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Defence firms should target export market: Sitharaman

Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday exhorted the indigenous Defence manufacturing industry to look beyond the procurement by the armed forces and tap the lucrative export market for growth. Underscoring the need to balance indigenisation with export-centric manufacturing for greater economic vitality and sustainability, Sitharaman said the Centre would provide all necessary handholding to domestic Defence manufacturers to scale up production and match up to the stringent quality control norms of the export market.

She informed that the Centre had already relaxed standing norms of procurement to spur innovation and procure such defence wares if they are found to be appropriate. "The defence manufacturers can now suo moto innovate and suggest products which could be used by the forces. If they pass the mandatory trial and testing stages, there is an assured market for them," she announced adding that the government would guarantee procurement for at least 10 years.

Sitharaman was speaking at a defence corridor event in Aligarh on Saturday afternoon in the presence of Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, senior officials of the three wings of the Indian armed forces apart from the representatives of some foreign countries and Defence manufacturers. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had on February 21, 2018, announced the setting up of a Defence corridor in Bundelkhand region of UP. Another Defence corridor is coming up in Tamil Nadu. "I can assure you there is momentum in both the corridors and our ministry officials are in constant touch with the various stakeholders including industry," Sitharaman said adding the Centre was taking a holistic approach towards these proposed corridors so that there is a ready supply of trained manpower and presence of market before production starts.



All-weather combat boots for troops soon

In what will change an important part of their personal gear, the Army has approved an order for 12.75 lakh pairs of new-design high-ankle combat boots to be used by troops in all-weather conditions and in different terrain barring snow-bound areas.

One of the parameters to select the boots was that troops should be able to wear them in temperatures varying from zero to 50 degrees Celsius. A cost negotiation committee finalised the boots, their cost, supply and logistics parameters before seeking final approval from the Ministry of Defence, said sources.

The selection came after an extensive user trial by thousands of troops in 2016, followed by a feedback session. The Army assessed the feedback before four private companies were selected as eligible bidders. The annual requirement will be 6 lakh pairs of shoes, or 1,643 pairs daily, manufacturing which would be tough for any company. The Army has, thus, suggested distributing the order among three suppliers: Lowest bidder to get 40 pc of the order and 30 pc each for the other two.

The Master General Ordnance has set a benchmark of providing better quality boots in tune with the latest concept of military boots available in the footwear industry in India and abroad. The Army had wanted the shoes be light in weight and the toe be made of scratch-resistant leather.

Aero show to be held sooner; venue shifts to Lucknow

With an eye on the approaching elections, the government is advancing its mega Aero India show by a year and will be shifting it to Lucknow. The move is an attempt to showcase Uttar Pradesh (UP) as a manufacturing destination for global aviation companies. This will be the second Defence-industrial show by the government in six months. The Defence Expo was held earlier this year in Chennai to lukewarm response even as it faces questions on the inability to unlock 'Make in India' for the Defence sector'. Sources said Aero India, which was scheduled to be held in Bangalore in February 2019, is being shifted to the Bakshi Ka Talab air station in Lucknow and is likely to be conducted between October 27 and November 4 this year.

The change of time and venue has raised an alarm among both Indian and global Defence companies that usually participate at such international shows. Most of these shows are planned a year in advance, giving companies adequate time to bring in platforms, personnel and equipment for display. Moreover, there is a concern that participating in the second Defence show in less than six months would have a financial implication given the high cost of display space as well as costs in bringing equipment to the venue.

It is unclear if foreign companies would be in a position to bring in showstoppers like fighter jets and military aircraft at such short notice. This is the first time since its inception in 1996 that Aero India will shift out of its home venue at the Yelahanka airbase in Bengaluru and will be held in a non-scheduled year. The last edition was held in February 2017. Shifting the show to Lucknow is part of a series of moves to promote Uttar Pradesh as a military manufacturing destination. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be in Aligarh on Saturday for an interactive session with the industry.

The session, to promote Aligarh as a node to a Defence industrial corridor planned in the state, will also be attended by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and top defence ministry officials. It is believed that the formal announcement for Aero India will also be made at the event. In the annual budget this year, the government has announced setting up of two Defence industrial corridors – one in Tamil Nadu and the other in UP. Stakeholder interactions have been held in Lucknow, Kanpur, Agra and Jhansi in the last few months.

Eastern Army Cdr Heads for China, Def Min to Visit Delhi

Doklam falls under the Eastern Command; Indian Army team will be on a goodwill visit to China next week; both sides likely discuss issues related to Beijing hotline

By-Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury & Shaurya Karanbir Gurung

New Delhi: India and China will be engaged in a series of military-related confidence building measures (CBMs) over the next two weeks, including visit by Chinese defence minister to Delhi in the backdrop of the Wuhan Summit that gave strategic guidance to the two militaries. A four-member Indian Army delegation headed by Eastern Army Commander Lt Gen Abhay Krishna will be going on a "goodwill visit" to China from August 13 to 19. Incidentally, Doklam falls under the Eastern Command.

It will be the first such visit after the 2017 Doklam (standoff) which is under India's eastern army command. The delegation will be visiting four cities in China- Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Lhasa. ET has learnt that during Chinese defence minister Wei Fenghe's visit, both sides will attempt to resolve differences in setting up of a hotline between the armies of the two countries.

The initiative hit a roadblock over differences between the two sides on issues relating to protocol and technical aspect of the hotline. This is the first highlevel visit from China since Wuhan Summit and subsequent Modi-Xi meetings aimed at stabilising ties in backdrop of Doklam episode. The Indian Army has been maintaining that the hotline should be between its Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) and his equivalent official in People's Liberation Army (PLA), while Beijing proposed that deputy commander of its Chengdu-based Western Theatre Command would engage with the Indian DGMO, persons familiar with the process indicated. It is learnt that Chinese PLA has also conveyed to Indian Army that they do not have any DGMO in its headquarters and that it was favouring engaging the Western Theatre Command in charge of the Sino-India border.

However, the Indian side feels that the protocol must be maintained and equating the Indian Army headquarters to PLA's Western Theatre Command in Chengdu was not proper. There were also certain issues relating to engaging translators for Mandarin and English by the two sides.

India and Pakistan have a hotline between their DGMOs. The hotline between India and China was first mooted by the two countries in 2013. A slew of other issues like ways to improve coordination between the two militaries along the border will also figure in talks Wei will have with his counterpart Nirmala Sitharaman.

Earlier an eight-member Chinese military delegation led by Lt Gen Liu Xiaowu, Deputy Commander of Western Theatre Command, visited India in June as a follow-up to the Wuhan summit between Modi and Xi. The delegation also went to Kolkata, where the headquarters of the Eastern Army Command is located. While South Korean Defence Minister is currently visiting India, Japanese Defence Minister will be here ahead of his Chinese counterpart. With Japan India is exploring defence purchases and technology transfer based on similar geopolitical approaches. India and Japan are seeking to expand joint defence exercises besides partnership in the seas to monitor underwater activities.

Business Standard

Sun, 12 Aug 2018

US cuts Pakistan officers from military training programmes

By Idrees Ali & Phil Stewart

Islamabad/Washington, 11 August President Donald Trump's administration has quietly started cutting scores of Pakistani officers from coveted training and educational programmes that have been a hallmark of bilateral military relations for more than a decade, US officials say. The move, which has not been previously reported, is one of the first known impacts from Trump's decision this year to suspend US security assistance to Pakistan to compel it to crack down on Islamic militants. The Pentagon and the Pakistani military did not comment directly on the decision or the internal deliberations, but officials from both countries privately criticized the move. US officials, speaking to Reuters on the condition of anonymity, said they were worried the decision could undermine a key trust-building measure. Pakistani officials warned it could push their military to further look to China or Russia for leadership training.

The effective suspension of Pakistan from the US government's International Military Education and Training program (IMET) will close off places that had been set aside for 66

Pakistani officers this year, a State Department spokesperson told Reuters. The places will either be unfilled or given to officers from other countries. Dan Feldman, a former US special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, called the move “very short-sighted and myopic”. “This will have lasting negative impacts limiting the bilateral relationship well into the future,” Feldman told Reuters. The State Department spokesperson, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the IMET cancellations were valued at \$2.41 million so far. At least two other programmes have also been affected, the spokesperson said. It is unclear precisely what level of military cooperation still continues outside the IMET programme, beyond the top level contacts between US and Pakistani military leaders.

The US military has traditionally sought to shield such educational programmes from political tensions, arguing that the ties built by bringing foreign military officers to the United States pay longterm dividends. For example, the US Army’s War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, which would normally have two Pakistani military officers per year, boasts graduates including Lieutenant General Naveed Mukhtar, the current directorgeneral of Pakistan’s powerful spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI). The War College, the US Army’s premier school for foreign officers, says it has hosted 37 participants from Pakistan over the past several decades. It will have no Pakistani students in the upcoming academic year, a spokeswoman said. Pakistan has also been removed from programmes at the US Naval War College, Naval Staff College and courses including cyber security studies. ‘Lies and deceit’ In his first tweet of 2018, Trump slammed Pakistan, saying the country has rewarded past US aid with “nothing but lies & deceit.”

Washington announced plans in January to suspend up to roughly \$2 billion in US security assistance to Pakistan. But weeks later, Pakistan’s foreign secretary was quoted by local media saying that Islamabad had been told the United States would continue funding IMET programs. Officially allies in fighting terrorism, Pakistan and the United States have a complicated relationship, bound by Washington’s dependence on Pakistan to supply its troops in Afghanistan but plagued by accusations Islamabad is playing a double game. Tensions have grown over US complaints that the Afghan Taliban militants and the Haqqani network that target American troops in Afghanistan are allowed to shelter on Pakistani soil. Current and former US officials said Defence Secretary Jim Mattis argued against excluding Pakistani officers from IMET courses. “I am shocked... We worked so hard for this to be the one thing that got saved,” said a former US defence official, who was involved in the conversations. The Pentagon declined to comment on internal government discussions, but Dana White, a Pentagon spokeswoman, said Mattis long believed in the value of the IMET programme as a way to build relations between foreign militaries. Pakistani Senator Mushahid Hussain, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, told Reuters that a US decision to cut off such exchanges would be counterproductive and push Pakistan’s military towards other countries. “It is one of those silly, punitive measures that they have deployed,” said Hussain, who sat next to a Chinese and Pakistani flag in his office.

Russia and Pakistan signed an agreement earlier this week that would allow for Pakistani military officers to train at Russian institutes. Pakistan’s military has ruled the country for about half of its history and traditionally seen the country’s foreign policy in its domain. IMET courses have been able to withstand poor relations between the two countries in the past, even after al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was killed in a US Navy SEAL raid in the Pakistani town of Abbotabad in 2011.

A NATO helicopter raid killed 28 Pakistani troops later that year in a friendly fire incident on the Afghan-Pakistan border. Feldman said that after the raid, when relations were at a low point, the United States limited large security assistance items, but made active efforts to continue the IMET programme. Unintended consequence In the 1990’s former US President George H W Bush refused to certify that Pakistan did not have nuclear weapons, triggering the so-called “Pressler Amendment” that required cutting off all military assistance.

That included IMET courses. “The unintended consequence was we didn’t know a decade of the Pakistani military leadership as well, and therefore couldn’t engage as effectively with them when we needed to,” Feldman said. Mattis, in private discussions within the government, had warned that excluding Pakistani officers from IMET courses could

contribute to a similar situation in years to come, the former US defence official said. Pakistan had been the largest recipient of IMET between 2003 and 2017, according to the Security Assistance Monitor which tracks US assistance. "You can advocate for cutting off everything else and this was the one thing we were not supposed to touch," the former official said.

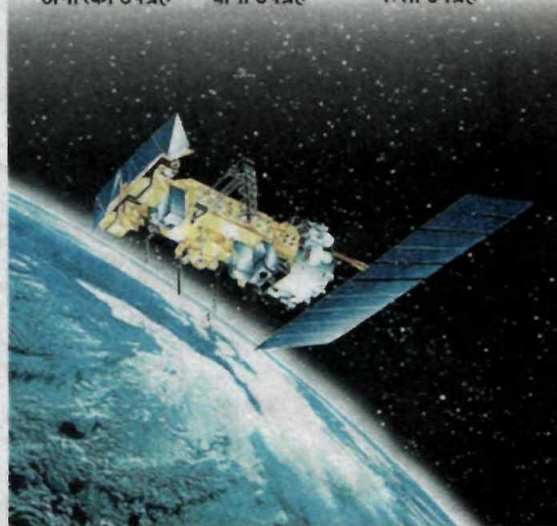
दैनिक जागरण

Sun, 12 Aug 2018

स्पेस फोर्स तैयार कर रहा अमेरिका

803 204 142
अमेरिकी उपग्रह चीनी उपग्रह रूसी उपग्रह

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने रूस और चीन से बढ़ती प्रतिस्पर्धा और खतरे को वजह बताते हुए अमेरिकी सेना में स्पेस फोर्स की तैनाती की घोषणा की थी। अब इस तैयारी में एक कदम और आगे जाते हुए उन्होंने इस सेना के लोगो के चयन में अमेरिकियों की राय मांगी है। यह अमेरिकी सेना की छठी शाखा होगी। 2020 तक औपचारिक रूप से यह सेना का अंग बनेगी। अंतरिक्ष में अगले विश्व युद्ध होने की आशंका के मद्देनजर अमेरिका की तैयारियां जोरों पर हैं। दुनिया में अब तक सिर्फ रूस के पास स्पेस फोर्स थी जो 1992-97 और 2001-11 में सक्रिय रही।



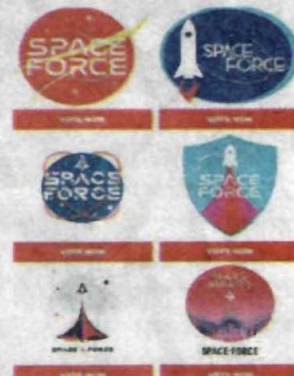
क्या है स्पेस फोर्स



यह सैन्य विभाग की ऐसी शाखा होती है जो अंतरिक्ष में युद्ध करने में सक्षम होती है। डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने नए और स्वतंत्र सैन्य विभाग के लिए यही नाम सोचा है। फिलहाल अमेरिका में अंतरिक्ष के सभी मामले वायु सेना के अंतर्गत आते हैं। ट्रंप काफी समय से ऐसी सेना तैयार करने के विचार में थे, जिसका कद बिलकुल वायु या थल सेना जितना हो।

इन देशों पास है मिलिट्री स्पेस कमांड

चीन	पीपुल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी स्ट्रेटजिक सपोर्ट फोर्स
फ्रांस	फ्रेंच ज्वाइंट स्पेस कमांड
रूस	रूसी एयरोस्पेस फोर्स, रूसी स्पेस फोर्स
इंग्लैंड	रॉयल एयर फोर्स आरएएफ एयर कमांड
अमेरिका	एयर फोर्स, अमेरिकी एयर फोर्स स्पेस कमांड



अमेरिका ने छह लोगो जारी कर स्पेस फोर्स के लिए मांगी राय

बनेगी छठी शाखा

फिलहाल अमेरिकी सेना की पांच शाखाएं हैं- वायु सेना, थल सेना, कोस्ट गार्ड, मरीन कॉर्प्स और नौसेना। स्पेस फोर्स छठी शाखा बनेगी। इसके लिए सबसे पहले इस साल के अंत तक अमेरिकी स्पेस कमांड बनाया जाएगा। इसके बाद ट्रंप प्रशासन इसके लिए फंडिंग जुटाएगा और कानूनी अनुमतियां लेने के बाद अगले वर्ष तक इसे स्वतंत्र विभाग के तौर पर सेना में शामिल करेगा।

रूस और चीन से खतरा

इस नई सेना की तैनाती के पीछे रूस और चीन से डर बड़ी वजह है। अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति और उनके समर्थकों को लगता है कि दोनों देश बड़ी संख्या में अंतरिक्ष में उपग्रह लांच कर रहे हैं। उन्हें डर है कि अमेरिका संचार, नेवीगेशन और गुप्त सूचनाओं के लिए उपग्रहों पर अत्यधिक निर्भर हो गया है। ऐसे में अगर अमेरिकी उपग्रहों पर हमला



होता है तो अमेरिका की सुरक्षा को खतरा हो सकता है। इसीलिए वह पृथ्वी की कक्षा में घूम रहे अपने उपग्रहों की सुरक्षा पुख्ता करने के लक्ष्य से इस नई सेना की तैनाती करना चाहते हैं। कुछ साल पहले चीन ने अपने एक निष्क्रिय हो चुके सेटेलाइट को धरती से मिसाइल दागकर नष्ट किया था। उसकी यह उपलब्धि भी अमेरिका की चिंता बढ़ाने वाली रही।

Centre launches portal for scientific research, funding

How does a budding math enthusiast figure out career prospects for pursuing mathematics in India? Which individual professors are blazing new trails in, say, climate change research here? The Union science ministry's communication wing, Vigyan Prasar, has launched the India Science Technology and Innovation portal that can help with such queries.

Currently the portal can be queried for information about the organisations carrying out research, those funding them, international collaborations, the scientists involved in the research, the states in which they are being carried out, their achievements and impact.

Prime focus There's also a compilation of technologies developed in India, the organisations that have developed these technologies, those that have funded them and the status of the technologies. "A major thrust of the portal is to reach out to students, researchers, scholars, scientists both from India and abroad, so that they can choose from the mine of fellowships, scholarships and funding and startup opportunities that India puts on their plate," says a note accompanying the portal.

The portal follows a launch this week of India Science (indiascience.in), an Internet-based science channel, to showcase the developments in science and technology in India.

Both the portal and the channel are part of a push by the Science Ministry to improve its public outreach. By next year, the Ministry hopes to offer science programmes on Doordarshan and eventually launch a dedicated science channel. According to a roadmap prepared by the Union government, the Science Ministry proposes to spend ₹15 crore over five years to cover costs of portal development and updates.

