015, at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP21) in Paris.
- **Headquarters:** The ISA's headquarters are located in Gurugram, Haryana, India.
- **Purpose:** The ISA aims to promote solar energy and increase the use of solar power in member countries to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and combat climate change.
- **Membership:** The ISA is an alliance of countries, primarily located in the solar belt, that are committed to the promotion and implementation of solar energy projects.

**Q.** Which countries joined the International Solar Alliance in the last few months alongside Nepal? **Malawi and Jordan.**





Wednesday, 11 September 2024

## Air Marshal Walia Appointed Senior Air Staff Officer at Eastern Air Command

- Air Marshal Inderpal Singh Walia has officially assumed the role of Senior Air Staff Officer (SASO) at the Indian Air Force's Eastern Air Command (EAC). The SASO position in the IAF is equivalent to the Chief of Staff in the Indian Army and Indian Navy.

### Key Facts:

- **Career Background:** He was commissioned into the IAF's fighter stream on June 11, 1988, and has accumulated over 3,200 flying hours. His flying experience includes various fighter aircraft such as MiG-21, MiG-23 BN, MiG-27, Jaguar, and Su-30 MKI.
- **Previous Roles:** He has commanded a frontline fighter squadron, the Tactical and Combat Development Establishment (TACDE), and a key base in the Central Sector. He also served as Air Defence Commander at the Western Air Command (WAC) and as the Defence Attache to Japan.
- **Awards:** He was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal in 2008 and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2018 for his distinguished service.

**Q.** What is the headquarters location of the Eastern Air Command? **Shillong, Meghalaya.**





Wednesday, 11 September 2024

## India-US Joint Military Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas 2024' Commences in Rajasthan

- The 20th edition of the India-US joint military exercise, Yudh Abhyas 2024, began at the Foreign Training Node in the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan. This exercise will continue until September 22, 2024. Since its initiation in 2004, Yudh Abhyas has been held annually, alternating between India and the United States.

### Key Details:

- **Scope and Complexity:** This edition has expanded in both scope and complexity, featuring increased troop strength and advanced equipment.
- **Troop Deployment:** The Indian Army's contingent includes 600 personnel from the Rajput Regiment, while the US contingent consists of the 1-24 Battalion of the 11th Airborne Division, based in Alaska.
- **Objective:** The primary goal is to enhance military capabilities for counter-terrorism operations within a sub-conventional warfare setting, in line with Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
- **Focus:** The exercise will emphasize operations in a semi-desert environment, including joint responses to simulated terrorist incidents, collaborative planning, and field training exercises.

**Q.** Since which year has the Yudh Abhyas exercise been held annually? **Since 2004.**





Wednesday, 11 September 2024

## Re-Election of Amit Shah as Chairperson of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has been unanimously re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language.
- **Tenure:** This is his second consecutive term as the Chairperson. His previous term spanned from 2019 to 2024.
- **Goal for 2047:** The government aims for all official systems to operate in Indian languages by the year 2047.
- **Technological Development:** The Department of Official Language is developing software to automatically translate all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution.

## Role of Parliamentary Committee on Official Language

- The Parliamentary Committee on Official Language plays a key role in ensuring the implementation and promotion of Hindi as the official language of the Government of India, as outlined by the Constitution.
- It was established under Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, with specific responsibilities aimed at ensuring the use of Hindi across various domains of governance.

**Q.** Who has been re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language in 2024?  
**Amit Shah**





**Wednesday, 11 September 2024**

## **Indonesia to establish nuclear organisation this year**

- Indonesia will set up the Nuclear Energy Program Implementation Organization (NEPIO) this year.
- Target: 250-Megawatt Nuclear Power Plant by 2032
- NEPIO aims to construct a 250-megawatt nuclear power plant by 2032.
- The plan will be presented to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria.

### **Key Responsibilities of NEPIO:**

- Planning and Identification of nuclear projects.
- Overseeing Construction of nuclear facilities.
- Developing Regulations to ensure the safety and security of nuclear operations.

### **Domestic Uranium Production:**

- Indonesia will produce uranium locally, as confirmed by the Center for Survey and Testing of Electricity.

### **Preparation for the Nuclear Plan:**

- The country is currently preparing necessary requirements, including developing human resources in nuclear technology to support the program.

**Q.** What is Indonesia's target for the nuclear power plant being developed by NEPIO? **To build a 250-megawatt nuclear power plant by 2032**





**Wednesday, 11 September 2024**

## **ADB President Asakawa to resign in Feb 2025**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Masatsugu Asakawa informed the ADB's board members, management, and staff about his intention to resign as president on Feb. 23, 2025.
- Asakawa has served as ADB's 10th president since Jan. 17, 2020.
- Asakawa, who succeeded Takehiko Nakao in 2020, finished the unexpired term of Nakao, which was supposed to end on Nov. 23, 2021.

## **How ADB President appointed?**

- The President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is appointed through an election by the ADB Board of Governors.
- The president serves a five-year term, which can be renewed.
- The candidate for the position is typically nominated by one of ADB's member countries, and the election is conducted among the governors, who represent the bank's member countries.
- The president is usually from Japan, as it is one of the largest shareholders in the bank.

## **Asian Development Bank**

- Headquarters: Mandaluyong, Philippines
- Founded: 19 December 1966

**Q.** Who did Masatsugu Asakawa succeed as ADB President?  
**Takehiko Nakao**





**Wednesday, 11 September 2024**

## **Indian space startup Pixxel bags NASA contract to support Earth science research**

- Bengaluru-based Pixxel, a hyperspectral imaging and earth observation company, secured a contract from NASA under its \$476 million Commercial SmallSat Data Acquisition Programme.
- Under this contract, Pixxel will provide hyperspectral Earth observation data to NASA, the US government, and academic partners. This data will support Earth science research and various applications, including climate change, agriculture, biodiversity, and resource management.

### **Contract Details**

- The contract will be effective through November 2028.

### **Youngest Company in the Group:**

- Pixxel is the youngest company in a group that includes industry leaders such as BlackSky Geospatial Solutions, ICEYE US, MDA Geospatial Service, Planet Labs Federal, Satellogic Federal, Teledyne Brown Engineering, and The Tomorrow Companies.

**Q.** What is the revisit frequency of Pixxel's Fireflies satellites? **24-hour revisit frequency**





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