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By **Ajit K Dubey** in New Delhi

ALMOST three years after the Narendra Modi government called for promoting Make in India in the defence sector, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) is planning to review the progress made in the project with several schemes such as infantry combat vehicles, submarines and fighter aircraft already been initiated by the defence ministry.

"The PMO is planning to review the progress made in the Make in India scheme with all stakeholders, including officials from the defence ministry and department of defence production," a government source told MAIL TODAY.

Sources said the focus of the meet would be on ongoing and long-pending projects under the Make in India category, which have been stalled or slowed down due to different issues, and ways on which they can be pushed towards completion at a faster rate.

Centre to review Make in India progress in defence

The meeting will give special focus on armoured vehicles to be provided to the Indian Army, which has been working on its futuristic infantry combat vehicle project for over a decade now. Efforts are being made to revive the project where big industrial players, including Tatas and L&T are in the fray, along with the state-run Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

The meeting is also likely to discuss the strategic partnership policy that was announced this year and also suggest new additions to it. The defence ministry has brought the manufacturing of submarines, helicopters, fighter aircraft and armoured vehicles and tanks under the project for promoting local military industry indigenously for complex weapon systems and platforms.

PMO push for swadeshi def projects

TWITTER



Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited the field firing range in Pokhran and met senior Army officers there on Saturday.

While former defence minister Arun Jaitley had decided in favour of indigenous Akash surface-to-air missiles over systems offered by foreign vendors, new minister Nirmala Sitharaman decided to try DRDO-developed light machine guns when the case was stuck due to a single

vendor situation after trials.

The government is also moving fast on the Air Force's project to manufacture 114 single-engine Made in India jets under the strategic partnership policy where Indian companies would tie up with American or Swedish firms to build the planes in India.

अमेरिका से हो सकते हैं 15 अरब डॉलर के रक्षा सौदे

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 23 सितंबर।

अमेरिकी रक्षा मंत्री जिम मेट्टिस के भारत दौरे में 15 अरब डॉलर के रक्षा सौदों को अंतिम रूप दिया जाएगा। वे 26 से 28 सितंबर तक भारत का दौरा करेंगे। इस दौरान वे प्रधानमंत्री, रक्षा मंत्री, विदेश मंत्री, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार, विदेश सचिव समेत कई अधिकारियों और कारोबारी समूहों से मिलेंगे।

उनके इस दौरे में करीब 150 एफ-16 ब्लॉक 70 लड़ाकू विमानों और 20 सी-गार्डियन ड्रोन की खरीद को लेकर बातचीत पर आखिरी फैसला होना है। अमेरिकी आयुध निर्माता कंपनी लॉकहीट मॉर्टिन की ओर से बनाए गए इन विमानों और ड्रोन के लिए अमेरिकी सरकार अरसे से भारत में लॉबिंग कर रही है।

ट्रंप प्रशासन के रक्षामंत्री का यह पहला भारत दौरा है। भारत और अमेरिका के बीच रक्षा और रणनीतिक संपर्क पर फोकस है।

अमेरिका से भारत के रक्षा खरीद सौदे 2008 में एक बिलियन डॉलर की तुलना में बढ़कर 2016 में 15 बिलियन डॉलर तक पहुंच गए हैं। मेट्टिस के दौरे में जिन सौदों पर बात होनी है, उनके तहत एक झटके में ही लॉकहीड मॉर्टिन के साथ 15 बिलियन डॉलर का करार हो जाएगा। अमेरिका इस सौदे के लिए अरसे से भारत पर दबाव बना रहा है। मेट्टिस का भारत दौरा ट्रंप प्रशासन के किसी मंत्री का पहला कैबिनेट स्तरीय दौरा होगा। वो यहां प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी, रक्षामंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण,

- अमेरिकी रक्षामंत्री जिम मेट्टिस 26-28 सितंबर तक भारत का दौरा करेंगे
- लड़ाकू विमानों और ड्रोन की खरीद पर हो सकता है दोनों देशों में फैसला

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा सलाहकार अजित डोभाल समेत कई उच्च स्तरीय बैठकों में हिस्सा लेंगे।

उनके दौरे के मद्देनजर अमेरिकी रक्षा विभाग ने भारत को बहुमूल्य और प्रभावशाही सहभागी बताया है। उसका कहना है कि दक्षिण एशिया में अमेरिका और भारत के साझा हित जुड़े हुए हैं। रक्षा तकनीक और कारोबार पहल (डीटीटीआइ) समझौते के तहत दोनों देश अपने रक्षा और कारोबारी सहयोग बढ़ा रहे हैं। अमेरिका आयुध निर्माता कंपनियां भारत को बड़ा बाजार मान रही हैं। भारत ने बड़े पैमाने पर लड़ाकू विमान, हेलिकॉप्टर, ड्रोन और अन्य हथियार खरीदने की योजना बनाई है।

भारत को हथियार मुहैया कराने वाला सबसे बड़ा आपूर्तिकर्ता देश है अमेरिका। भारत को लॉकहीड मॉर्टिन कंपनी के द्वारा निर्मित तीन सी-130 हरक्यूलस लड़ाकू विमान, बोइंग की ओर से निर्मित 10 सी-17 ग्लोबमास्टर और 12 पी-8 पोसाइडन, 22 एएच-64 अपाचे और 15 सीएच-47 चिनूक हेलिकॉप्टर आदि की आपूर्ति के सौदे अमेरिका कर सका है। अमेरिका ने दिसंबर में भारत के साथ 750 मिलियन डॉलर की कीमत से 145 एम777 होवित्जर तोपें बेचने का सौदा किया। डीटीटीआइ के तहत सात संयुक्त कार्यदल बनाए गए हैं।

India third in nuclear power installations: study

By Vidya Venkat

But share of nuclear energy generation stagnates globally, and several countries shut down nuclear reactors in 2017

India is third in the world in the number of nuclear reactors being installed, at six, while China is leading at 20, the World Nuclear Industry Status Report 2017, released this month, shows. The number of nuclear reactor units under construction is, however, declining globally for the fourth year in a row, from 68 reactors at the end of 2013 to 53 by mid-2017, the report says.

The latest report further reveals that most nuclear reactor constructions are behind schedule, with delays resulting in increase in project costs and delay in power generation. There are 37 reactor constructions behind schedule, of which 19 reported further delays over the past year. In India itself, five out of the six reactors under construction are behind schedule. Eight nuclear power projects have been under construction globally for a decade or more, of which three have been so for over 30 years.

In the foreword, S. David Freeman, an American energy policy expert who led the Tennessee Valley Authority under U.S. President Jimmy Carter, writes that the debate regarding the value of nuclear energy “is over”. “The most decisive part of this report is the final section — Nuclear Power vs Renewable Energy Development. It reveals that since 1997, worldwide, renewable energy has produced four times as many new kilowatt-hours of electricity than nuclear power,” he writes, concluding, “The world no longer needs to build nuclear power plants to avoid climate change and certainly not to save money.”

Data gathered by the authors shows that global nuclear power generation increased by 1.4% in 2016 due to a 23% increase in China, though the share of nuclear energy in electricity generation stagnated at 10.5%. By comparison, globally, wind power output grew by 16% and solar power by 30%. Wind power increased generation by 132 TWh (terawatt hours) or 3.8 times, and solar power by 77 TWh or 2.2 times more than

nuclear power’s 35 TWh respectively. Renewables represented 62% of global power generating capacity additions.

Russia and the U.S. shut down reactors in 2016, while Sweden and South Korea both closed their oldest units in the first half of 2017, the report notes.

Financial crisis

The report also documents the financial crisis plaguing the industry. After the discovery of massive losses over its nuclear construction projects, Toshiba filed for bankruptcy of its U.S. subsidiary Westinghouse, the largest nuclear power builder in history. AREVA has accumulated \$12.3 billion in losses over the past six years.

French bailout

The French government has provided a

Not a steady state

The nuclear power industry is not going through the best of times. A look at the numbers

In the works

The number of nuclear reactor units under construction is declining globally for the fourth year in a row, from 68 reactors at the end of 2013 to 53 by mid-2017



Loose deadlines

- 5 delayed projects in India
- 37 delayed globally
- 8 projects under construction globally for a decade or more

Global Increase in 2016

- 1.4% nuclear power
- 16% wind power
- 30% solar power

Closures

Russia and the U.S. shut down reactors in 2016, while Sweden and South Korea both closed their oldest units in the first half of the year 2017

\$5.3 billion bailout and continues its break-up strategy, the report notes.

In the chapter on the status of the Fukushima nuclear power project in Japan, six years after the disaster began, the report notes how the total official cost estimate for the catastrophe doubled to \$200 billion. The lead authors of the report are Paris-based energy consultant Mycle Schneider, who advised the European Parliament on energy matters for over 20 years, and Antony Froggart, energy policy consultant and senior researcher at Chatham House, a London-based non-profit organisation working on international affairs.

THE ASIAN AGE

Sun, 24 Sept, 2017

Pakistan Navy undertakes live firing in Arabian Sea

Chief of the Naval staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah witnessed the event and praised the combat readiness of the fleet.

Islamabad: In a display of power, Pakistan Navy on Saturday undertook live weapon firing in the North Arabian Sea.

Chief of the Naval staff Admiral Muhammad Zakaullah witnessed the event and praised the combat readiness of the fleet.

In this striking demonstration of fire power, Pakistan Navy Helicopter Speaking launched Air to Surface Anti-ship Missile which successfully hit the intended target with pinpoint accuracy, reaffirming weapon's lethality and offensive punch of the PN Fleet, said a military statement. The successful firing by PN helicopter Speaking is reflective of high state of readiness and professionalism of PN fleet, the statement said. The Admiral expressed his satisfaction on the combat readiness of PN Fleet. The Naval chief specially appreciated professionalism and high morale of the personnel, it said. He reaffirmed the resolve of Pakistan Navy to ensure country's seaward defence and safeguard maritime interests at all cost.

Business Standard

Sun, 24 Sept, 2017

China says small North Korean quake 'suspected explosion'

Earthquake was detected in Kilju county in North Hamgyong Province, where North Korea's known Punggyeri nuclear site is located

By Ben Blanchard & Heekyong Yang

China said a magnitude 3.4 earthquake detected in North Korea on Saturday was a "suspected explosion", raising fears the isolated state had conducted another nuclear bomb test just weeks after its last one.

An official at South Korea's meteorological agency said they were analysing the tremor, which they put at magnitude 3.0, but the initial view was that it was a natural quake.

"A key method is to look at the seismic waves or seismic acoustic waves and the latter can be detected in the case of a manmade earthquake," said the official, who asked for anonymity. "In this case we saw none. So as of now, we are categorising this as a natural earthquake."

The earthquake was detected in Kilju county in North Hamgyong Province, where North Korea's known Punggyeri nuclear site is located, the official said.

China's earthquake administration said in a statement on its website that the quake, which occurred around 0830 GMT, was recorded a depth of zero kilometres.

All of North Korea's previous six nuclear tests registered as earthquakes of magnitude 4.3 or above. The last test on September 3 registered as a 6.3 magnitude quake.

A secondary tremor detected after that test could have been caused by the collapse of a tunnel at the mountainous site, experts said at the time. Satellite photos of the area after the September 3 quake showed numerous landslides apparently caused by the massive blast, which North Korea said was an advanced hydrogen bomb. The head of the nuclear test monitoring agency CTBTO said on Saturday that analysts were "looking at unusual seismic activity of a much smaller magnitude" than the September 3 test in North Korea.

Two seismic events had been detected and it was unlikely they were manmade, CTBTO said. The activity took place around 50 km (31 miles) from previous nuclear tests, it added.

Russia's emergency ministry says background radiation in nearby Vladivostok was within the natural range.

There was no immediate reaction from China's Foreign Ministry, but the news was widely reported by Chinese state media outlets and on social media.

Tensions have continued to rise around the Korean peninsula since Pyongyang carried out its sixth nuclear test, prompting a new round of UN sanctions.

North Korea's Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, currently in New York for a United Nations meeting, warned on Thursday that Kim could consider a hydrogen bomb test of an unprecedented scale over the Pacific.

US President Donald Trump called the North Korean leader a "madman" on Friday, a day after Kim dubbed him a "mentally deranged US dotard" who would face the "highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history". North Korea's nuclear tests to date have all been underground, and experts say an atmospheric test, which would be the first since one by China in 1980, would be proof of the success of its weapons programme. North Korea has launched dozens of missiles this year, several of them flying over Japan, as it accelerates a weapons programme aimed at enabling it to target the United States with a nuclear-tipped missile.

While China has been angered by North Korea's repeated nuclear and missile tests and has signed up for the increasingly tough UN sanctions, it has also stressed the need to resume dialogue and for all sides to take steps to reduce tensions. In a series of meetings this week at the United Nations, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has reiterated to various foreign counterparts that apart from sanctions, the resolutions also call for dialogue to resume and that this needs to happen.

Earlier on Saturday, China said it will limit exports of refined petroleum products from October 1 and ban exports of condensates and liquefied natural gas immediately to comply with the latest UN sanctions. It will also ban imports of textiles from North Korea.

China's trade with North Korea, meanwhile, rose in August to its highest since December 2016, data showed on Saturday, even after the UN slapped tougher sanctions on Pyongyang in a bid to choke off a third of its \$3 billion in annual export revenue.

The world's second-largest economy imported and exported goods worth \$604.27 million in August, up from \$456.16 million in July, according to data from China's General Administration of Customs. While the highest number this year, August trade was down from \$628.2 million in August last year, according to data on the customs website. Trade was up 7.5 per cent at \$3.61 billion for the year to date.

The United States and South Korea are technically still at war with North Korea because the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce and not a peace treaty.

The North accuses the United States, which has 28,500 troops in South Korea, of planning to invade and regularly threatens to destroy it and its Asian allies.

Defiant Iran test-fires missile

U.S. has warned that such activities can result in abandonment of nuclear deal

Iran said on Saturday that it had successfully tested a new medium-range missile in defiance of warnings from the United States that it was ready to ditch a landmark nuclear deal over the issue.

State-run Press TV broadcast a footage of the launch of the Khoramshahr missile, which was first displayed at a high-profile military parade on Friday with President Hassan Rouhani and senior military officials in attendance.

The ballistic missile is capable of carrying multiple warheads, Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, a senior commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Division, told the media on Friday. “The missile has become smaller in size [compared to other Iranian ballistic missiles] and more tactical, and it will be operational in the near future,” Brigadier General Hajizadeh said without further elaboration.

Military prowess showcased

On Friday, the Iranian armed forces commemorated the 1980-1988 war with Iraq by holding a parade in which Iran’s most advanced military power and abilities were showcased.

Iran also displayed other home-made advanced missiles, including ballistic missiles, which are reported to have ranges of 1,300 km to 2,000 km.

The video also contained telemetry camera footage from four different angles which, according to its caption, showed the moment when the warhead of the missile was discharged.

The ballistic missile, which is Iran’s third type of missile with a range of 2,000 kilometers along with the Qadr-F and Sejil ballistic missiles, is capable of carrying multiple warheads.

Adhering to norms: Iran

Iran has repeatedly insisted that its military capabilities are solely aimed for defence purposes and they pose no threat to other countries. Tehran has also been assisting its allies, including Iraq and Syria, in their ongoing fight against terrorism.

Washington has on several occasions slapped new sanctions against Iran over its missile programme.

The US claims that Iran’s missile tests and rocket launches violate UN Resolution 2231, which was adopted in July 2015 to endorse the 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany. Iran has strongly rejected the US allegations that it has violated the UN resolution, and insists that its missile tests and rocket launches are solely for defence purposes and not designed to carry nuclear warheads.

Russia rejects reopening Iran N-deal talks

United States, Sept 23: Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov rejected the idea of reopening negotiations on the Iran nuclear deal Friday, insisting US concerns about Tehran’s behavior can be addressed outside the agreement.

US President Donald Trump has threatened to declare Iran to be in breach of the 2015 deal unless it is expanded to punish Iran for pursuing a ballistic missile program and for sponsoring foreign militant groups.

But Mr Lavrov, addressing reporters at the UN General Assembly, said such matters are beyond the scope of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action signed between Iran and six world powers, including Moscow and Washington.

“It’s not only Russia that has said it is necessary to save the JCPOA. That was mentioned by all the European countries that participated in the negotiations,” he said.

“This programme is endorsed by a UN Security Council resolution.” he added.



Sun, 24 Sept, 2017

NASA asteroid mission receives a gravitational kick from earth

Fuel-efficient way to move the spacecraft onto Bennu’s orbital plane

An unmanned NASA spacecraft travelling to a distant asteroid, veered towards Earth on Friday, for a gravitational slingshot manoeuvre that will better aim it towards the sun-orbiting space rock, Bennu, the U.S. space agency said.

The gravity boost took place about halfway through the two-year journey of the spacecraft, known as OSIRIS-REx (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, and Security — Regolith Explorer).

“The preliminary results are in, and my #EarthGravityAssist was succesful!” said the NASA Twitter account for OSIRIS-REx, about an hour after it made its closest approach to Earth.

The mission launched last year from Cape Canaveral, Florida. Its goal is to collect a sample from Bennu in 2018, and return it to Earth for further study in 2023.

Dante Lauretta, OSIRIS-REx’s principal investigator at the University of Arizona, Tucson, described the gravity-assist as “a clever way to move the spacecraft onto Bennu’s orbital plane, using Earth’s own gravity instead of expending fuel.”

The spacecraft zipped over Antarctica at a distance of 17,000 kilometres, using Earth’s gravity to shift its trajectory so it can eventually meet up with Bennu.

Bennu is a primitive, carbon-rich asteroid, the kind of cosmic body that may have delivered life-giving materials to Earth, billions of years ago.

The asteroid’s orbit around the sun is tilted six degrees in comparison to that of the earth. During the gravity assist, OSIRIS-REx swung through a region of space that contains earth-orbiting satellites, but emerged intact.

OSIRIS-REx lost communication with the earth for about an hour during the flyby, as expected, because the spacecraft was too low, relative to the southern horizon to be in view of either the Deep Space tracking station at Canberra, Australia, or Goldstone, California.