

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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Tue, 14 Nov, 2017

## Deep-strike BrahMos to be test-fired soon

*Will Be Tested From a Sukhoi This Week*

*By Rajat Pandit*

New Delhi: India is now all set to upgrade its deadly precision-strike weapon into a deep surgical-strike one. The sleek BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, which flies almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8, will be test-fired from a Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jet for the first time this week.

The “marriage” between the fighter, with a cruising range of 3,200-km, and the missile will be “a deadly combination”. The air-to-ground BrahMos missiles can conceivably be used for pinpoint strikes on terror camps located deep inside enemy territory, or to take out underground nuclear bunkers, command-and-control centres and other high-value military targets like aircraft carriers on the high seas, from long stand-off distances, say sources.

The armed forces have already inducted the 290-km range land and warshipbased versions of the BrahMos missiles over the last decade. Having placed orders worth over Rs 27,150 crore, the Army, Navy and IAF have clearly shown their preference for BrahMos as their conventional (not nuclear) precision-strike weapon in the years ahead.

With India joining the 34-nation Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) in June 2016, which “removed the caps” on the range of the missile developed jointly with Russia, the armed forces are also testing an extended range BrahMos that can hit targets 450-km away. The MTCR basically prevents the proliferation of missiles and drones over the range of 300-km.

Moreover, initial work has also begun on developing a hypersonic version of the BrahMos, capable of flying at a speed of over Mach 5. And now, a lighter BrahMos missile — weighing 2.4-tonne instead of the original 2.9-tonne — will be tested from a twinengine Sukhoi fighter over the Bay of Bengal this week, say defence ministry sources.

Sources say 42 Sukhoi fighters will eventually be armed with BrahMos missiles once the air-launched missiles have undergone a battery of successful tests. IAF has till now inducted 240 of the 272 twin-seat Sukhois contracted from Russia for over \$12 billion, with the bulk of them being licenced produced by defence PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL).

HAL and BrahMos Aerospace for the last few years were working on integrating the BrahMos missiles on two Sukhois for flight trials, which kicked off in June 2016. While the Sukhois required some structural modifications, the weight of the missiles also had to be reduced and its satellite navigation and other systems made compatible with the fighter avionics. “All arrangements are now in place for the first live firing of the missile from the air this week,” said a source.

Incidentally, the government has approved the deployment of Block-III version of the BrahMos missile, which has “steep dive, trajectory manoeuver, and top-attack capabilities” for mountain warfare, in Arunachal Pradesh as a deterrent against China, as was earlier reported by TOI.

## Not keen on foreign buy, MoD pushes for Tejas

By Ajay Banerjee

### 123 jets needed

- The Ministry of Defence is looking at 123 Tejas in two variants. Forty base version of the light combat aircraft are under production
- The Mark 1-A version of the light combat aircraft will have 83 planes with 43 upgrades

With the government keen on the 'Make in India' project of the light combat aircraft, Tejas, the Ministry of Defence is clearing the existing hurdles facing the project.

A section within the government is not too keen on the foreign purchase of single-engined fighter jets – US-made F-16 or the Swedish Saab JAS-39. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has been told to look at more numbers of Tejas as top priority and not just dismiss it off.

There are 123 Tejas jets – in two variants — that the MoD is looking at. Forty planes of the base version have been ordered and are under production. The Mark 1-A version will have 83 planes with 43 upgrades over the base version. It was almost two years ago, in December 2015, that the IAF indicated the requirement of 100 Tejas LCA MK 1-A aircraft, for which a formal order is yet to be placed. The plan of manufacturing and completion is from 2018 to 2022-23.

On November 7 last year, the Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, approved the procurement of 83 planes of the 'Mark1-A' version. But a formal order is yet to be placed. The IAF wants an AESA radar, in place of the manually scanned Israeli Elta radar. Besides it wants a 'self-protection jammer', fitted with external re-fuelling capability.

Besides, the MoD has Rs 1,331-crore plan to double the existing eight planes per annum capacity of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. At present pace, the Mark 1-A can first be ready by 2019.



## For India, peace is not a word; it is in our veins: Modi

By Kallol Bhattacharjee

*“The task of transforming India is proceeding on an unprecedented scale,” says the Prime Minister*

Highlighting India's role in the Indo-Pacific region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke of Lord Buddha and Mahatma Gandhi's tradition of peace, a day after Indian officials joined the quadrilateral grouping that includes Australia, Japan and the United States.

In a meeting with the non-resident Indian community, Mr. Modi said on Monday that India has sacrificed lives for the peace of the world even as he informed U.S. President Donald Trump that India will play a role for the welfare of humanity. **Huge scarifies** - “History does not show us a single incident in which India has done bad things to anyone. During the World War I and the World War II, we did not have any territorial ambition, yet more than 1.5 lakh soldiers of my country sacrificed lives in quest for peace. Because of this sacrifice, any Indian can say with pride that we contribute to the world and do not take anything from

the world. For India, the land of Buddha and Gandhi, peace is not just a word, peace is in our veins. And, we certainly have never snatched anything from anybody in the past,” said Prime Minister Modi, speaking in Hindi to a gathering of non-resident Indians living in Philippines.

“I have come to a nation and a region that is very important to India,” he said to a cheering crowd.

Mr. Modi’s comment sets the backdrop of the quadrilateral dialogue that is being interpreted as a move to counter China’s growing might, though Indian officials have strongly stated that they do not wish to target any country through this mechanism. The U.S. official statement issued following Sunday’s talks, hinted at continuing the dialogue process that began on Sunday, but Indian officials did not confirm that. However, Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar interpreted the quadrilateral as one of the several such groupings that India is part of. “We do many meetings with many groupings. This is part of the diplomacy that countries do. Chinese also do a quadrilateral with the US. China does a trilateral with Japan and Korea. Diplomacy has a lot of space in between and it is not just for multilateral and bilateral meetings,” said Mr. Jaishankar.

Mr. Modi indicated India’s growing ambition to emerge as a global peacekeeping and peace-enforcing power reminding that India recognises the need for peace in the global order.

“If any country in the world is the largest contributor to global peacekeeping, then it is India. In many restive areas of the world, Indian peacekeepers are present,” he said. Interacting with the media, the Foreign Secretary said that peacekeeping in the Southeast Asian region is for the United Nations to decide.

Mr. Jaishankar said a range of issues like the violence in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, the situation in Afghanistan, and India-U.S. defence cooperation were discussed between Mr. Modi and Mr. Trump. “Consequences of the violent outcome of the conflict in the Rakhine province of Myanmar were discussed,” said the Foreign Secretary.

In his meeting with Mr. Trump, Mr. Modi also spoke positively about the commitment of the U.S. leadership to India and said, “Wherever President Trump has travelled in recent days and wherever he had an opportunity to speak on India, he has spoken optimistically and highly. I also assure that India will try its best to fulfil the expectations that the U.S. and the world has from it.”

## THE ASIAN AGE

Tue, 14 Nov, 2017

### Nirmala’s visit to AR irks China

China on Monday criticised defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s visit to Arunachal Pradesh, saying her tour of the “disputed area” is not conducive to peace in the frontier region and asked New Delhi to create an “enabling environment” to resolve the border row. Ms Sitharaman on Sunday visited forward army posts in remote Anjaw district of Arunachal Pradesh bordering China to take stock of the defence preparedness. “As to Indian defence minister visit to Arunachal Pradesh, you must be very clear about China’s position,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said. “There is a dispute on the eastern section of the China-India boundary. So this visit by the Indian side to the disputed area is not conducive to the peace and tranquillity of the relevant region,” she said in a response to a question. The Indian side should work with the Chinese side to make contribution to resolving the issue through dialogue and create enabling environment, she said. — PTI

## Steel biggie goes for high quality

Public sector behemoth Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) is now focusing predominantly on an array of highvalue products instead of concentrating merely on the volume of production in order to push up profitability. During an interaction with employees at the company's Durgapur Steel Plant (DSP) recently, SAIL chairman said that in the prevailing stiff market competition, value addition to products and processes along with tailoring the product quality and attributes in line with the market demands rather than producing only volume can be a game changer for the company.

Recently, the indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvette INS-Kiltan, which was commissioned into the Indian Navy, also used SAIL's special defence grade DMR 249A steel plates for its construction. With this project, SAIL has played an important role as a partner in the 'make in India' drive. INS-Kiltan is the third of the four indigenously built AWS stealth corvettes under project 28 (Kamorta class) to join the Indian Navy, after sister ships INS Kamorta and INS Kadmatt.

SAIL's integrated functioning across all plants has once again successfully supplied the required quantity of steel for this significant project. SAIL also supplied around 33,500 metric tonnes of steel for the construction of the Agra-Lucknow expressway, which facilitated the touch-and-go landing of Indian Air Force fighter jets recently. SAIL had primarily supplied long products consisting of earthquake-resistant TMT bars for this project. SAIL's branded earthquake resistant EQR TMT Bars have superior qualities and come in various customised specifications. SAIL steel has also been used in for prestigious national projects including the Sardar Sarovar Dam, Lucknow Metro and several other metro rail projects.

SAIL's state-of-the-art new mills, including Universal Rail Mill at Bhilai, New Plate Mill at Rourkela, Structural Mills at Burnpur and Durgapur, Cold Rolling Mill at Bokaro and Wire Rod Mill at Burnpur will all add to the increased share of value added products in the company's steel output. The state-of-the-art 1 MTPA (million tonne per annum) capacity medium structural mill installed at DSP is capable of producing world-class structural steel products which have a high demand for various on-going and upcoming infrastructure and construction projects in India. SAIL is increasing the proportion of ready-to-use materials in its product basket, improving the mill production, ramping up new facilities.

The national steel policy too, charts a progressive and ambitious roadmap for domestic industry both in terms of production and consumption. The government's impetus on infrastructure development is expected to give a major boost to steel consumption across the country. As part of its modernisation and expansion programme, SAIL has installed ultra-modern rolling mills for long products at its IISCO Steel Plant and Durgapur Steel Plant.



## India, Philippines ink deals on defence, agriculture

By Shubhajit Roy

*Four agreements were signed between the two countries, which covered areas of defence, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and tie-up between think-tanks.*

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday expressed his desire to enhance "defence cooperation" with India, as he met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the two sides signed a defence cooperation agreement. He was accompanied by five Cabinet-rank ministers from the Philippines side.

He is also committed to improving the public health system and wants Indian infrastructure companies to pitch in his flagship “build, build and build programme”, Ministry of External Affairs’ Secretary (East) Preeti Saran said on Monday.

Four agreements were signed between the two countries, which covered areas of defence, agriculture, small and medium enterprises and tie-up between think-tanks. She said that the idea is to have private and public enterprises to cooperate in the defence sector, including on the off-shore patrolling vessels.

“President Duterte and PM Modi had an excellent meeting,” Saran said, adding that “Duterte said he would like to have very good relations with India”.

Modi arrived in Manila on Sunday on a three-day visit to the Philippines, during which he will attend the 15th India-Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and the 12th East Asia Summit tomorrow.

This is the first bilateral visit by an Indian PM to this Southeast Asian nation in 36 years after the visit of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1981, though Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had visited Philippines in 2007 for the ASEAN summit.

Earlier in the day, Modi contributed two Indian rice seed varieties to the gene bank of the international rice research centre in the Philippines which he said is working towards mitigating global poverty and hunger by improving the cultivation of the key grain.

He also visited the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Banos, an urban locality around 65 km from Manila — the capital of the Philippines — and interacted with several Indian scientists working there.

A number of scientists at IRRI briefed the PM on flood-tolerant rice varieties which, they said, can withstand 14-18 days of submergence and provide 1-3 tonnes more yield per hectare in flood-affected areas.

Modi said the flood-resistant rice varieties that can withstand 14-18 days of submergence would help farmers and enhance their income. “Salinity tolerant rice varieties will help farmers where the soil is saline, for example Kutch. I also saw a drought tolerant rice variety that can help farmers in times of droughts,” Modi tweeted. Modi said he was also shown drones that could be used in the agriculture sector and help farmers.

A ‘rice field laboratory’ named after PM Modi was also inaugurated by him at the institute. He unveiled a plaque marking the inauguration of the Narendra Modi Resilient Rice Field Laboratory. “A contribution from India to IRRI... presented two Indian rice seed varieties to the IRRI gene bank,” the PM tweeted.



*Tue, 14 Nov, 2017*

## **Defence ministry does a Uturn on proposed land bill**

New Delhi: The defence ministry has taken a U-turn in a key provision of the proposed land bill within six days. Defence secretary Sanjay Mitra on Monday told the Parliamentary joint panel reviewing the legislation that the ministry is satisfied with the proposed provision related to the non-utilisation of acquired land. But on November 7, the ministry’s note to panel stated that “there is a need for improvement of the provision”.

When BJD’s Bhartruhari Mahtab and CPI(M)’s Mohammed Salim sought to know the reasons behind the change, Mitra said, “The ministry reviewed the situation and came to the latest conclusion.” But opposition members feel the ministry changed its reply under political pressure.

Section 24 (2) of the proposed bill says if an award has been made at least five years before the new law comes into force but if physical possession of the land has not been taken or compensation not paid, the earlier

acquisition shall be deemed to have lapsed. The ministry has the largest land holding and changes in the act would affect its expansion programme and the creation of new defence infrastructure.

# India emission growth slow, study suggests link with note ban, GST

**AMITABH SINHA**  
BONN, NOVEMBER 13

THE GROWTH in India's greenhouse gas emissions in 2017 was substantially lower than the average in the last one decade, and a study has credited demonetisation and the introduction of GST with some role in it.

The 2017 Global Carbon Budget report, published simultaneously in *Nature Climate Change*, *Environmental Research Letters*, and *Earth System Science Data Discussions* Monday, says that by the end of this year, global emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels and industrial use was likely to increase by 2% compared to last year, ending a three-year period of almost zero growth.

Though India's emissions in 2017 is projected to rise, this increase is likely to be only 2% over last year, the report says. In the last one decade, India's greenhouse gas emissions have increased by an average of almost 6% every year, it says. Last year, India's emissions had grown 6.7%.

The report acknowledges the rapid progress made in installation of solar energy in India but says the substantially lower growth rate could be attributed to a slow-down in economy as well.

"Although India's installed solar capacity almost doubled in 2016 to 12 GW, the reduction in this year's growth is attributable to many factors, including reduced exports, a declining share of industrial and agricultural production in GDP, reduced consumer de-



In the forest near Bonn, site of UN Climate Conference. AP

## EMISSIONS IN 2017

Country	Growth	Total
China	+3.5%	10.5 Gt
US	-0.4%	5.3 Gt
EU	-0.2%	3.5 Gt
India	+2%	2.5 Gt
Global	+2%	36.8 Gt

Emission growth as projected; total emissions shown are from fossil fuels and industrial use

mand, and both a sudden fall in money circulation attributable to demonetisation late in 2016 and a goods and services tax introduced in 2017," the report says.

It says if India's economy was able to recover quickly from these interventions, the annual growth in greenhouse gas emissions was once again likely to go over 5% in 2018. India's greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuels and industrial use was likely to be the equivalent of 2.5 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide.

The rise in global emissions could be attributed to a 3.5% projected increase in the emissions of China, which had remained almost flat last year, offset by lower reductions in the US and the European Union compared to last year. China is the largest emitter of greenhouse gases, followed by the US, the EU and India.

"The return to growth in global emissions in 2017 is largely due to a return to growth in Chinese emissions, projected to grow by 3.5% in 2017 after two years with declining emissions. The use of coal, the main fuel source in China, may rise by 3% due to stronger growth in industrial production and lower hydro-power generation due to less rainfall," Glen Peters, research director at CICERO in Oslo and one of the lead authors of the study, said in a statement.

Global greenhouse gas emissions in 2017 from fossil fuels and industrial use was projected to be equivalent to 36.8 gigatonnes of carbon dioxide, with an error margin of 1.8 Gt. Of this, China would account for 10.5 Gt, the United States 5.3 Gt, and the European Union 3.5 Gt. Besides India's 2.5 Gt, the rest of the world would contribute 15.1 Gt.

The total emissions from all sources, including the contribution from land-use change, was projected to reach the carbon-dioxide-equivalent of 41 Gt in 2017.

## Pak must vacate PoK: India

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, 13 NOVEMBER



India on Monday cornered Pakistan at the UN Human Rights Council, demanding that its hostile neighbour end its illegal occupation of Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), dismantle special terrorist zones on its soil and bar military courts from trying civilians, in the obvious context of former Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav.

At the 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of Pakistan at the UN body in Geneva, the Indian representative said Pakistan must provide freedom to PoK, which it had been occupying "illegally and forcibly".

Noting that Islamabad provided safe havens and sanctuaries to terrorists, New Delhi

said it was high time Pakistan took verifiable action against the terrorist infrastructure, including terror financing.

On the Jadhav issue, India said military courts in Pakistan must stop trying civilians and allow their monitoring by international observers and human rights organisations. Jadhav was arrested by the Pakistan authorities in March last year from close to Pakistan's border and subsequently sentenced to death by a Pakistan military court on charges of espionage. India had moved

the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the Jadhav case. The ICJ is currently seized of the case.

Since the military court has refused to allow any other court in the country to intervene in the Jadhav case, India also demanded that Pakistan permit due legal processes and judicial reviews by the High Courts and the Supreme Courts for cases tried by military courts.

Islamabad must also fulfill international obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Vienna Convention on Consular Rights (VCCR), including consular access for foreign nationals without discrimination, the Indian representative said. New Delhi has asked Pakistan

more than 15 times to provide consular access to Jadhav but Islamabad has refused to do so.

India also asked Pakistan to stop harassment of minorities and place procedural safeguards to prevent misuse of blasphemy law, end forced conversions and marriages of minorities, including Hindu, Sikh and Christian women, stop targeting political dissidents and legitimate criticism in Sindh, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

Pakistan must also stop torture, disappearance and unlawful killings of journalists and activists by its security agencies and prosecute perpetrators, and review the education curriculum in Madrasas to remove extreme prejudices, religious intolerance and historical distortions.

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## THE TIMES OF INDIA

## Isro tech to curb accidents at unmanned level crossings

By Surendra Singh

New Delhi: Isro is helping the Indian Railways use its satellite-based system to check accidents at unmanned crossings and track train movements on a real-time basis. Working on a pilot project with the space agency, the railways has installed Isro-developed integrated circuit (IC) chips on some train engines.

The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (or NavIC) will be used to warn road users of approaching trains through hooters installed at unmanned road crossings. Tapan Misra, director of Ahmedabad-based Space Applications Centre (SAC), confirmed that "Isro and the railways have been working together on this pilot project since June". Explaining the functioning, Misra said, "A hooter will be activated as soon as it gets signal from the IC chip installed on a train when its engine is at a distance of 500 metres to 4 km from the crossing. The hooter, linked to the navigation system, will thus warn road users about the approaching train. It will become louder as the train comes near the crossing and will fall silent after the train has passed." - Misra said, "Under the pilot project, IC chips have been installed on five engines. The testing has been going on since June to check if the system is reliable and can function under different climatic conditions." He said, "Isro is using its constellation of seven navigation satellites for the railway system as the technology, once the pilot project is over successfully, will be installed on all trains in phased manner."

The SAC director said, "The system will also be used to track train movements on a real-time basis. It'll also come in handy at the time of an accident when it can be used to ascertain the exact location of a train."