

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

A Daily Current Awareness Service



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The lowdown on the Aero India show

What Is It About how Did It Happen why Does It Matter what Next

It is an unusual line-up, not very easily seen elsewhere in the world. The majestic Russian Sukhoi-30, the highly advanced French war-plane Rafale, and the American warhorse F-16, all streaking across the sky, with an occasional sonic boom signalling their friendly banter over Bengaluru.

Every two years, in February, most of the global manufacturers in the aerospace industry assemble in the south Indian city to parade their finest products. Their aim — to entice one of the world's biggest military spenders, which is also home to several dozen rich who count private aircraft and helicopters among necessities of life. This year's show, at the Yelahanka Air Force Station, was significantly focussed on indigenous platforms — it was also a *fait accompli* because of the dull global interests compared to the previous years. India's first indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&CS), called Netra and mounted on a Brazilian Embraer 145 jet, was handed over to the Indian Air Force, and the Light Utility Helicopter developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited was on display for the first time. However, the real attractions were the aerobatics teams. The Indian Air Force's 'Surya Kiran' aerobatic team made a comeback after six years, for the first time flying Hawk Advanced Jet Trainers (AJT). Yakovlev aerobatic team, Skycats, from the UK, and the Sarang helicopter display team also put up impressive shows.

Started in 1996, AeroIndia is among the world's biggest aerospace shows. This year's was the 11th edition, featuring 549 exhibitors compared with 644 companies in 2015. The exhibition began on a low key, but as India opened up its purse strings after the Kargil conflict to become a major buyer in the global arms bazaar, companies began to flock to Bangalore for Aero India and to New Delhi, where Defexpo showcases land and naval systems.

In the past decade, India has emerged among the world's biggest importers of arms. According to data from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), between 2006-10 and 2011-15, India's arms imports increased by 90%, and it was the world's largest importer of weapons and military equipment in 2013, 2014 and 2015.

With no great success in designing indigenous war machines, India has come to depend upon foreign manufacturers for most key components of a modern military. In a feeble show of its growing indigenous capability, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa took to the sky in a Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas trainer on day one of the show.

Some of the most expensive items ever bought by the Indian government with taxpayer's money are those on display at the Aero India. For example, each Rafale fighter that the IAF will get from France is worth over Rs. 1,500 crore. Almost 14% of the Central government spending goes to the military. The present trend of India being a major importer of arms will continue for years to come, until indigenous military research and development pulls out of the present depressing realities. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar says India requires over 400 single and double-engine fighter aircraft in the near term. There is also a requirement of over 1,000 helicopters. A significant number of them will have to be bought from abroad.

Ideally, Aero India is where India should be displaying its indigenously developed aerospace platforms. There is no reason why it cannot — India is already a leading space power, and it has significant budget and huge appetite for fighters, helicopters, UAVs and other aerospace platforms. Sadly, more than a century after the first aircraft took to the skies, India is yet to design its own credible aircraft. Thanks to that appalling reality, Aero India will, for a long time to come, remain the exhibition where the world's aerospace giants will show off to India.

360 डिग्री घुमाव वाली चेतावनी प्रणाली विकसित करेगा भारत

बंगलुरु, आइएनएस : वायुसेना में पहले स्वदेशी एयरबोर्न अल्टी वार्निंग एंड कंट्रोल सिस्टम (एईडब्ल्यूसीएस) 'नेत्र' शामिल होने के बाद डीआरडीओ इसके उन्नत संस्करण को विकसित करने की तैयारी कर रहा है। उन्नत संस्करण 360 डिग्री घुमाव वाला होगा। जबकि मौजूदा संस्करण 240 डिग्री घूमने में सक्षम है।

रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) के अध्यक्ष एस. क्रिस्टोफर ने कहा कि अगला संस्करण अधिक रेंज और 360 डिग्री कवरेज के साथ उन्नत किया जाएगा। फिर भारत इजरायल के बाद 360 डिग्री घुमाव वाली प्रणाली विकसित करने वाला दुनिया का दूसरा देश बन जाएगा। वर्तमान प्रणाली 'नेत्र' ब्राजीलियाई विमान एम्ब्रेयर-145 में लगाया गया है। यह केवल विमान के

अगल-बगल के क्षेत्र को स्कैन कर सकता है और आगे और पीछे के क्षेत्र को नहीं। जबकि 360 डिग्री वाली प्रणाली आगे और पीछे भी कवर करेगी। क्रिस्टोफर ने कहा कि इसका यह मतलब नहीं नहीं कि मौजूदा प्रणाली में कोई कमी है। इजरायल को छोड़कर दुनिया के देशों में सीमित क्षेत्र कवर करने वाली प्रणाली ही है। उन्होंने कहा कि सीमा पर निगरानी के दौरान यह दोनों क्षेत्र स्कैन कर सकता है। 360 डिग्री का स्कैन केवल समुद्र में ही जरूरी होता है। डीआरडीओ प्रमुख ने कहा कि अगला संस्करण सात साल के भीतर तैयार हो जाएगा। दो और एम्ब्रेयर एईडब्ल्यूसीएस से लैस किए जा रहे हैं। इनमें से एक को जून में वायुसेना को सौंप दिया जाएगा। जबकि दूसरे को और सुधार के बाद वायुसेना को सौंपा जाएगा।

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Gen's remark on stone-pelters reflects sensitivity'

By Akhilesh Singh

In the midst of controversy over Army chief Gen Bipin Rawat's statement that stone-pelters in J&K would be dealt with firmly if they come in the way of anti-militancy operations, minister of state in PMO Jitendra Singh has said it only reflected the sensitivity of the forces to protecting the lives of innocent people. In an interview to TOI, the minister accused Congress of twisting the remark for narrow political gains. Excerpts:

BJP says no politicking over army but its campaign revolves around surgical strikes in poll-bound states. Isn't it doublespeak?

Those who have questioned the credibility of our forces are committing a sin, which has no redemption. The jawans are sacrificing their lives just to ensure that we carry on with our routine. As far as BJP is concerned, it is wrong to say that the party is boasting about the surgical strikes. Rather, we are taking pride in the achievement of our armed forces.

How do you justify the Army chief going public about action against trouble makers in J&K?

The nation is eternally indebted to the Indian Army and paramilitary forces. The Army chief 's statement is certainly not political but inspired by a great degree of sensitivity .It is not, as some Congress leaders are

alleging, a 'chunauti' (warning), rather the 'chinta' (concern) that when an anti-militancy operation is under way, innocent lives should not be lost. Therefore, the Army chief has appealed to the people not to let innocent boys get misguided and come in the line of fire during countermilitancy operations.

Wasn't it a simple security measure but the Army chief has set the tone for political crossfire?

The question should be addressed to Congress, which claims to be a national party even though numerically it is no more so. Congress should explain if it is now looking at a bleak future and therefore falling for the language of the separatists to build a certain constituency. If so, it doesn't augur well for a healthy democracy, not even for Congress. The Congress leadership, including Rahul Gandhi, should tell the nation whether the party as a whole is in agreement with the views perpetuated by some of its leaders who have gone public against the Army chief.

How do you intend to end the perceived alienation of the Kashmiri youth?

The common man in Kashmir is now wiser than ever before, particularly the youth... they have now begun to see through the chicanery of those espousing 'Azadi'. These youths are now connected with the outer world. Certainly the youth of Kashmir will not intend to be deprived and left behind or fooled by the doublespeak which has been part of the culture of Kashmiri leadership.

You are making strong allegations against Kashmiri leadership, which includes your ally PDP?

Most of the Kashmir-centric parties over the years, particularly the party which is in opposition, have developed the art of changing their stance when they are out of power. We have two former CMs (Omar and Farooq Abdullah) ... who used to swear by India and Jammu and Kashmir as its integral part. Now, they have gained new enlightenment, and started questioning the status of Kashmir, its relationship with India and also the role of the Army.

How has the alliance with PDP gone so far?

The alliance is based on common minimum programme which is primarily on the plank of development and the two parties have come together to make the best use of the enormous and incredible developmental schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is one of the best opportunities for the state to forge ahead. There is a solemn agreement to disagree on certain issues, which often happens in a coalition government. It was the mandate of the people.



Sun, 19 Feb, 2017

In a first, Pakistan strikes terrorist camps on AF soil

'Many Militants Killed In Friday Night Attack'

Pakistan has launched "strikes" against militant bases in Afghanistan, hours after the army said it had found links that terrorists from across the border were behind the suicide bombing at the shrine of Lal Shahbaz Qalandar that killed 88 people.

Immediately after the bombing in Sindh province, Pakistan claimed the attack was planned in militant sanctuaries in Afghanistan, in remarks that can renew hostility between Kabul and Islamabad. Military sources said that the strikes were launched on Friday night. But there have been no official word on the strikes, which, if confirmed, would be the first such operation on Afghan soil by the Pakistan army.

A media report said that four camps of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar terror group were targeted in the strikes across the border of Pakistan's Khyber and Mohmand tribal agencies. An official said the security forces used heavy weapons and mortar shells to hit several training centres of Omar Khalid Khorasani, the head of the Jamaat-ul-Ahrar group. He said people living near Landikotal in Khyber Agency were asked to vacate their houses to avoid collateral damage. Some reports said that several militants, including the deputy commander of Jamat-ul-Ahrar, Adil Bacha, were killed in the strikes. Islamabad has often warned Kabul authorities to prevent the use

of their soil for terror activities in Pakistan. On Friday, Pakistan army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa told General John Nicholson, the top US commander in Afghanistan, that terrorist activities and inaction against militants in Afghanistan were “testing our current policy of cross-border restraint”.

Pakistan army has launched “intelligence-based operations” combing operations across the country and claimed it has killed “100 terrorists” since the attack on the shrine.

Second border crossing with AF shut

Pakistani authorities shut down a second key border crossing into Afghanistan, halting trade supplies to the neighbouring landlocked country. The border closure at Chaman in southwest Balochistan province is seen as an effort to pressure Kabul to take action against militants who Pakistan says have sanctuaries in Afghanistan. Pakistan had closed the border at Torkham hours after the bombing on Thursday. An official said that trucks and shipping containers carrying trade supplies were parked miles away from the border crossings. Torkham connects Pakistan to Afghanistan's Nangarhar province and Chaman is located near Spin Boldak in Kandahar.



Sun, 19 Feb, 2017

US naval strike group starts patrolling SCS

The US navy's Carrier Strike Group, which includes a series of warships and aircraft, started patrolling South China Sea on Saturday despite China's warning to Washington against challenging its sovereignty.

Carrier Strike Group 1 began routine operations in the South China Sea on February 18, the Pentagon said. “We are looking forward to demonstrating those capabilities while building upon relationships with our allies in the IndoAsia-Pacific region,” said Rear Adm James Kilby. China's foreign ministry had warned the US on Wednesday.



Sun, 19 Feb, 2017

China building floating nuclear reactors

To provide power to offshore projects

With an eye on the South China Sea and offshore oil and gas exploration, China is stepping up construction of floating nuclear reactors.

A top Chinese official has told the Science and Technology Daily that China will prioritise the development of a floating nuclear power platform in the coming five years, in an effort to provide stable power to offshore projects and promote exploration of oil and gas in the ocean, the People's Daily online reported.

Wang Yiren, vice director of the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence, said diesel generators are currently the main power source for China's offshore operations, and the daily lives of residents on the Nansha and Xisha Islands. These are the Chinese names of for the Spratly and Parcel islands in the South China Sea, which are at the heart of a maritime dispute between China and other countries in the region.

In 2015, China's National Development and Reform Commission — the country's main planning organisation — had approved floating reactor project, steered by the China General Nuclear Power Group (CGN). CGN had then said that project ACPR50S could provide “electricity, heat and desalination” to islands and offshore energy exploration.

Mr. Wang highlighted that maritime nuclear power plants had already been standardised. Earlier, media reports said the power unit was based on Small Modular Reactor design, capable of generating 60-MW of electricity.

Sun, 19 Feb, 2017

India May Meet Its Energy Needs from Moon by 2030, Says ISRO Scientist

New Delhi: India can look forward to the moon to fulfil its energy requirements, to go by the words of ISRO scientist. Sivathanu Pillai, a distinguished professor at the ISRO, said with conviction on Saturday the country would meet its energy requirements by 2030 through Helium-3 mined from the moon.

"By 2030, this process target will be met," Mr Pillai said while delivering the valedictory address at the three-day Observer Research Foundation (ORF)-Kalpana Chawla Space Policy Dialogue, organised by ORF.

Mr Pillai, a former chief of BrahMos Aerospace, said mining lunar dust, which is rich in Helium-3, was a priority programme for the ISRO.

He said other countries were also working on the project and there was enough helium on the moon, which can meet the energy requirements of the whole world, read an ORF statement.

"In a few decades, people will be going to the moon for honey-moon," he quipped.

Lt Gen P M Bali, Director General, Perspective Planning, Indian Army, said the launch of GSAT-7, India's first dedicated military satellite, is a testimony to the country's outlook towards using the outer space for the national security.

He noted that India possesses one of the largest constellations of communication and remote sensing satellites, covering Asia Pacific.

Lt. Gen. Bali added that although India continued with a civilian orientation to its space programme, the changing regional and global realities required it to develop military assets in space and on ground as an emerging regional and global power.

He said there was a need for a dedicated military space programme with adequate resources at its disposal because of, "the changing realities in our neighbourhood".



Sun, 19 Feb, 2017

GSLV's cryogenic upper stage tested successfully

The Isro said on Saturday that it has successfully tested its indigenously developed Cryogenic Upper Stage for GSLV MkIII. It said the cryogenic stage, designated as C25, was tested for a flight duration of 640 seconds at Isro Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri in Tirunelveli on Friday. C25 stage had earlier been tested successfully for 50 seconds on January 25 to validate all the systems. GSLV MkIII, the next generation launch vehicle of Isro, is capable of launching four ton class satellites into Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.