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Rajasthan to impart skill training to ex-Armymen

By Mohammed Iqbal

Move aimed at empowering former soldiers

After successfully conducting recruitment rallies for the Indian Army, the Rajasthan government's Department of Skills, Employment and Entrepreneurship (DSEE) is planning to start skilling former soldiers to help them take up gainful occupations that utilise their experience.

According to DSEE Commissioner Krishna Kunal, since most Armymen retire early, often before they turn 50, their experience can be utilised to enhance the "skills ecosystem".

The DSEE and the Army have, in fact, identified certain sectors for this purpose during a meeting at Kaushal Bhawan here on Thursday. A memorandum is now expected to be signed between the Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation and the Rajasthan Soldiers' Welfare Department for mobilising and certification of former Armymen.

Major General S.P. Goswami from the South Western Command said that Rajasthan accounts for 6.74% of the ex-servicemen's strength in the country, with as many as 61% concentrated around Jhunjhunu, Alwar, Jodhpur, Nagaur and Sikar districts.

"There is a need for seamless transition into a second career by empowering them with training through certification and enabling them with new skills based on their aspirations," he said.

MAIL TODAY

Sat, 08 July, 2017

Army may Turn Scholars into Cyber Fighters

Education corps could be dissolved and its 5,000 personnel coached in virtual warfare and unmanned aerial vehicles

IN A world with real and virtual dangers, the Army needs more personnel who can do than those who can teach. So, around 5,000 men imparting education in the force could be turned into deadly warriors in the cyberspace or used for flying surveillance drones along the borders with Pakistan or China.

The three services are considering a proposal in this regard by a government panel. The recommendation has come from a committee formed under retired Lt Gen DB Shekatkar, which feels that the closure of the Army Education Corps can help in "saving of approximately 5,000 personnel including 370 officers who can be redeployed for futuristic core activities of the combat units."

"The AEC should be closed as a Corps over the next five years and its existing manpower should be re-oriented and re-skilled to form part of the cyber warriors, various electronic surveillance and intelligence as well as electronic warfare unit or trained as Unmanned Aerial vehicle operators," the committee has recommended in its report to the government. MAIL TODAY reported in March that the defence ministry is working towards establishing a new cyber agency to tackle attempts by Chinese and Pakistani hackers to break into its systems and networks in a bid to enhance India's combat capabilities in the virtual domain.

The Shekatkar committee has also told the government that the existing facilities of the Army Education Corps with its centre at tourist destination Panchmarhi and the other infrastructure can be utilised optimally by the force for carrying out other activities. The AEC has been involved in tasks such as managing human resources, regional language training, school administration, map craft, library, personality development, enhancement of

educational qualification of Army soldiers and English language training for military personnel from friendly foreign countries. The Shekatkar committee was formed by the Modi government in May 2016 to suggest ways of “Enhancing Combat Capability and Rebalancing Defence Expenditure” as a need was felt by the government for more integration among the services.

The eleven-member panel had retired officers including former DGMOs who went through all the existing organisations of the three services and, after interacting with them, submitted its report to the defence ministry in December last year. The ministry has now cleared most of the recommendations and sent them to the services to study them before implementation and the three chiefs have met under chairman of the chiefs of staff committee Admiral Sunil Lanba to discuss the issue. On the reasons behind the proposal of disbanding the education corps, an Army official said when the AEC was formed during the British times almost 100 years ago, most of the soldiers joining from rural areas were not educated adequately and needed to be taught. Now there is no such requirement as all the recruits come after proper schooling and passing class 12.

“Nowadays, if you need to educate your personnel on some topic or course, that can be outsourced to private or public sector agencies,” the official added. In the recent past, for teaching Mandarin to its troops, the Army tied up with renowned institutions such as the Shantiniketan in West Bengal and is also using software for this purpose, said the official. The other major recommendations of the Shektakar committee include the formation of a new four-star officer for handling tri-services issues, increasing the retirement age of jawans in combat units, integration in the field of gathering military intelligence and combined use of logistics facilities.

Around `25,000 crore is expected to be saved if the panel’s proposals to revamp military expenditure are implemented. The committee has also suggested the establishment of a joint services war college for training middlelevel officers.

THE ASIAN AGE

Sat, 08 July, 2017

7th Pay Commission: Revised allowances to be paid from July

Move to benefit 34 lakh civilian employees and 14 lakh defence personnel

New Delhi, July 7: The finance ministry has asked all central ministries to ensure revised rates of allowances as per the 7th Pay Commission are paid from the current month, a move that is set to benefit 48 lakh employees. In a bonanza to central government employees, the Union Cabinet had last month approved recommendations of the 7th Pay commission with 34 modifications, which will mean an additional annual burden of Rs 30,748 crores on the exchequer.

All allowances are given effect from 1 July 2017. It will benefit 34 lakh civilian employees and 14 lakh defence personnel. The resolution conveying the central government’s decision on recommendations of the 7th pay commission on allowances was published in Gazette of India on Thursday. “The ministries concerned have now been advised to issue their orders on allowances governed by them immediately, so that the revised rates of allowances get reflected in the current month’s salary bills of the government employees,” the finance ministry said in a statement.

The allowances as recommended by the 7th Pay Commission would have cost the exchequer `29,300 crores.

The modified allowances approved by the Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will increase the burden by `1,448 crore to `30,748 crores per annum.

The allowances have been rationalised and subsumed in newly proposed dress allowance to be paid annually in four slabs — Rs 5,000, Rs10,000, Rs15,000 and Rs20,000 — for various category of employees.

Allowance granted to CRPF personnel deployed in Naxal-hit areas will be governed by the risk and hardship matrix. The rates are set to go up to Rs.17,300-25,000 per month, from Rs 8,400 to Rs 16,800.

UN adopts treaty banning N-arms

122 nations vote in favour despite opposition from big powers

United States, July 7: A global treaty banning nuclear weapons was adopted at the United Nations on Friday despite opposition from the United States, Britain, France and other nuclear powers that boycotted negotiations.

The treaty was adopted by a vote of 122 in favour with one country — Nato member The Netherlands voting against — while Singapore abstained.

Loud applause and cheers broke out in the UN conference hall following the vote that capped three weeks of negotiations on the text providing for a total ban on developing, stockpiling or threatening to use nuclear weapons.

Nuclear-armed states have dismissed the ban as unrealistic, arguing it will have no impact on reducing the global stockpile of 15,000 atomic weapons.

“Is there anyone that believes that North Korea would agree to a ban on nuclear weapons?” asked US ambassador Nikki Haley when negotiations began in March.

“There is nothing I want more for my family than a world with no nuclear weapons, but we have to be realistic.”

But supporters hailed a historic achievement. “We have managed to sow the first seeds of a world free of nuclear weapons,” said



We have managed to sow the first seeds of a world free of nuclear weapons ... waited for 70 years

— **Elayne W. Gomez,**
Costa Rica
envoy

Costa Rica’s ambassador, Elayne Whyte Gomez, the president of the UN conference that negotiated the treaty.

Led by Austria, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa and New Zealand, 141 countries joined in drafting the treaty that they hope will increase pressure on nuclear states to take disarmament more seriously.

None of the nine countries that possess nuclear weapons — the United States, Russia, Britain, China, France, India, Pakistan, North Korea and Israel — took part in the negotiations or the vote.

Even Japan — the only country to have suffered atomic attacks, in 1945 — boycotted the talks as did



Is there anyone in the United Nations that believes that North Korea would agree to a ban on nuclear weapons?

— **Nikki Haley,**
American envoy
to the UN

most Nato countries.

Nuclear powers argue their arsenals serve as a deterrent against a nuclear attack and say they remain committed to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The decades-old NPT seeks to prevent the spread of atomic weapons but also puts the onus on nuclear states to reduce their stockpiles.

Impatience however is growing among many non-nuclear states over the slow pace of disarmament. Campaigners say the treaty will go a long way in increasing the stigma associated with nuclear weapons and will have an impact on public opinion. — AFP

US fighters fly over South China Sea

Washington: Two US bombers have flown over the disputed South China Sea, the US Air Force said on Friday, asserting the right to treat the region as international territory despite China's claim to virtually all of the waterway. The flight by the B-1B Lancer bombers from Guam on Thursday came as U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping prepare for a meeting on the sidelines of a G20 summit in Germany. The two leaders were expected to discuss what China can do to rein in North Korea's missile and nuclear weapon programmes.

North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile on Tuesday that some experts believe has the range to reach Alaska and Hawaii and perhaps the U.S. Pacific Northwest. While Trump has been seeking China's help to press North Korea, the U.S. military has, nevertheless, been asserting its "freedom of navigation" rights in the South China Sea, at the risk of angering China.

Asked about the flight by the two U.S. bombers, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said there was no problem with freedom of navigation or overflight for the East and South China Seas. "But China resolutely opposes individual countries using the banner of freedom of navigation and overflight to flaunt military force and harm China's sovereignty and security," he said.

The United States has criticised China's build-up of military facilities on South China Sea reefs and tiny islands it has constructed, concerned that they could be used to extend its strategic reach. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan also have claims in the sea.



Kaspersky Lab reveals how to hunt hackers

The three-day cybersecurity conference highlighted Kaspersky's overview on the current state of cybersecurity globally and in Asia Pacific.

Kaspersky Lab today hosted a Security Conference, 'Palaeontology of Cybersecurity Conference' as part of the INTERPOL World Congress 2017. The conference aims to shed light on how private and public cybersecurity experts work together to collect malware artefacts, map and analyze attacks, and find the trail of the hackers responsible for the most sophisticated cyber campaigns around the world.

"As exciting as it sounds, researchers who hunt the hackers, responsible for the most stealthy and most successful attacks against consumers, businesses and even governments around the world can be compared to palaeontologists. While palaeontologists dig the remains of dinosaurs and relics from ancient civilizations and then determine which pieces are connected and which are not, Kaspersky Lab experts investigate attacks by gathering samples after samples of malware which are then analyzed, compared and shared with other cyber-palaeontologists to further uncover and understand a massive cyberattack," said Vitaly Kamluk, Director, Global Research and Analysis Team (GReAT), APAC.

INTERPOL World Congress 2017 is the second edition of the global exhibition and congress platform hosted by the world's largest police organization, aimed at developing mutually beneficial collaborations, information sharing, innovations and solutions in response to security threats. Kaspersky Lab participated in the event along with other market leaders in IT security as well as professionals and members of the cybersecurity community.

The three-day cybersecurity conference highlighted Kaspersky Lab's overview on the current state of cybersecurity globally and in Asia Pacific (APAC), which was presented by its founder and CEO Eugene Kaspersky and members of Global Research and Analysis Team, APAC.

Thorough discussions about Advanced Persistent Threats (APTs) and the recent massive cyberattacks in the region such as the WannaCry ransomware were also a part of the agenda.

"We've always believed that public-private cooperation is crucial in fighting cybercrime worldwide. As a private company, we are proud to collaborate with the authorities of many countries and international law enforcement agencies and our participation in the INTERPOL congress demonstrates our principle of cooperation with the IT security industry. What we are about to share in today's conference would provide extremely relevant and valuable insights towards cybercrime investigation and resolution that would greatly benefit the cybersecurity community in the region," says Stephan Neumeier, Managing Director of Kaspersky Lab Asia Pacific.

Elite members of Kaspersky Lab's GReAT delved into the concept of palaeontology in cyberspace how analyzing trails and traces of cyberattacks and the use of digital forensics come into play in finding the truth about cybercrimes. A first-of- its-kind digital forensics tool was unveiled for the first time at the conference that is seen to become a game-changer in today's cybercrime investigation procedure.

Some notable case studies on large-scale APTs that figured prominently in APAC were also shared during the conference to reveal the tools, techniques, and capabilities used by the APT actors in carrying out the attacks. Not to be missed was the presentation on the evolution of technical surveillance from traditional to online and how 5G mobile technology will accelerate cyber threats.

In a bid to intensify its fight against cybercriminals, Kaspersky Lab teamed up with the INTERPOL in 2014. For the past three years, the partnership of the two entities involved working together to conduct cybersecurity investigations and share cybersecurity intelligence within the cybersecurity community on an international level.

The partnership is well aligned with Kaspersky Lab's mission of saving the world from cyber threats. As online threats scale and sophistication of cyber attacks continue, the global cybersecurity is committed to link up with local and global law enforcement bodies to effectively combat cybercrime.

Kaspersky Lab and the INTERPOL have collaborated in unmasking several massive cyberattacks like the Tyupkin ATM malware in October 2014 and the Carbanak bank heist in February 2015.



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IISc to get Rs 3,000-crore foundry to produce ‘wonder’ nano material

The foundry is proposed to be developed around an existing facility for producing gallium nitride transistors on silicon wafers, at the IISc's Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), under the leadership of associate professor Srinivasan Raghavan.

By Johnson T A

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has received initial approvals from the government to set up a Rs 3,000-crore foundry to produce a “wonder” nano material, gallium nitride, that is emerging as one of the most efficient semiconductors for next-generation strategic technologies, including radars and communication systems. The foundry is proposed to be developed around an existing facility for producing gallium nitride

transistors on silicon wafers, at the IISc's Centre for Nano Science and Engineering (CeNSE), under the leadership of associate professor Srinivasan Raghavan.

“The proposal is currently at the highest level of the government. It needs about Rs 3,000 crore and is seen as a strategic-sector investment,” Prof S A Shivashankar of the CeNSE said.

The nano material Gallium Nitride, or GaN, is a superior alternative to silica-based semiconductors and is expected to generate revenues in the range of \$700 million by 2020, from the current range of \$300 million, according to experts in the field.

“The proposal to set up a foundry at the IISc for producing GaN is a good development. Gallium nitride technology will substantially help in the development of next-generation radars, seekers and communication systems, and will be useful in systems like Light Combat Aircraft,” said R K Sharma, the director of the DRDO's (Defence Research and Development Organisation) Solid State Physics Lab.

The CeNSE facility at the IISc, which was inaugurated in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is attempting to create an ecosystem of GaN electronics, including materials, devices and systems. GaN-based transistors from the CeNSE are already being sold to researchers in the country. The creation of a commercial GaN foundry would service industry demand for the emerging technology.

“What we need for strategic purposes is efficient energy consumption systems, and gallium nitride conductors are the answer. Unmanned vehicles, for example, which are the future of security systems, are dependent on energy efficiency,” Director Sharma said, adding that with countries like China investing in a very strategic manner in semi-conductor systems, India also needs to do so.

Among the areas where GaN semi-conductors can be used are phased array radars for electronic warfare, like AESA radars that are fitted on ultra-modern fighter jets.

The foundation for the development of GaN technologies was laid by the 2014 Nobel Physics Prize-winning work on blue Lighting Emitting Diodes using GaN, by Japanese-origin scientists Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura. The technologies have also been used in blue ray information storage systems and are being utilised increasingly now in high-power and high-speed electronics.

GaN is described as a wide-gap semiconductor with unique electronic properties. It is tough and can operate at high temperatures at high switching speeds with power flows much superior to silica.

“In every device, be it a laptop, an AC, or an automobile, there are electronic circuits that have to handle very high power and voltages. It is these circuits that constitute the field of power electronics,” Prof Srinivasan Raghavan says in a section on GaN at the CeNSE website.

“The worldwide power electronics device market is \$36 billion. As power consumption goes up, the requirement for power electronics will go up. So when you start working on GaN-based materials, you are looking at potential impact on a much larger power electronics market. What we have set up here in the IISc is a GaN platform where many of these things can mushroom,” he states.