

## Self-reliance in defence production

The Indian Defence Ministry has given its approval for a new list of 928 components and subsystems, which will only be procured from the domestic industry after a ban on their import, to promote self-reliance in defence production. The new "Positive Indigenization List (PIL)" aims to reduce imports by defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) and is the fourth such list. The ban will be implemented on a staggered timeline of around five and a half years, from December 2023 to December 2028. The DPSUs will undertake indigenization of the items through different routes, providing impetus to growth in the economy and reducing import dependence. The Indian Government aims to reduce its dependence on imported military platforms and support domestic defence manufacturing. The goal is to achieve a turnover of USD 25 billion in defence manufacturing in the next five years, including an export target of USD 5 billion worth of military hardware.

The Indian army is benefiting from the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative in several ways. This initiative aims to make India self-sufficient in various sectors, including defence production. The Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative has encouraged the Indian defence industry to increase indigenous production. This has led to the development of new defence technologies, equipment, and systems in the country. This has helped reduce the country's reliance on imported defence equipment and has made the Indian army more self-sufficient. The initiative has also helped strengthen the domestic defence industry by providing impetus to growth in the economy, enhancing investment in defence, and reducing import dependence for DPSUs. This has created more job opportunities in the country and boosted the local economy. By reducing the reliance on imported defence equipment, the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative has helped the Indian army save costs. This has enabled the army to allocate more resources towards modernization and enhancing its operational capabilities.

Right now, India is manufacturing defence equipment for all three wings of the security forces. India is manufacturing the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, a supersonic fighter jet. The country is also aiming to produce the Fifth Generation of Fighter Aircraft. The ALH is a multi-role helicopter developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It is available in various versions, including the armed version (ALH Dhruv) used by the Indian Army and Air Force. HAL is also manufacturing the Light Combat Helicopter, an attack helicopter designed to operate in high-altitude areas and equipped with advanced weapons systems. India is producing a variety of missiles, including the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, the Akash surface-to-air missile, and the Prithvi ballistic missile. India is producing a range of naval equipment, including submarines, warships, and aircraft carriers. The INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, has been constructed and commissioned. All four indigenously manufactured Kalvari-class submarines have been commissioned. A variety of armoured vehicles, including tanks, infantry combat vehicles, and mine-protected vehicles, are being manufactured in India now.

These initiatives have enabled the Indian army to become more self-reliant, strengthen the domestic defence industry, enhance security, and save costs. India has been making steady progress towards achieving self-sufficiency in defence manufacturing. The country has been focusing on developing indigenous capabilities for the production of a wide range of defence equipment and systems. The country is steadily increasing its indigenous production capabilities, and the range of equipment being produced is expected to expand in the coming years.

## More online facilities in Courts

Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud launched 'E-filing 2.0'. The CJI, a proponent of e-courts and e-filing, also inaugurated an 'e-Sewa Kendra' within the Supreme Court premises. The new E-filing 2.0 platform will be available to lawyers at all times, and two facilitation centres have been established to assist those unfamiliar with the technology. The CJI urged all lawyers to utilise the E-filing 2.0 system. The 'e-Sewa Kendra' not only allows case filing through the e-filing software but also offers services to check case status from any court or tribunal across the country.

Indian courts have implemented e-filing systems, allowing lawyers and litigants to file cases electronically. This reduces paperwork, streamlines the filing process, and improves accessibility by enabling 24/7 filing. Technology-driven case management systems have been implemented to track and manage case-related information, including case status, hearing dates, and orders. Video conferencing facilities have been set up in courts to enable remote hearings. This has proven especially useful during the COVID-19 pandemic, allowing for virtual hearings and reducing the need for physical presence in courtrooms. Courts are transitioning from physical paper records to digital court records. Digital records are easier to maintain, retrieve, and share, leading to increased efficiency and reduced storage requirements. Courts now provide online portals or mobile applications where litigants and lawyers can check the status of their cases and access cause lists, which contain information about upcoming hearings. This provides convenience and saves time for stakeholders. Online payment systems have been introduced for court fees, fines, and other charges, reducing the need for physical transactions. Similarly, e-stamping has been implemented to facilitate hassle-free stamping of legal documents. Digital libraries and databases of legal materials, judgements, and case law are available, making legal research more accessible and efficient for lawyers and judges.

These technological advancements aim to enhance efficiency, accessibility, transparency, and convenience in the Indian judicial system. The implementation and adoption of technology in courts continue to evolve and expand to meet the changing needs of the legal ecosystem.

Kirpal Singh

It was on March 1898 AD that Assistant to Resident, Captain S.H. Godfray and Raja Amar Singh proposed a Museum in Srinagar, to collect and conserve antiquities and products of Art of Jammu and Kashmir. They submitted that the state might aid the Museum with gifts from State Toshakhana in Jammu and Kashmir. The proposal met with magnificent response from His Highness and Princes of the ruling family.

The building of summer resort at Lalmandi was selected for the "Ajaibghar" as it was called in those days and it still stands on the left bank of the river Jehlum. The museum was opened in the middle of the year 1898 A.D. A Small collection of specimens received by the museum either by donation or by transfer from Toshakhana remained in the charge of the Librarian of the Srinagar State Library which was incorporated with Museum. The suggestions that the state might aid the museum with gifts from Toshakhana in Jammu and Srinagar met with great response from His Highness and the Princes of the ruling family as the magnificent collection of shawls, old armoury, silver utensils and metal antiquities from Ladakh were transferred to the Museum.

The Archaeological section was very poor in its collection till the advent of Shri Daya Ram Sahni in the state in 1913, who subsequently carried out many excavations at the sites of Pandrathan, Parihaspur and Awantipur and consequently the majority of his finds from these sites became the nucleus of the Archaeological section of SPS Museum.

Additions have since then been made from Archaeological sites of Ushkar, Harwan, Hoinar, Pahalgam, Hutmura, Ashrat-nar-Badgam, Verinag, Soura, Tomb of Madin Sahib and Sir Aurel Stien's (an archaeologist of international repute) collection from Takla Maidan (Central Asia). The antiquities of the Buddhist province of Ladakh are represented by a few Bronzes transferred from the State Toshakhana and number of clay seals presented by Sir John Marshall also an archaeologist of international repute.

The Museum is functioning as an educational centre a pleasure house and exhibits cultural heritage of state, acts as centre of art collection, for

Harsha Kakar

Almost every global index, including democracy, human rights, hunger, press freedom etc places India as sinking and in risk of collapsing, yet in reality, the reverse is happening. Foreign governments, including the US, and anti-India global oligarch funded organizations, backed by many Indian haters of the current Delhi dispensation, have been projecting a bleak future for India as also as a nation where freedom of every form is suppressed. The US Government has even been requested to declare India as a nation of special concern.

The view being projected by global anti-India groups is that India is heading for a social collapse, its economic rise notwithstanding. What has irritated many western governments and their funded organizations, is India's refusal to toe the western line and follow their dictates, especially when it comes to Ukraine and issues which primarily concern the West.

On the contrary, the reality is that the world needs India. Indian economic growth is being exploited by nations seeking to recover from their recession. India's acceptance by all blocks, whether it be Russia or the US only adds to its global positioning. Rick Russow, a senior adviser and chair in US-India policy studies at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies stated that India is possibly the only country which can 'pick up the phone and talk to leadership in both the United States and Russia on the same day.'

India's relevance and successful foreign policy outlook would be further enhanced when for the

Sunny Dua

When India Today group's vice chairperson Kalli Purie last fortnight introduced an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered reporter named Sana to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an event organised by Aaj Tak news channel, audiences were awestruck at the site of an anchor conducting herself on the screen which was not a human but a Bot. The facial expressions, hands' movements, speech control, clearly pronounced words and untiring attitude was all that the Bot Sana displayed while welcoming the Prime Minister to the event.

While this technological achievement amazed the audiences, it sent shivers down the spines of many journalists for the simple reason that this AI enabled bot which includes news presenters, anchors and even writers, might replace them in future. This is the fact as well. Sana like Bots who can speak fluently by converting text to speech has already appeared in Kuwait which is named Fehad. Way back in 2018 China had introduced a male AI anchor in Xinhua News channel while Russian television has Snezhana Tumanova as its first virtual weather presenter.

One agrees or not but this is the future where artificial intelligence (AI) is sure to take journalists head on. These AI enabled anchors or news casters can work round the clock using algorithms. Their appearance, speech or conduct will in future will be matching any human being and the presentation will be flawless and precise. Why on this earth then anyone would require to pay hefty salaries or perks to journalists who won't be able to match these bots anywhere close to their perfection and untiring efforts?

Another benefit of these bots is that they can be programmed to convert texts into multiple languages and then speak in same language to different audiences or listeners as well. This way bots will be working 24X7 and keeping the public updated with latest news from around the globe. Sana's presence at PM's meet was India's remarkable achievement in keeping a pace with world

## 125 Years

# History of SPS Museum, Srinagar



Present building of SPS Museum near old museum building Lalmandi Srinagar

## INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY SPECIAL

study by scholars specialists and all type of people.  
**SPS Museum contains separate sections on:**

- \* Archaeology
- \* Paintings
- \* Decorative arts
- \* Armoury
- \* Textiles

### Archaeology Section

The Archaeological section was of the most meager character until the reorganization of Archaeological Department in 1913 under the Late Lala Daya Ram Sahni, who was the first trained Archaeologist to start excavation in the state. The majority of his finds mostly of medieval period are from Pandrethan, Parihaspora and Awantipura have been displayed in this section. Few Bronzes transferred from State Toshakhana represent the antiquities of the Buddhist province of Ladakh and Sir John Marshall has presented a large number of seals of Buddhist creed of 9th century from Ladakh on behalf of the Government of India.

### Miniature Paintings Section

The collection of miniature paintings in the SPS Museum is nearly 700. These are all hand made painting done at Kangra, Basohli, Jammu, and Kashmir. Few Mughal miniature paintings and few portraits of Muslim saints of Kashmir are also part of this section.

### Decorative Art Section

This section houses nearly 4000 items comprising of wood carvings, paper machhie, minor handicrafts, silver work including images, jewelry, utensils, ornamental jugs from tibet, large copper trays, table-tops, enameled flasks, small brass spittoon, tin and copper utensils in large number. These items were transferred from State Toshakhana.

### Armoury Section

This section houses nearly 300 items mostly transferred from military stores of His Highness. It contains Sikh and Dogra guns, revolvers, swords, daggers, khukhries, shields and other war

Trophies captured in the World War - I, from German front. It also includes some old canons.

### Textiles Section

The Textiles section includes shawls, rumals, brocade, zari work, bed-covers, darbari-choghas, carpets, ghabbas etc. which dates back to the Sultanate, Afgan, Sikh and Dogra periods. Most of these have been transferred from His Highness's Toshakhana.

### Anthropology Section

The objects displayed in this section illustrate the life and habits of the people of Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh. This gallery offers a visitor an excellent idea of the life led by the folks of this state. These collections are representative and contain many valuable objects no longer procurable.

### Mineral or Geological Section

It consists of two collections, one, which was already in the Museum and the other transferred from Jammu, on the abolition of the Geological class from the Prince of Wales (presently Government Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu).

### Numismatic Section

The Museum's largest collection in quantity is of coins numbering more than 70,000. This includes gold, silver and copper coins of punch mark, Greek, Bacterian, Indo-Greek, Indo-Scythian, Indo-Parthian, Kushan, Kiddara-Kushans, Hun's, medieval Hindus and Sultans of Kashmir, Kabul, Shahi, Mughals, Durrani, Sikh and Dogra period.

### Manuscripts Section

The Museum houses good collection of Manuscripts, Pattas, Wills, etc. in different scripts viz, Sharda, Sanskrit, Persian, Bodhi/Brahmi and Arabic.

### Natural History Section

A large number of water birds, skins, skulls, horns and eggs etc. have been collected by Col. A E Ward, a recognized expert in the fauna of Kashmir who was in charge of this section. These have been set-up in a very admirable manner by Mr. Pearl, the then Taxidermist.

Thus, SPS Museum Srinagar is not only one of the oldest museums in India but also a matter of pride for every resident of Jammu and Kashmir and heritage enthusiast.

(The author is a Heritage activist)

## India's growing global footprints

G 20 summit in Delhi, Biden, Putin and Xi would be in the same room for the first time since the Ukraine war commenced. As president of the SCO and G 20 simultaneously, the world has witnessed India's handling of different blocks without permitting one to target the other. Simultaneously, India continues as a major player in the QUAD, which currently remains a major Indo-Pacific grouping.

India's technical expertise and global acceptance is why the US sought Indian involvement in its current interaction in West Asia, aimed at countering increased Chinese presence. It was Biden, who with his overarching belief in Human Rights, promised to take Saudi Arabia and its Crown Prince, Mohammad Bin Salman, to task for the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi leading to cooling of US-Saudi ties. The result was refusal by Saudi Arabia to maintain levels of oil production to reduce global impact post sanctions on Russia. At the commencement of the Ukraine war, leaders of Saudi Arabia and the UAE declined to take phone calls from the White House when Biden sought support, in apparent anger.

Washington, realizing that it is losing its traditional influence in a key region, is now attempting to bounce back. Trump had initiated the Abraham accords which enhanced ties between the UAE and Bahrain with Israel in Sept 2020, but the Biden dispensation in Washington indicated that it does not seek to continue as a guarantor for peace, leading to West Asian nations looking for alternatives.

With the US moving away, China waded in. It brokered peace between Saudi Arabia and Iran,

resulting in US sanctions on Iran losing further steam. Chinese investments in infrastructure development in West Asia and North Africa have been immense, claimed to be USD 270 Billion from 2005 onwards. It has managed to draw in countries from the region to join its Belt Road Initiative (BRI). The US felt that unless it countered China, it would become an outcast in West Asia.

For re-entry, the US needed India, aware that India's growing ties in the region would work in their favour. Recent interaction between the NSAs of the US, India, Saudi Arabia and the UAE in Riyadh was aimed at evaluating the launching of an ambitious infrastructure project intending to counter the BRI. The White House stated that the NSAs met to 'advance their shared vision of a more secure and prosperous Middle East region interconnected with India and the world'. The project intends to link Gulf and Arab countries via a railway network ultimately connecting India and South Asia through multiple seaports. The project, once completed, would benefit both West Asian nations and South Asia.

It was reported that the concept emerged from meetings within the I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and US grouping), established post the Abraham accords. The US has realised the importance of this grouping. Israel is currently not involved or linked in the project but may be in case relations with Riyadh undergo a change. The US NSA, Jack Sullivan, addressing the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, prior to visiting West Asia stated, 'If you remember nothing else from my speech, remember I2U2, because you will be hearing more

about it as we go forward.'

India has the expertise and west Asian nations and the US the funds. India is currently involved in railway projects in Mozambique, Mauritius, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Botswana through its public sector enterprise, RITES. The RITES website mentions that it has completed projects in 55 countries, including in West Asia. India already has an excellent relationship with west Asian nations, such that Pakistan, which depended on these countries for unstinted support, has been compelled to rethink. Hence, without Indian involvement, the US is unlikely to make any headway.

Indian connectivity with the region had thus far been hampered as overland routes involve transiting through Afghanistan and Pakistan. In case the project does go through it would boost India's reputation as the global builder of infrastructure as also enhance its ties with the region. With final links to India via multiple ports, Indian oil imports would become economical. With a west Asia moving from confrontation to collaboration, this is the time for India to venture in. Will the Chabahar port, in which India has invested be a part of this corridor, is unknown.

The fact is that no matter what India is assessed in various indices released by biased organizations after limited surveys, the reality is different. India is a nation in demand, whose global footprint and influence has grown in recent years. The India story is one of growing capabilities and ability to partake in complex global infrastructure projects.

(The author is Major General (Retd))

## AI in Journalism

# Ethics, originality is answer to Bots

when it comes to news presentations or using AI in our day today works. This established that Indian journalism is far ahead of any other nation and can keep a pace with developments.

Is this AI gurant scary or we need to adopt some changes to our courses to stay relevant? Firstly, we need to use AI responsibly rather intelligently knowingly where its much needed. Secondly, if a good journalist wants to stay relevant, save his or her job then he/she all will have to focus on maintaining ethics of journalism and work accordingly. Thirdly, nothing can replace human brain when it comes to observing things and analysing them. Hence, being original, true and authentic while gathering data from the site to report an event cannot match any human intelligence.

Every journalist will have to acquire knowledge about Artificial Intelligence (AI), have a fair judgement of situations while reporting events, be very much original in writing or reporting news and most importantly have a final say in the editorials. This way journalists and AI will work in tandem. News, as said by a renowned TV journalist should be as it happens, when it happens and where it happens. This is what should be served to the people without distorting facts. If this all will be done by AI, the situation becomes little scary.

While bots will replace TV presenters and AI will replace news writers for the simple reason that it will be easier for this technology to analyse news with regards to past and then present before readers especially in sports or weather reporting. Take for example Karnataka elections. By the time a human journalist will gather data about past election results of Karnataka, the AI will gather information in a fraction of second and even compare and analyse it with past trends of voting to give a fair analysis about results. However, it will only be a human brain that will tell where and what went wrong for which party and based on same data or analysis editorials will be written.

While such stories will be a prime domain of AI, journalists will be required to look for human

angle stories, investigative stories, exploring the hidden talents, assessing critical areas in the administration, working on unconventional stories, reinventing areas where good stories could be evaluated and finally venture into the spheres where machines will be waiting for commands to come from their masters. This is how AI can be tackled and jobs saved. In nutshell, one will have to be original in writing or presenting news while following ethics in journalism to stay relevant in the field.

This automated news writing when will start saving time, why would editors wait for journalists to gather information, settle in their desks at home or in office and write same news which can be well written by bots using much better vocabulary and ample data stored in chips. This also means that instead of table stories it will be better for journalists to venture into the fields to do better stories be it that from university campuses, government offices, sports fields, investigative ones or from areas that remain unexplored.

Meantime, back in office AI will be presenting news with full accuracy, checking fake news, and also nailing plagiarism. AI can also be countered in articles of public interest especially in tourism sector where each and every journalist looks at the place with different perspective and then presents the same in her/his own word counts. The best described stories not only get more likes but also fetches the place more tourists.

To be more precise if one puts a place like Paris in AI enabled computers it will write a beautiful story which might have been written millions of times but on the other hand a travel journalist will look at the city profile differently and report accordingly. There can be n-number of stories on one place provided they are done from different perspectives and more authentically. While any common person will report about fashion or iconic Eiffel Tower in Paris, a good and widely travelled journalist, in his or her original story, might add city infrastructure, food, education and even

people's life beyond fashion industry or how the stocks are treated after fashion shows are over. That's sustainable journalism!

While AI technology can help journalists get accurate data or quotes of prominent personalities, a good and learned journalist can look beyond this data to write original stories. It is also believed that data available with AI can confine its limits to analyse stories which can be bias and this is where human brain and observations will surpass or counter AI. The AI will not be able to conduct live debates or hold interviews of par excellence by putting apt and relevant questions that will emerge during the course of interviews. This is an advantage over AI!

While world keeps making news, it will only be the prerogative of editor to select and chose news for his/her newspaper, magazine or Television or for that matter social media. What's relevant with regards to location of a place or people's interest will finally be decided by the editor. Similarly, it will be the pure choice of a journalist to look for a relevant news and not just anything to fill in the columns of newspapers or magazines.

There's no denying the fact that AI will be very helpful in gathering data and using it for making informative stories. For a crime reporting, results of students, trending professional trades, weather, government finances, elections and medical researches' data will help file stories with reference to past trends and will be quite informative for the readers, viewers or listeners.

To think positively, AI will not replace jobs but will assist journalists in presenting a news more accurately packed with data and its analysis. So, instead of getting scared, journalists must prepare themselves to use the technology to authenticate facts, add information to their stories, discard fake information, prepare reports quickly, be prepared to report from the site of natural calamities which AI cannot do and use the technology with caution to make news more authentic and worth pondering upon.

(The writer is senior journalist)