

Thu, 12 April, 2018

DefExpo 2018: DRDO hands over first indigenous heavy weight torpedo Varunastra to Indian Navy

By U Tejonmayam

CHENNAI: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the military research and development arm under the ministry of defence, on Wednesday handed over three critical indigenous technologies to the Indian Navy, including the first indigenously developed heavy weight torpedo Varunastra. At the DefExpo 2018 being held near here, the DRDO also transferred 10 technologies developed by it to the industry for production for the Indian Armed Forces. They include grenades, missiles and sonars.

Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman handed over three technologies for the Indian Navy to Chief of Naval Staff Sunil Lanba. It includes processor-based mines (PPBM), VLF modulator and heavy weight torpedo Varunastra.

A DRDO official said Varunastra is a ship-based ESM system developed for intercepting all modern radars. PBBM is deployable from ships and can deter movement of adversary.

"The VLF modulator is a long range reliable communication system that we have handed over to the Navy," an official said.

Ten technologies, including Astra air-to-air missile system, which was tested in Su-30 Mk1 and is likely to be integrated into Tejas LCA and other platforms, were handed over to private and PSUs for manufacturing. The technology transfers also included anti-thermal/ anti laser grenade, CAIRGIS geographic information system, two sonars -- Humsa and Abhay -- and a sonar dome.

A stamp and a souvenir, which has details of all technologies developed by DRDO, were released to commemorate the 60th year of the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/defexpo-2018-drdo-hands-over-first-indigenous-heavy-weight-torpedo-varunastra-to-indian-navy/articleshow/63714819.cms>

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Fasting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to keep his date with Chennai

CHENNAI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a fast when he visits Chennai to inaugurate DefExpo-2018, the country's mega defence exhibition, on Thursday. According to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Prime Minister will fast to protest the disruption of Parliament by the Opposition during the just-concluded Budget session.

Speaking to reporters, she said she too would observe fast. "I will be fasting. PM Modi is also fasting. Fasting is not going to stop him from coming here,"

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi (File |

Sitharaman said, after opening the DefExpo 2018, which celebrates Indian MSMEs that export equipment to armies across the world.

During his visit to the city to inaugurate DefExpo-2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will also launch the India Pavilion, which will showcase the strength of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). After landing in Chennai airport around 9 am, Modi is scheduled to reach Mahabalipuram in a helicopter. After completing the events at the DefExpo, he will head to IIT-Madras campus in a helicopter. He will also be visiting the Cancer Institute, Adyar, to inaugurate a variety of infrastructure projects on the campus, including a palliative care centre, a day care centre and nurses quarters. A helipad has been prepared for the Prime Minister's visit at IIT campus.

After the function at Cancer Institute, Modi will reach the city's airport in a helicopter around 2 pm and leave for Delhi in an Indian Air Force flight. Meanwhile, Opposition parties in the State, led by DMK, are getting ready to wave black flags to the Prime Minister to condemn the Centre's failure to form the Cauvery Management Board (CMB). DMK sources said party cadre will be lined up from airport to Saidapet to wave black flags even as Modi would be taking the air route. A few other organisations and cinema personalities have also announced protests around the airport.

The India Pavilion, which Modi will be inaugurating, will showcase the DRDO's flagship products and innovations in all formats — indoor, outdoor and a live demo. The theme of the pavilion is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub'. The DRDO is also putting up flagship products and systems in two broad categories — one pertaining to technologies ready for transfer to industries for production and the other relating to technologies ready for exports.

The DRDO will be participating in the live demo for some of its indigenously designed and developed products, which include light combat aircraft Tejas, main battle tank Arjun MK-II, Arjun Armoured Recovery and Repair Vehicle (ARRV), T-72 Trawl, T-72 Bridge Layer Tank, Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhaP), Mobile Surveillance System and Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS).

The Prime Minister's visit comes in the backdrop of protests in the city over the delay by the Centre to form CMB.

Digital attractions too lined up

Another key attraction at the India pavilion of the expo would be an array of digital experiences, including war game simulation zone, augmented reality, virtual reality and physical simulators

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/chennai/2018/apr/12/fasting-prime-minister-narendra-modi-to-keep-his-date-with-chennai-1800253.html>



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Sharang-The Bow of Vishnu

A Few years ago, the army decided to go in for upgrading its old Russian howitzers which could fire only around 20 kilometer and were outdated. "Our system which has now been named Sharang after the bow of Lord Vishnu proved to be the most accurate in the first trials where the guns outperformed the other competitors who had collaborated with Israeli and East European vendors," Rituraj Dwivedi, director of Ordnance Factory Kanpur told MAIL TODAY. The guns are now ready for induction, where they will take part in operational roles. The cost of upgrade is around `200 crore which the experts estimate may have gone up considerably if other vendors had won it.



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BrahMos to raise indigenous level

The BrahMos missile that was recently tested with an indigenous seeker now has a local content of 55 pc. The Chief Executive Officer-cum-Managing Director of BrahMos, Dr Sudhir Mishra, told The Tribune that with another step of making own booster, they were targeting to have 80 pc of local content.



The seeker is a vital technology to guide the missile towards the target, which used to be imported from Russia. The seeker was developed by the Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad, in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories. BrahMos is a joint collaboration between India and Russia.



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Focus will be on tie-ups: DRDO chief Christopher

‘Now we are emphasising on a few, but bigger grants to achieve the target’

The Defence Research and Development Organisation is celebrating its diamond jubilee celebrations. DRDO chairman S. Christopher who was at the DefExpo near Chennai on Wednesday, explains the organisation’s plan to meet the challenges and requirements of the developing field. Excerpts:

The Defence Ministry’s ‘Make in India’ campaign focuses a lot on indigenisation of the assets and as a State-owned organisation, do you have specific plans to consolidate your efforts towards intended results?

We have been involved in research in three ways. Doing research on our own, aiding research and joint research. Academic institutions like the Indian Institutes of Technology are experts in theory and we know how technology reflects on the ground. To meet targeted oriented research, we have revised our way of supporting these academic institutions. Earlier, we gave small grants to many institutions and now we are focusing on a few, but bigger grants so that the target can be achieved for the complete product.

Could you elaborate on recent collaborations with academic institutions...

The recent ones have been setting up the Centre of Propulsion Technology (CoPT) in IIT Bombay and IIT Madras. We have also joined hands with IIT Delhi and Jadavpur University. We are planning to collaborate with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bengaluru.

The DRDO had set up labs across the country to look for solutions for specific requirements for the sector. But, over the years, has DRDO felt any need for more labs to cater to research in any developing field.

The P. Rama Rao Committee has recommended against the DRDO setting up more labs. But, without setting up more labs, we are expanding our horizons as and when we feel a specific field needed more focus.

The attrition rate and the missing of deadlines by the DRDO are two major issues often cited while reviewing the performance of the organisation. Your views:

The attrition rate has often been cited but that is not true. The attrition rate is only .5% and there are normal retirements. As for the performance, DRDO functions are on a par with the functions of the other



research organisations in other parts of the world. Our aim and determination have always been to meet the deadlines and we have been taking every possible effort to deliver on time.