

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

A Daily Current Awareness Service



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DRDO launches Advanced Area Defence interceptor missile from Odisha's Abdul Kalam Island

The endo-atmospheric missile, capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kilometres, successfully destroyed the incoming missile. All the mission objectives were successfully met.

Highlights

1. Event was tracked by some electro-optical tracking systems using infrared imagery.
2. Manohar Parrikar congratulated DRDO on the successful launch of interceptor missile.
3. Director General (Missiles and Strategic Systems), DRDO monitored launch operation.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted the successful launch of the interceptor missile Advanced Area Defence (AAD) at 1015 hours on Wednesday from Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. The endo-atmospheric missile, capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kilometres, successfully destroyed the incoming missile. All the mission objectives were successfully met.

The weapon system radars tracked the target and provided the initial guidance to the interceptor, which could precisely home on to the target and destroy it in the endo-atmospheric layer.

The complete event, including the engagement and destruction, was tracked by a number of electro-optical tracking systems using infrared imagery. Radars and telemetry stations tracked the target and the interceptor till the target was destroyed.

Launch Shows Prowess Of India's Bmd

The launch has proved the prowess of the country's Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD).

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar congratulated DRDO on the successful launch of the interceptor missile. Chairman DRDO and Secretary Department of Defence (R and D) Dr. S. Christopher also congratulated team AAD for the successful test firing.

Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Director General (Missiles and Strategic Systems), DRDO Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy monitored the launch operation along with other senior officials.



Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar lauds DRDO for successful test fire of interceptor missile

The endo-atmospheric missile, capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms successfully destroyed the incoming missile. All the mission objectives were successfully met.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on Wednesday conducted the successful launch of the interceptor missile Advanced Area Defence (AAD) from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar congratulated DRDO on the successful launch of the interceptor missile.

Chairman DRDO and Secretary Department of Defence R&D Dr S Christopher also congratulated team AAD for the successful test firing.

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The complete event including the engagement and destruction was tracked by a number of electro-optical tracking systems using infrared imagery.

Radars and telemetry stations tracked the target and the interceptor till the destruction of the target. The launch has proved the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) prowess of the country.

FIRSTPOST.

*Thu, 02 Mar, 2017
(Online)*

Narendra Modi hails DRDO for successful missile testing, calls it proud moment for India

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded the country's defence scientists for the successful testing of an interceptor missile, and said it is a proud moment for India.

"Hearty congratulations to our defence scientists for the successful demonstration of ballistic missile defence capability," he tweeted.

"With this, India joins the select group of five nations with such capability, a proud moment for the entire country," he added in another tweet.

India had on Wednesday successfully test-fired its indigenously developed supersonic interceptor missile capable of destroying any incoming enemy ballistic missile at low altitude. This the second time that the missile has been test-fired in less than a month and is part of an effort to put in place a multi-layer missile defence system.

"The test launch was conducted in order to validate various parameters of the interceptor in flight mode," a defence official said, adding that it was a low altitude trial.

The interceptor was engaged against a target which was a Prithvi missile launched from launch complex 3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur near Balasore, taking up the trajectory of a hostile ballistic missile.

The target missile was launched at about 10.10 hours from Chandipur. After about four minutes the interceptor, Advanced Air Defence (AAD) missile positioned at Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal, getting signals from tracking radars, roared through its trajectory to destroy the incoming hostile missile in mid-air, in an endo-atmospheric altitude, the official said.

"The mission was excellent and it was a direct hit," said a scientist of the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO).

The interceptor is a 7.5-meter long single stage solid rocket propelled guided missile equipped with a navigation system, a hi-tech computer and an electro-mechanical activator, the official said.

The interceptor missile had its own mobile launcher, secure data link for interception, independent tracking and homing capabilities and sophisticated radars, the official added.



*Thu, 02 Mar, 2017
(Online)*

Indian Navy Puts Out Request for Short Range SAMs

SRSAM systems will replace Israeli Barak-1 and its ageing Russian close-in weapon systems. French firm MBDA had agreed to transfer technology to India's DRDO for vertical launch SRSAM.

New Delhi (Sputnik) — India has issued a global request for information (RFI) to procure vertical launch short range surface-to-air-missile (SAM) system for fitment onboard Indian Navy ships and would be utilized for Anti-Missile Defense and engaging other identified air targets by the Indian Navy. With this RFI, Indian Navy has started a keenly awaited process to replace the Barak 1 air defense system.

In a 14-page paper, the Navy says, "The all-weather system should be able to be queued by data from Air Surveillance radar. Requirement for installation of dedicated Fire Control Radar/ Surveillance radar. Vendors must specify the feasibility of using existing radars like Fregat MAE, Fregat M2EM, AMDR2D, AMDR 3D, RAWL 08/ 02, MFSTAR, 3D SAR." The RFI said the missile system should be adequate to engage target with speed of up to Mach 3. Navy asked vendors to specify maximum speed with qualifying conditions, if any, eg. flight altitude, stages of flight, etc. Vendors will have to provide details of type of Guidance (Command Line of Sight, Data Link, Proportional Navigation, etc) and stabilization of the missile for roll, pitch and yaw. The paper does not reveal the range Navy requires. The Indian Navy sought details of the entire fire control system including targets that can be handled simultaneous and number of crew required for operating the system. The tender is likely to be issued in the third half of 2017. "Vendors need to indicate shortest tentative time schedule for supplying the said quantity of SR SAM systems," it says.

Navy requires vertically launched system with 360° coverage to engage hostile targets. Last year, MBDA had showcased a static mock-up vertical launch SRSAM at India's Defense Expo in Goa. MBDA's 100-kg SRSAM is a Mach 3-class missile, with a range of 40 km. MBDA claims single shot kill probability of at least 70 per cent for a single missile fired and 85 per cent for a salvo shot involving two missiles. Sources said DRDO is also independently working on an indigenous SRSAM project.



Fri, 03 Mar, 2017

Navy Test Fires Anti-Ship Missile in Arabian Sea

Ahead of the commissioning schedule of the first Scorpene-class submarine "Kalvari", the Indian Navy on Thursday test fired an anti-ship missile successfully from the stealth submarine in the Arabian Sea.

"The missile successfully hit a surface target at extended ranges during the trial firing held this morning," a Defence spokesperson said on Thursday.

Thursday's missile launch is a significant milestone not only for the Kalvari, which is the first in a series of Scorpene class submarines being built in India, but also in enhancing the Indian Navy's sub-surface warfare capability.

"All six Kalvari class submarines being built in India will be equipped with this anti-ship missile, which has a proven record in combat. These missiles will provide the submarines the ability to neutralise surface threats at extended ranges," the spokesperson said.

The first of the Kalvari-class submarine is currently undergoing sea trials and likely to be commissioned into Navy by mid 2017.

Earlier on January 12 this year, the second of the Indian Navy's Scorpene-class stealth submarine was launched at the Mazagon Dock Shipyard Limited (MDL) here, a launch that paved the way for her sea trials. Christened as "Khanderi", the second Scorpene-class submarine is expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy by the end of this year. Six Kalvari-class submarines are being built by the MDL in collaboration with Messrs DCNS of France. These submarines, post induction, would form the core of Navy's conventional Submarine Arm.

The state-of-art features of the Scorpene-class submarines include superior stealth and the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapons. The attack can be launched with torpedoes, as well as tube launched anti-ship missiles, whilst underwater or on surface. The Stealth features will give it invulnerability, unmatched by many submarines.

They are designed to operate in all theatres including the Tropics. All means and communications are provided to ensure interoperability with other components of a Naval Task Force.



Fri, 03 Mar, 2017

Scorpene submarine Kalvari shows its sting

After years of delays, India's first Scorpene submarine Kalvari, which can carry 18 torpedoes, fired an anti-ship missile for the first time on Thursday and hit its target

Built indigenously at Mazagon Docks in Mumbai, Kalvari first underwent sea trials in May 2016

State-of-the-art features include superior stealth and the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapons

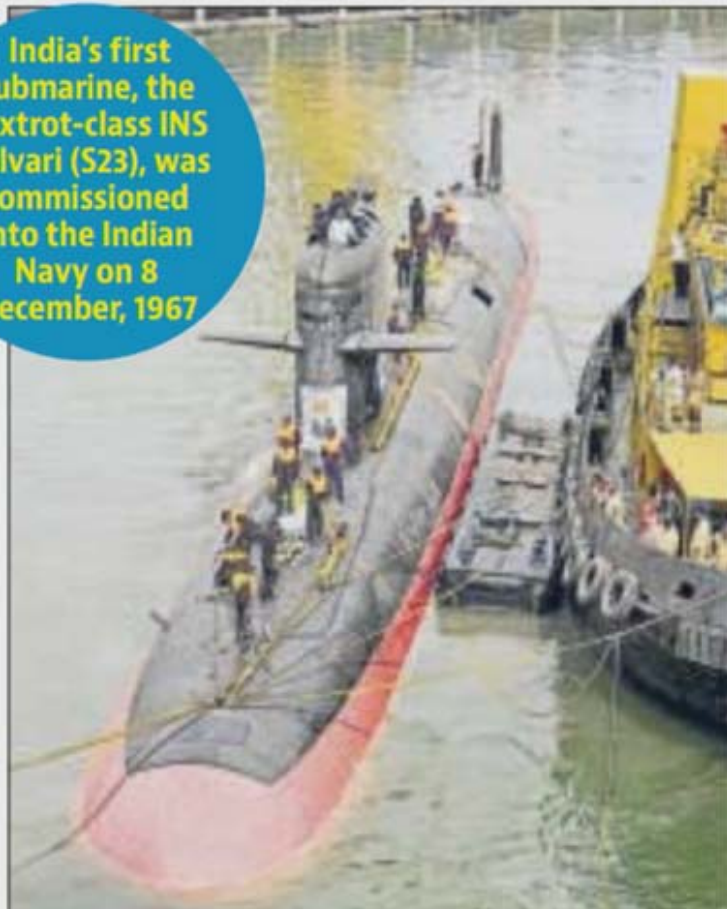
The attack can be launched with torpedoes as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles, whilst underwater or on surface

The Scorpene submarine is designed to operate in all theatres, including the tropics. It can undertake multifarious types of missions such as anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying and area surveillance

It is built from special steel, capable of withstanding high yield stress and having high tensile strength, thereby allowing it to withstand high hydrostatic force

The Scorpene is equipped with Weapons Launching Tubes, and can carry weapons on board that can be easily reloaded at sea

India's first submarine, the Foxtrot-class INS Kalvari (S23), was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 8 December, 1967



■ The indigenously-built Kalvari submarine first underwent sea trials in 2016.

VIJAYANAND GUPTA/HT FILE

TEXT: Presley Thomas

A weapon-locating radar for the Army

'Swati' extensively tested along LoC

The DRDO on Thursday formally handed over an indigenously developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) system called 'Swati' to the Army. It has been extensively tested along the Line of Control. The organisation also handed over a Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) recce vehicle and NBC treatment drugs to the Army.

Export potential - Speaking at an event, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said it was an indigenous effort with an export potential. However, exports would take place after the Army's requirements were fulfilled.

DRDO officials said Swati provides quick, automatic and accurate location of all enemy weapons like mortars, shells and rockets firing within its effective zone of coverage and simultaneously handles multiple projectiles fired from different weapons at different locations. Swati can also direct artillery response based on the incoming enemy fire. Army Chief General Bipin Rawat called the system a success.

The WLR has been a critical requirement of the Army, and in the aftermath of the Kargil conflict, it had to be imported from the U.S. in 2002 to fill critical needs. Swati has a range of 50 km which brings all artillery guns presently in service worldwide under its coverage. Four systems are currently in operation and another 30 are on order for the Army. Talking about the capability of the WLR, a senior defence official said it was pressed into service on the LoC last year during the flare-up in hostilities after the surgical strikes. It played a major role in suppressing the heavy artillery fire from Pakistan.

The NBC Recce Vehicle Mk-I is intended for carrying out post event recce of nuclear, biological and chemical contamination. The Army had placed an order for 16 of these vehicles in 2010.



PLANS TO INDUCT NEW ANTI-TANK MISSILES COULD GET DELAYED

Rahul Singh

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NEWDELHI: The army may have to wait longer to induct new anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM), as the defence ministry has appointed a committee to examine a ₹3,200-crore deal that was about to be closed.

An army source told Hindustan Times that a committee, headed by a two-star general, will examine procedural aspects of the deal for Israeli Spike ATGM systems, manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems Ltd.

While India chose the Israeli ATGM over US defence and aerospace firm Raytheon's Javelin system three years ago, the deal was delayed as commercial issues needed to be ironed out.

"The deal was ready to be put up for clearance by the Cabinet Committee on Security. But now we will have to wait for the panel's report," the source said on the condition of anonymity.

India is negotiating the purchase of 321 launchers and 8,356 fire-and-forget missiles with the Israeli firm.

The missile can destroy armoured vehicles and bunkers from a distance of 2.5 km and the army plans to equip more than 400 of its infantry and mechanised units with the third-generation ATGM systems.

The army's requirement for larger number of launchers and missiles will be met through licensed production of the ATGM systems by state-owned Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). The army currently uses Milan and Konkur ATGMs built by BDL under license from French and Russian firms, respectively.

रासायनिक हमलों से निपटने के लिए तैयार रहे सेना : पर्रिकर

नई दिल्ली ,(एजेंसी):रक्षा मंत्री मनोहर पर्रिकर ने अफगानिस्तान में हाल के आतंकवादी हमलों में रासायनिक हथियारों के इस्तेमाल की आशंका जताते हुए आज कहा कि भारतीय सेना को किसी भी तरह की प्रतिकूल स्थिति से निपटने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार रहना चाहिए। रक्षा अनुसंधान एवं विकास संगठन (डीआरडीओ) द्वारा बनाये गये रडार और रैकी वाहनों जैसे रक्षा उत्पादों को आज सेना को सौंपने के लिए आयोजित कार्यक्रम में श्री पर्रिकर ने कहा कि अफगानिस्तान और उसके उत्तरी हिस्सों से कुछ रिपोर्ट आ रही हैं और इनके फोटो मैंने देखे हैं जिनमें लोगों के शरीर पर कुछ चकतें और दाग हैं जिससे रासायनिक हथियारों के इस्तेमाल की आशंका पैदा होती है। उन्होंने कहा कि अभी इन खबरों की पुष्टि नहीं हुई लेकिन ये फोटो विचलित करने वाले हैं। इसे ध्यान में रखते हुए भारतीय सेना को किसी भी तरह की स्थिति से निपटने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार रहना चाहिए।

श्री पर्रिकर ने कहा कि यद्यपि अभी देश ने परमाणु या रासायनिक हमले का सामना नहीं किया है हमें इसका मुकाबला करने के लिए हर समय तैयार रहना होगा। डीआरडीओ ने सेना को हथियारों का पता लगाने वाला रडार स्वाथि, परमाणु, रासायनिक और जैविक हथियारों की रैकी करने वाला वाहन और इन हथियारों से प्रभावित लोगों के उपचार में काम आने वाली दवाओं की किट सौंपी है। श्री पर्रिकर ने ये रक्षा उत्पाद सेना प्रमुख जनरल बिपिन रावत को प्रदान किये। उन्होंने इस मौके पर डीआरडीओ के वैज्ञानिकों को इन उत्पादों को बनाने तथा हाल ही में किये गये मिसाइलों के सफल परीक्षण के लिए बधाई भी दी।

इस मौके पर सेना प्रमुख जनरल बिपिन रावत ने कहा कि मौजूदा परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए सशस्त्र बलों विशेष रूप से सेना का आधुनिकीकरण समय की जरूरत है। डीआरडीओ के अध्यक्ष डा. एस. क्रिस्टोफर ने कहा कि नौसेना और वायु सेना को रक्षा उत्पादों से सुसज्जित करने के बाद अब सेना को रक्षा उत्पादों से लैस किया जा रहा है और यह संगठन के लिए गौरव का क्षण है। हथियारों का पता लगाने वाला रडार स्वाथि अपनी रेंज में आने वाले दुश्मन के मोर्टर, बमों और राकेट दागे जाने की जगह का तेजी से पता लगाने में सक्षम है।

यह एक साथ कई जगहों से होने वाले हमलों पर एक साथ नजर रख सकता है। हथियारों का पता लगाने में सक्षम रडार प्रणाली से सेना की ताकत बढ़ेगी और वह तोपों के हमले से निपट सकेगी। यह प्रणाली अपनी तोपों से किये जाने वाले हमले में भी जरूरत के हिसाब से फेरबदल करने में सक्षम है। परमाणु, जैविक और रासायनिक हथियारों से किये गये हमले के प्रभाव का पता लगाने वाला रैकी वाहन प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से नमूने लेने तथा संबंधित आंकड़े जुटाने में सक्षम है।

डीआरडीओ की संस्था इनमास रासायनिक, जैविक और परमाणु हमलों के कारण उत्पन्न आकस्मिक स्थिति से निपटने तथा इससे प्रभावित लोगों के उपचार की दवाएं बना रही है। इस संस्था ने पिछले दो दशकों में व्यापक अनुसंधान के बाद ये दवाएं बनायीं हैं।

MAIL TODAY

Def Min unhappy with deal draft

It Seems, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar was not happy with the way the army officials had prepared their proposal for buying anti-tank guided missiles for the Rudra attack choppers at defence-acquisition council meeting.

The proposal had to be deferred due to the issues with the way it was drafted. The army has now been asked to prepare a fresh proposal for the critical acquisition and it will be fielded before the next meeting of the DAC.

Award for Command Hospital



Union Minister for Defence Manohar Parrikar presents the Raksha Mantri's Trophy for the Second Best Service Hospital in the Armed Forces Medical Services for 2016 to Commandant, Command Hospital (Northern Command), Udhampur, Maj Gen N Naithani, in New Delhi on Thursday. PTI

THE  HINDU

ESSAR Steel enters defence sector

The firm plans to develop indigenous armour plate for ballistic protection

Essar Steel has forayed into high-growth defence manufacturing sector by developing steel grades which find application in land and naval defence.

The company has developed several products which are import substitutes as well as innovated to develop indigenous armour plate for ballistic protection, Essar Steel said in a statement on Thursday.

The estimated expenditure in defence sector is more than the \$200 billion over the next five years.

Naval destroyers

Essar Steel's import substitute products have been used in the construction of advance naval destroyers, offshore patrol vessels and floating docks.

They also provide ballistic protection to combat vehicles and battle tanks. In addition, Essar Steel products are used in the construction of Coast Guard vessels and in the repair of naval ships.

Essar Steel aims to participate in the indigenisation of products used in naval defence, including destroyers, offshore patrol vessels used by both the Navy and Coast Guard, rocket launchers, floating docks and submarines.

In land defence, the steel making company's products are used for battle tanks, motor casing of missiles, mine protected and combat vehicles, military and civil vehicles and artillery guns.

"The defence sector is witnessing exponential growth," Essar Steel MD and CEO Dilip Oommen said. "Essar Steel would like to be a part of this growing segment so we can capitalise on our strengths, which include state-of-the-art manufacturing and product development."

"We have developed an excellent track record by successfully supplying steel to many defence projects. This has given us the confidence and encouragement to expand our product portfolio for this segment," Mr. Oommen said.

The revised Defence Procurement Policy 2016 encourages 'Make in India' and supports indigenous manufacturing of defence equipment and spares. The goal is to achieve an indigenisation level of 60% to 70%, against the existing 40%.

Apart from saving foreign exchange, it will bring about self-sufficiency and self-reliance, as well as position the country as an exporter of defence goods.

While Essar Steel has been servicing the defence sector for the past six-seven years, the entry of private players has enhanced the marketability of its products.

Essar Steel has set up a 1.5 million tonnes per annum 5-metre-wide steel plate facility at Hazira to meet the requirements of the defence sector. The plant has three types of rolling capabilities that include thermo-mechanical controlled rolling.



Fri, 03 Mar, 2017

S Jaishankar meets newly appointed US NSA, Speaker Paul Ryan to discuss bilateral ties

Jaishankar arrived in Washington Tuesday on a four-day visit to hold talks with top officials of the Donald Trump administration

Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar met US National Security Advisor Lt Gen H R McMaster to discuss counter-terrorism, bilateral relations and ways to take Indo-US ties forward. The meeting between Jaishankar and McMaster gains significance as the top military leader was appointed the National Security Advisor by US President Donald Trump ten days ago. During the meeting held at the White House, the two officials are believed to have discussed issues related to security relationship, counter-terrorism, and defence partnership.

Jaishankar also met Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan and discussed various issues, including ways to enhance economic and defence cooperation between both countries. "The relationship between the US and India is rooted in shared values of democracy and freedom," Ryan said in a statement after meeting Jaishankar. "We had a great opportunity today to build on this critical partnership by discussing ways to enhance our economic and defence cooperation," Ryan said.

During his meeting with Jaishankar, Ryan expressed the condolences of the House of Representatives on the death of Srinivas Kuchibhotla, 32, and Alok Madasani, another Indian of the same age, injured in the shooting by navy veteran Adam Purinton, who yelled "terrorist" and "get out of my country" before opening fire on them. "Our peoples must continue to stand together, and I look forward to working with Foreign Secretary Jaishankar in the years ahead," Ryan said. Jaishankar arrived in Washington Tuesday on a four-day visit to hold talks with top officials of the Trump administration, lawmakers and members of the think-tank community. This is his third-trip to the US after Trump was elected as the President. Trump had earlier pledged to strengthen Indo-US ties during his telephonic conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi last month. About three weeks before his electoral victory, Trump had told Indian-Americans that in him India would have the best friend at the White House.

Fri, 03 Mar, 2017

Age no bar for 81-yr-old retd. Air Vice Marshal

“There are old pilots and bold pilots, but no old-bold pilots.” Try telling this to 81-year-old Air Vice Marshal Ajit Lamba (retd) and he’ll laugh in your face.

“At the moment I am not flying very regularly because of non-availability of aircraft. I have been flying off and on any time I can get hold of an aircraft,” Lamba said on the sidelines of the just-concluded Aero India defence exposition, where he made quite a splash when, dressed in blue overalls, he flew an indigenous Hansa single-engined trainer aircraft, swankily painted in grey and blue.

Having flown in some seven to eight editions of Aero India, Lamba had to keep away from the last couple of editions as the Hansa was grounded — and almost didn’t make it this time around too.

“Now, at my age, I can only fly these small airplanes. I have been doing that whenever there has been an opportunity. My principle has been, I don’t want to pay for flying to flying clubs. I don’t mind not getting paid,” he said with a wicked smile. He once owned his own flying machine — a Pegasus microlight gifted to him by his wife on his 70th birthday. However, he had to sell it off because of lack of parking space.

“I used to fly it regularly. I kept it at the HAL airport in one of the defence hangers. But unfortunately it was getting filled up with their own equipment and one day I was told to vacate. I had to dispose it of because there was no other place in Bangalore. I had to sell it to a colleague of mine,” Lamba rued.

Apart from the Aero India, he has also flown Hansa at the Australia International Airshow in Melbourne. His fitness routine involves a lot of walking, occasional visits to the gymnasium, golf and squash. — IANS

THE ASIAN AGE

Fri, 03 Mar, 2017

As summer nears, are our forces prepared?

Well-trained terrorists found it a cakewalk to stroll into a major defence area and attempt to create a hostage-like situation.

The first lot of improved equipment, including weapons, is being delivered to military and paramilitary units in Jammu and Kashmir before heightened terrorist activity sets in as we advance toward the summer, leaving behind the bitter winter cold and snow, specially in high-altitude areas that impede terrorist ingress from the Pakistan side.

The new weapons are also being despatched to the Line of Control with Pakistan in the Valley, and to the international border. More than in the fight against terrorism, it’s in the skirmishes against Pakistani forces that the inadequacy of some weapons used by our forces has been profiled.

Lighter bulletproof vests, lighter guns, better communication devices, boots that can withstand the shock of improvised explosive devices, specialised night-fighting capabilities, among other equipment and weapons, have been spoken of over years. Re-equipping the troops is, of course, a continuing process.

In the context of extremism and terrorism in Kashmir, that has seen a resurgence in the past two years, it’s to be underlined that some major incidents that have occurred — in Baramulla and Jammu, but also the airbase in Pathankot (that is in Punjab, but very close to J&K) — haven’t resulted from a weapons and equipment deficit.

The culprit has been reckless disregard by the Army and the Air Force of the most rudimentary considerations of security, such as perimeter protection and defence; in short, failures relating to overlooking the first

principles. Well-trained terrorists found it a cakewalk to stroll into a major defence area and attempt to create a hostage-like situation.

What's really galling is that the three major events — of a big enough magnitude to provoke war between nations — occurred in close proximity to one another in time. This suggests criminal neglect, and a failure to take the obvious lessons by the ministry of defence. Parliament is yet to ask the right questions in this regard. The ruling establishment is of course apt to view any questioning of the functioning of the defence establishment as an anti-national, even unpatriotic, activity. If this remains the attitude, we may expect complacency, inefficiency and corruption to flourish unhindered.

While it's good that the security forces will have better equipment, there's no sign yet of the Centre taking steps to stop the vulnerable sections of people, specially the impressionable youth in the Kashmir Valley, from falling prey to extremism and terrorism encouraged by the jihadist elements nurtured by Pakistan.

It's also necessary to have effective non-lethal gear — the pellet guns which blinded many in Kashmir last year does not fall into this category — for crowd control. But it's crucial to find social and political ways to dissuade people from hindering security operations by forming crowds.



Fri, 03 Mar, 2017

Army sahayak in sting op video found dead

By Rajshekhar Jha

An Army jawan who had figured in a sting operation by a news website criticising the `sahayak' (orderly) system last month was found dead in mysterious conditions in an abandoned barrack in Deolali Cantonment in Maharashtra on Thursday . Roy Mathew, a gunner, was found hanging from the ceiling of a room. Doctors said 33-year-old Mathew, whose body was decomposed, might have died three days ago.

Police sources said Mathew, who had served the Army for around 13 years, was among several jawans in Deolali seen in the video which featured soldiers walking dogs of officers and taking their children to school. The sting operation had sparked an uproar against the British-era sahayak system. Mathew, who had been missing from his artillery unit since February 25, was facing an inquiry after the sting operation was posted online, sources said. It is being probed if Mathew, who was attached for `buddy duties' with a Colonel rank officer posted as an additional officer at the Artillery Centre in Deolali, had felt tortured or harassed after appearing in the video,“ said a police source, adding that after the video was widely circulated on various social media platforms, Mathew was questioned by several officials.

The source said Mathew had run away from the unit on February 25 and had remained missing since. “He had come under huge pressure,“ the source added. On being contacted, the Army, however, said Mathew had gone “AWOL (absent without official leave)“ within 24 hours of the video being aired on February 24.



Fri, 03 Mar, 2017

China ready to cede land for part of Arunachal?

By Saibal Dasgupta

New Formula: Piece Of Aksai Chin For Part Of Tawang?

An exchange of land -with the politically and strategically sensitive Tawang tract in Arunachal Pradesh being ceded by India -could pave the way for settlement of the India-China boundary dispute, China's former point man for India Dai Bingguo has said.

His statement indicates China is ready to make concessions in areas like Aksai Chin in the western sector.

The suggestion came in an interview given by the former Chinese diplomat and high-ranking communist cadre to a Beijing-based publication. Dai headed the special representative dialogue with India for over a decade until his retirement in 2013.

Though the exchange of Tawang is far from being a simple affair given the presence of the Tawang monastery, which commands a special place in Tibetan Buddhism and is highly regarded by Buddhists in India as well, Dai's remarks are significant as they may not be completely without official sanction.

Dai is still regarded close to Chinese rulers, and his voice is taken seriously in the diplomatic community . He is unlikely to make sensitive comments in an interview unless it has been cleared by top leaders of the Communist Party, sources said. The major reason the boundary question persists is that China's reasonable requests have not been met," Dai said, adding, "If the Indian side takes care of China's concerns on the eastern section of the border, the Chinese side will respond accordingly and address India's concerns elsewhere."

Dai Bingguo has written on similar lines in his book which came out last year. China analyst Shrikant Kondapalli said the Chinese interest in the eastern sector had been elevated since 2005, when both countries signed the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles. China has eyed the Tawang tract, describing it as Southern Tibet, because the 15th century Dalai Lama was born there. Interestingly , China withdrew from that area after the 1962 war with India. Control of Tawang will consolidate China's hold over the centres of Tibetan Buddhism.

"For India, such an exchange is not possible. Arunachal Pradesh is an integral part of the country , so its beyond any concession. During Manmohan Singh's tenure, the two countries had decided to leave out the populated areas. But China has asked for some territorial concession in the unpopulated areas near the MacMahon line."

In exchange, Kondapalli said, China offered to move back 100 km in the Aksai Chin plateau in the western sector, creating a demilitarised zone. India had objected, saying the topography of the area was such that it would be very difficult for India to recapture the heights while it would be very easy for China to do so. In the discussions, China refused to give any assurances on that front.

Security fears for India as Maldives to hand over atoll to Saudi Arabia

India might be faced with another security challenge in its neighbourhood, with the Abdulla Yameen government in Maldives planning to give control of an entire atoll to Saudi Arabian Arabia, reports Sachin Parashar. Members of the opposition Democratic Party said the decision to "sell" Faafu -one of the 26 natural atolls in Maldives -to Saudi Arabia would aggravate creeping Wahabism in the country. According to some international estimates, the archipelago already accounts for one of the highest numbers of foreign fighters in Syria in terms of per capita.



Fri, 03 Mar, 2017

India to attend Lahore meet on Indus Waters Treaty

World Bank officials play mediator in two months of diplomatic negotiations.

Signalling a major shift in its position on talks with Pakistan on the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), India has accepted an invitation to attend the next meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC) to be held in Lahore in March, various sources confirmed to *The Hindu*.

According to officials privy to the development, the move came after two months of diplomatic negotiations, with World Bank officials playing mediator in encouraging Pakistan to extend the invitation and for India to accept.

The news closely follows the visit of World Bank Chief Executive Officer Kristalina Georgieva to Delhi, where she met with Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, weeks after her visit in January to Islamabad, where she met Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Officials acknowledged that the holding of the next annual round of the PIC, which was last held in July 2016 was a “positive” sign, given that India had announced it was “suspending” the talks after the Uri attacks in September. According to senior government officials at the time, the decision to suspend the talks had been taken when Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with key officials, including National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar, to “review” the IWT.

On the table

A look at the two major hydro-electric projects in Jammu & Kashmir, to which Pakistan had objected

KISHENGANGA PROJECT

- Is in Bandipore on the river Kishenganga, a tributary of Jhelum

- Installed capacity: **330 MW**

- A ‘Court of Arbitration’ was set up due to Pakistan’s objection to the project



A view of the Kishenganga project

- Commission date: **2016**

- Project cost: ₹ **5,783 crore** (revised)

RATLE PROJECT

- Is in Doda on the Chenab river

- Installed capacity: **850 MW**

- Project includes construction of a 195m long and 133m high concrete dam

- Commission: **2018**

- Cost (approx.): ₹ **6,400 crore**

At the time, tensions with Pakistan were high, as the government considered all retaliatory measures after the Army camp attack in which 19 soldiers were killed.

“Meetings can only take place in an atmosphere free of terror,” a senior official briefing the press about the suspension of the Indus talks had said.

Asked if the scheduling of the talks now in March despite the previous decision meant a climbdown in India’s position or whether terror attacks had in fact decreased in the past few months, the MEA did not offer an official comment.

“It is a regular bilateral meeting of the Permanent Indus Commission which implements the Indus Waters Treaty,” a senior official told *The Hindu*, denying that there was any “shift” in India’s position.

In November another controversy erupted

over the World Bank decision to constitute a Court of Arbitration to look into complaints from Pakistan over India’s construction of Kishenganga and Ratle river water projects. India said the World Bank decision was biased in Pakistan’s favour, threatening to “take steps” against it.

Eventually the matter was resolved after it was taken up at the highest levels between the World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, who also spoke over telephone to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and to his Pakistan counterpart Ishaq Dar. This was followed by visits to India and Pakistan by World Bank expert Ian Solomon and then Ms. Georgieva. According to the sources, Ms. Georgieva discussed the impasse over the IWT at length with Mr. Jaitley during her visit to Delhi, and even suggested putting some of the key issues on Kishenganga and Ratle hydel projects on the agenda for the Lahore meeting.

In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu* on Wednesday, Ms. Georgieva said: “Our contribution is to help the countries better understand each other’s concerns and address them. We have seen that the Treaty has served the two countries very well and has survived difficult moments.”



*Thu, 02 Mar, 2017
(Online)*

Large Hadron Collider gets heart transplant

Geneva, Mar 2 (PTI) Scientists today carried out a "heart transplant" on the Large Hadron Collider - worlds largest and most powerful particle accelerator - by replacing a key component inside one of its experiments. The new pixel detector was installed in a complex and delicate procedure 100 metres underground. The first major upgrade to the LHC may boost the hunt for new sub-atomic particles.

The LHC is a particle accelerator that pushes two particle beams to near the speed of light and smashes them together so that scientists can look for signs of new physics phenomena in the debris - including new sub-atomic particles.

More than 1,200 dipole magnets steer the beam around a 27 kilometres-long circular tunnel under the French-Swiss border.

At certain points around the ring, the beams cross, allowing collisions to take place. Large experiments then record the outcomes of these encounters, generating more than 10 million gigabytes of data every year.

The CMS (Compact Muon Solenoid) pixel detector is designed to disentangle and reconstruct the paths of particles emerging from the collision wreckage.

"Its like substituting a 66 megapixel camera for a 124 megapixel camera," Austin Ball, technical co-ordinator for the CMS experiment, told BBC News.

CMS and its counterpart Atlas are the two "multi-purpose" experiments at the LHC. Staffed by separate teams of physicists, they provided the crucial evidence that led to the discovery of the elusive Higgs boson, announced in 2012.

The Higgs was the last major jigsaw piece in the theory of particle physics known as the Standard Model (SM).

But the hoped-for signs of physical phenomena beyond the Standard Model, such as evidence for dark matter or supersymmetry - a theorised extension to the SM which invokes a range of new sub-atomic particles - have taken longer than expected to reveal themselves at the LHC.

The change to CMS should help physicists in that endeavour, said Ball. PTI