

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा  
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 42 No. 196 17 September 2017



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय  
Defence Science Library  
रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केन्द्र  
Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre  
मैटकॉफ हाऊस, दिल्ली 110054  
Metcalf House, Delhi- 110054

## The defence minister's challenges

*The armed forces have their share of both strengths and shortcomings, and the country's first woman defence minister has her work cut out*

*By Premvir Das*

With the appointment of Nirmala Sitharaman as defence minister India has a woman in that pivotal position for the first time. The notion that Indira Gandhi had preceded her is not entirely correct. While then Prime Minister Gandhi had, indeed, held additional charge of defence for awhile, the ministry was de facto run by the minister of state, or MoS, for defence. In later years, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi held charge of defence but the ministry was run by the MoS, Arun Singh. So, Ms Sitharaman is, indeed, our first de jure and de facto full-time woman defence minister and full marks to her for saying that, for her, it will be a fulltime job. It needs to be.

India's armed forces have come a long way in the last seven decades. From less than 300,000 in early the 1960s, the Army now numbers 1.2 million. In this same period, the Navy has grown from a motley dozen-odd sea-going ships to a force that fields more than a hundred long-range vessels including an aircraft carrier, ships and submarines, at least two of them nuclear-propelled and one capable of launching nuclear weapons. Our Air Force now operates hundreds of contemporary aircraft of different types which have extended our "reach" very considerably. All three wings have Special Forces which can perform the most complex tasks and are equipped with modern weapons.

In these 70 years the armed forces have fought three full-scale wars, a rather unfortunate one with China in 1962, another with Pakistan in 1965 with honours more or less even, and one in 1971, again with the same country, this one leading to bifurcation of that country. There was another war with Pakistan in 1999 in which some of our posts captured by its troops in the Kargil mountain ranges were recaptured by use of force. Add to this some tense moments with the Chinese in the mid-1980s and one standoff that has just ended at Doklam, and it becomes apparent that our military is a battle-hardened one.

This is quite aside from almost continuous deployment in counter-insurgency operations, which is unlikely to cease anytime soon. In short, India's armed forces have seen seven decades of almost continuous combat and are battle-proven. On land, at sea and in the air, they rate among the top five or six military capabilities in the world. This is the power that the incoming minister is inheriting.

Yet, there are some serious inadequacies to our defence preparedness. From two aircraft carriers in the mid-1980s the Navy is down to just one; from 20-odd submarines of contemporary technology at that time, it is now down to a dozen, the most modern of which is more than two decades old; their replacements will only now begin to make their appearance. The indigenous aircraft carrier being built at Kochi will not see operations for another few years and multi-purpose helicopters essentially required for ocean-going ships, whose numbers are not enough, are nowhere in sight.

The strength of fighter aircraft squadrons in the Air Force has fallen to less than 35 and dwindling, against an authorised strength of 45; the indigenous light combat aircraft (LCA) continues to struggle for operational certification. In the Army, the indigenous Arjun tank is heavier than specified and, therefore, constrained in its deployment. The 155 mm artillery gun is three decades old. There are shortages in important ammunition categories which have been articulated often; all this when the Army Chief seeks readiness for a two-front war.

"Make in India" is one of the priorities identified by Minister Sitharaman and this is our great weakness, leave aside some strengths in ship design and construction. Draft policies in process centre on identifying some groups in the private sector as "strategic" agencies that can tie up with foreign vendors for transfer of

technology and production. Following this direction of the government some of them have already entered into joint venture arrangements with those Indian private sector companies which, in their assessment, might enter this “strategic” space. This is a great idea were it to be practicable.

None of these parties, even the largest, have any experience in the manufacture of sophisticated platforms or equipment needed by the military and the last thing that the country can afford is to waste time in getting them to learn these sophisticated processes. The public sector may not have produced the most efficient value for money invested, but its expertise and capabilities are unmatched and it would be unwise not to exploit them fully. It would, therefore, be advisable if “Make in India” policies involve the public sector more proactively. Concurrently, measures could be taken to build capacities in the private companies so that the two, together, produce the desired results.

The men — and women — of our armed forces, despite the occasional unfortunate incident that comes to light, are among the most motivated and their professional skills unmatched. They constitute a very important arm of our military power and their needs, not many, require considerate and sympathetic attention albeit consistent with “good order and military discipline”. Finally, at less than two per cent of GDP, the funds allotted for defence are not enough but, in absolute terms, ~2.74 lakh crore is not a small sum. Inability to utilise even the small amount allotted for modernisation — year after year, including in the last three — is a cause for serious concern.

There is neither enough clarity on the fundamentals of our national strategy nor articulation of the required interfaces that it must generate with military and economic imperatives. A visibly inefficient higher defence organisation which essentially follows practices passed down decades ago continues to bedevil our system and absence of time-bound implementation of even funded projects adds to this negative baggage. The border roads infrastructure limps along and its inadequacy imposes limitations on deployment. In sum, the new defence minister inherits a well-trained and professional armed force with capabilities as well as shortcomings. It is now her job to look at some things afresh and to fill in the blanks.

The public sector’s expertise is unmatched and it would be unwise not to exploit it fully. At the same time capacities should be built in the private sector, so that the two together produce the desired results



*Sun, 17 Sept, 2017*

## **Death Claims Guardian of India’s Skies**

India’s first and only Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh died here on Saturday at the age of 98. The end came at 7.47 pm at the Research and Referral Hospital. He was admitted earlier in the day following a cardiac arrest. With his demise, the glorious era of the Air Force culminated.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and three Services chiefs visited the air warrior at the hospital soon after he was admitted.

In his message soon after the demise of Singh, Modi tweeted, “India mourns the unfortunate demise of Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh. We remember his outstanding service to the nation.”

President Ram Nath Kovind also condoled the demise of the war hero.

“Sad at demise of a great air warrior & Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh. Condolences to his family & IAF community. Marshal of the IAF Arjan Singh was a WW II hero & won our nation's gratitude for his military leadership in 1965 war,” Kovind said in a series of tweets.

BJP president Amit Shah, Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Arun Jaitley and Ravi Shankar Prasad and Congress chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala condoled the death of Singh.

Born in 1919 in Sahiwal in Pakistan, Singh graduated from Government College, Lahore and then joined the Royal Air Force(RAF) in 1938. He saw action in World War II in Burma and was awarded gallantry medal Distinguished Flying Cross(DFC) for his performance and daring against the invading Japanese forces. After India gained Independence, Arjan Singh led the fly-past on August 15, 1947.

Subsequent years in IAF saw Singh gaining operational and administrative experience at various positions and took charge as the youngest IAF chief at the age of 45 in 1964. The third IAF Chief after Independence, his leadership during the India-Pakistan war in 1965 stood out as it was the first time India used its air power.

In fact, under his directions the IAF fighter jets and bombers attacked Pakistan airbases as far as in Peshawar. Moreover, the IAF carried out daring raids in Chamb during that war thereby denying any advantage to Pakistan to launch a land or air offensive after it initiated Operation Grand Slam with an armoured thrust with tanks at the vital town of Akhnoor near Jammu. Incidentally, when the then Defence Minister asked Singh how much time the IAF will take to get ready when Pakistan attacks, Arjan Singh replied, "One hour."

He retired in 1969 and was made the first and so far the only Marshal of the Air Force in 2002 in recognition of his stellar role. Marshal of the Air Force is the highest ceremonial rank like Field Marshal in the Army and is a five-star rank. The Indian Army, so far, has had two other Field Marshals KM Cariappa and SHFJ Manekshaw.

Singh used to often tell reporters that the uniform which he wore after getting commissioned still fit him years after he retired. His grip till the last few years despite old age was firm and very soldierly. However, age finally caught up with Singh last year when he had to get up with help during the annual At Home ceremony at the IAF chief's residence on the occasion of Air Force Day on October 8. But, his mind and speech was still clear.



*Sun, 17 Sept, 2017*

## **India, Russia clear way for military exercise**

India and Russia have given final touches to the modalities of manoeuvres and episodes that are likely to take place during the first-ever triservices military exercise to be conducted by the two countries in October in Russia's Far East Primorsky region, Indian sources in Moscow said. Sources said top defence personnel drawn from the three services from both India and Russia completed their three-day discussions on Friday at Ussuryk near the Russian town of Vladivostok and signed a protocol for conducting the 'Indra' exercise from 19-29 October. The exercise will obviously be keenly monitored by the neighbours of both India and Russia since Primorsky region borders China in the West and North Korea in the South West.

It will take place within two months of the end of 70-day military standoff between India and China at Doklam, which led to heightened tensions in the region. Sources, however, clarified that the exercise would primarily focus on achieving coordination between forces of the two countries in tri-services integrated theater command scenario. The aim of the exercise was to carry out joint exercises for suppression of international terrorist activities under the UN mandate, they added. So far, India and Russian armies, navies and air force have been holding separate bilateral exercises. Sources said 1100 troops from each nation would take part in the exercise which would be see the deployment of the latest army, navy and air force platforms.

The headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff under the Defence Ministry is leading the exercise from the Indian side. Russia has been a longstanding defence partner of India and both countries are now eyeing to further deepen ties. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to St Petersburg in early June, the two countries had agreed to 'upgrade and intensify' defence cooperation through joint manufacture, co-production

and development of key military hardware. India's relations with Russia had come under cloud in September last year when Russia conducted held military exercise with Pakistan for the first time. New Delhi had then registered a strong protest with Moscow. Keeping in mind India's sensitivities, Russia is believed to have assured New Delhi that it would not hold military exercise with Pakistan again.

Russia's Far East has become critical for India in economic terms as well. Moscow has decided to throw open this resource-rich region to India for trade and investment with an eye on counterbalancing China's growing economic clout in the area. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, who does not travel abroad frequently after her kidney surgery last year, recently visited Vladivostok as one of the main guests at the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF) hosted by Russia. Russia has also waived the visa requirement for Indian nationals to the Far-East to promote tourism in the region

# Defence ministry gets 3-point agenda for Swachh Abhiyan

VIJAY MOHAN  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

KASauli, SEPTEMBER 16

The Ministry of Defence has received a three-point agenda to recycle urban waste as well as clean up some remote high-altitude stations as part of the nationwide Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman today said following a presentation by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the armed forces personnel located at some high-altitude tourist places, which saw fewer civilian visitors, had been tasked to help clear them of garbage. This was expected to be done by October 2, she said.

The Minister said cantonment boards would also be required to recycle used water and sewerage that could be used for domestic or industrial purpose other than drinking. Further, segregation of garbage would also be done in cantonments, which would enable it to be used for producing electricity or manure.



Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman with schoolchildren in Kasauli on Saturday. TRIBUNE PHOTO

## TASKS FOR TROOPS

- Clearing high-altitude tourist places, which see lesser footfall, of waste by October 2
- Segregation of garbage in cantonments and airbases, producing power, manure out of it
- Recycling used water and sewerage for industrial or domestic purpose other than drinking

These activities would also be undertaken at airbases and coastal areas. Sitharaman was speaking at a ceremony organised here to felicitate eight cantonments in the

Western Command that have been certified as "Open Defecation Free" (OFD) stations.

These include Amritsar, Ferozpur and Jalandhar in Punjab and Dagshai, Dalhousie,

Jutogh, Kasauli and Subathu in Himachal Pradesh. Members of the Cantonment Board of these stations were presented certificates by the Defence Minister.

## China Opposes US Nuclear Deployment in Korea

China said it was opposed to any deployment of nuclear weapons by Japan and South Korea in response to North Korea's repeated missile tests and what Pyongyang called a quest for a military "equilibrium" with the US.

China's ambassador to the US, Cui Tiankai, said the potential spread of nuclear weapons would not bring security to the highly tensed region. "It could only make things much worse. We are certainly opposed to the existence of nuclear weapons anywhere on the Korean peninsula... anywhere," the Hong-Kong based South China Morning Post quoted Cui as having told reporters in Washington on Friday.

The comments came on a day North Korea launched its second intermediate-range missile over Japanese territory in less than a month. The missile test was the first after Pyongyang tested its sixth and largest nuclear device on September 3. Experts assessing the data now increasingly believe the latest nuclear test by North Korea to be a hydrogen bomb.

The North Korean state media said the nation's aim was to seek an "equilibrium" of military force with the US after an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council again condemned Pyongyang's tests.

The tests have resulted in calls for deployment of US nuclear weapons by American allies South Korea and Japan. Cui said China understood Seoul's fears. "We are willing to help them solve these concerns on the condition of not risking China's security interests," he said, apparently referring to US deployment of Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) weapons in South Korea. Beijing opposes THAAD deployment because its powerful radars could monitor China's movement of missiles. The deployment of nuclear weapons in South Korea and Japan will bring them to the door step of China.



## Kim Jong-un celebrates missile test

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Saturday celebrated the success of the latest missile launch and claimed the weapons programme establishes an equilibrium with the US. "Our final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the US and make the US rulers dare not talk about the military option," Kim said. Friday's ballistic missile launch of the intermediate-long range Hwasong-12 rocket was the 15th successful test by Pyongyang this year, reports Efe news.

For the second time in less than a month, the missile flew over northern Japanese territory and after traversing some 3,700 km, "along the preset flight track," it "accurately hit the preset target waters in the Pacific". The photos published by the state-run Rodong Sinmun daily showed the missile was fired from a mobile launcher. The North Korean leader urged the scientists to carry on the weapons tests in the future and underlined the need to consolidate their military attack abilities in order to create a "nuclear counterattack the US cannot cope with". Pyongyang hopes to eventually miniaturise nuclear warheads so as to fit them in intercontinental ballistic missiles so that they have the ability to strike US territory.

The latest launch led to fresh criticism from the international community, with US President Donald Trump reprimanded Pyongyang for utter disregard for its neighbours and the global community. It followed fresh and harsh sanctions on North Korea by the UN Security Council on Monday following its sixth and most potent nuclear test on 3 September.

## N. Korea seeks ‘equilibrium’ with U.S.

*Pyongyang’s goal of completing its nuclear forces has ‘nearly reached the terminal’, says Kim*

North Korea said on Saturday that it aims to reach an “equilibrium” of military force with the United States, which earlier signalled that its patience for diplomacy is wearing thin after Pyongyang fired a missile over Japan for the second time in under a month.

“Our final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about military option,” North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was quoted as saying by the state news agency, KCNA. Mr. Kim was shown beaming as he watched the missile fly from a moving launcher in photos released by the agency, surrounded by several officials. “The combat efficiency and reliability of Hwasong-12 were thoroughly verified,” said Mr. Kim as quoted by KCNA. Mr. Kim added the North’s goal of completing its nuclear force had “nearly reached the terminal”.

North Korea has launched dozens of missiles under Mr. Kim’s leadership as it accelerates a weapons programme designed to give it the ability to target the United States with a powerful, nuclear-tipped missile.

### Latest launch

After the latest missile launch on Friday, White House National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said the United States was fast running out of patience with North Korea’s missile and nuclear programs.

“We’ve been kicking the can down the road, and we’re out of road,” Mr. McMaster told reporters, referring to Pyongyang’s repeated missile tests in defiance of international pressure.

“For those... who have been commenting on a lack of a military option, there is a military option,” he said, adding that it would not be the Trump administration’s preferred choice.

The U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, echoed Mr. McMaster’s strong rhetoric, even as she said Washington’s preferred resolution to the crisis is through diplomacy and sanctions. North Korea’s latest test missile flew over Hokkaido in northern Japan on Friday and landed in the Pacific about 2,000 km (1,240 miles) to the east, the Japanese government said.

It travelled about 3,700 km (2,300 miles) in total, according to South Korea’s military, far enough to reach the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, which the North has threatened before.

“The range of this test was significant since North Korea demonstrated that it could reach Guam with this missile,” the Union of Concerned Scientists advocacy group said in a statement.

## UN to discuss N. Korea

The UN Security Council will on next Thursday hold a meeting of Foreign Ministers on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction that will focus on the threat from North Korea, diplomats said. The U.S. called the meeting that will be held during the annual General Assembly gathering.

The purpose of the meeting “is to discuss ways the Security Council can better enforce the resolutions it has adopted to prevent the spread of the world’s most dangerous weapons,” said a U.S. concept note prepared for the meet.

## Japan forced to re-assess its 'self-defence' capability

*By Motoko Rich*

When North Korea launched a missile that flew over Japan on Friday morning, prompting authorities to broadcast an alert on cellphones and television, many people wondered: Why didn't the Japanese military shoot it down?

The government quickly judged that the missile was not targeting Japan, and it landed in the Pacific Ocean, about 1,370 miles east of Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island.

But officials in Japan who may have considered intercepting the missile faced two immediate constraints — the country's missile defences are limited, and the Constitution limits military action only to instances of self-defence.

In recent months, the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has revived a long-simmering discussion over whether to acquire cruise missiles — which can be fired from land, air or sea — that would allow it to strike a launch site in North Korea if it detected signs of an imminent attack.

Itsunori Onodera, Japan's Defence Minister, has avoided discussing a pre-emptive strike on North Korea. Instead, he speaks of counterstrikes, suggesting a more passive interpretation of the country's legal rights under the Constitution.

To best protect itself from a missile attack, some experts say, Japan should buy a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense system, or THAAD, which intercepts enemy rockets at higher altitudes than its current land-based systems. The U.S. recently completed deploying THAAD in South Korea over vociferous protests from China, which has retaliated against the South by punishing it economically. That response has given some in Japan pause.

Instead, Japan has said it plans to equip and deploy more destroyers with the Aegis missile defence system. The Defence Ministry has also indicated it wants to acquire a land-based system, known as Aegis Ashore, which can intercept missiles above the atmosphere and above THAAD's range. NYT

## Post-failed mission, ISRO to 'resume sat launches by Dec'

*By Surendra Singh*

After suffering a setback because of the unsuccessful launch of its navigation satellite IRNSS-1H on August 31, Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) will resume satellite launches by December.

The space agency will schedule its next launch mission after a fact-finding committee, appointed to find the exact cause of the glitch in the heat separation mechanism of PSLV C39 rocket that carried navigation satellite IRNSS-1H, submits its report "soon".

Isro chairman A S Kiran Kumar said, "We will resume launches by November or December." Echoing the chairman, Dr K Sivan, director of Thiruvananthapuram-based Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre told TOI, "We will launch either Cartosat-2 series remote sensing satellite or the replacement satellite IRNSS-1I by November or December. We are yet to finalise which of the two satellites will be launched first." Dr Sivan

said the probe committee was “supposed to submit the report by 10th of this month“. “But the committee wants some more time as it wants to review some more results (flight data) before coming to any conclusion. We are expecting the report next week,” he said.

When asked if the IRNSS-1H mission was insured, a source in Isro told TOI, “The missions are launched from the government's money . As these (rockets and satellites) are government properties, they are not insured.“

On August 31, Isro's workhorse PSLV-C39 could not deliver the 1.4-tonne IRNSS-1H in the geo-synchronous orbit as its heat shield did not get separated minutes after the rocket's lift-off from Sriharikota. The satellite, which got stuck in the heat shield, is currently moving in outer space and is expected to fall in the Pacific Ocean in two months.