# U.S. Targets Houthi Radar Sites in Response to Red Sea Vessel Threats; Indian Army Acquires 'Nagastra-1' Suicide Drones



**U.S. Strikes Houthi Radar Sites Due to Red Sea Vessel Threats**

On June 15, the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) announced that its forces executed attacks destroying radar sites operated by Iranian-backed Houthi militants in Yemen. This operation aimed to eliminate threats posed by these radars to commercial shipping vessels in the Red Sea. CENTCOM confirmed that over the past 24 hours, they successfully destroyed seven radar sites along with several sea and aerial drones belonging to the Houthis.

The offensive was prompted by Houthi-led attacks on international shipping in the region. On Wednesday, the Greek-owned bulk carrier M/V Tutor was severely damaged by the Houthis while navigating approximately 66 miles southwest of Hudaydah’s port, resulting in significant flooding and engine room damage. The U.S. and allied forces rescued most of the crew, although one member is missing.

Additionally, on Thursday, the Ukrainian-owned M/V Verbena was attacked in the Gulf of Aden, causing injuries to one crew member and fires onboard. The Houthis claim their actions support ending Israel's conflict with Hamas in Gaza. However, the U.S. condemns these actions as threats to regional stability, emphasizing that affected vessels were not affiliated with the Gaza conflict.

**Indian Army Acquires 'Nagastra-1' Suicide Drones**

The Indian Army has received its first batch of 'Nagastra-1', suicide drones designed and produced domestically by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL), a subsidiary of Solar Industries in Nagpur. This initial delivery includes 120 units, out of a 480-drone order.

The 'Nagastra-1' is a loitering munition equipped with an in-built warhead that can loiter in an area until a target is identified and then strike with a high degree of accuracy. These drones are capable of changing or aborting the target mid-flight and feature a GPS-enabled precision strike system with a 2-meter accuracy. They have a range of 15 km with a 1 kg warhead and can be upgraded to a 30 km range with a 2.2 kg warhead. Additionally, they can be recovered and reused thanks to a parachute system if the mission is aborted.

The development comes in the context of rising drone-based warfare globally, as evidenced by ongoing conflicts like those in Ukraine and attacks by Houthi rebels on various targets, including U.S. vessels in the Red Sea and Arabian Sea.

**International Defense Collaborations**

The collaboration between India and the U.S. was also highlighted, with announcements on purchasing General Atomics’s armed MQ-9B SeaGuardian UAVs, which would be assembled in India to enhance the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.