

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा  
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 43 No. 192 29 August 2018



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Wed, 29 Aug 2018

## After endless wait, Army aims to turn the corner

*Change is always better but if it becomes a sore point it takes place due to extraneous reasons, which clearly is the case with the present thought process. The question of priorities has brought the Army to a stage where it is falling short of wherewithal with a bloated top that has truncated areas of responsibility*

*By Col Mahesh Chaddha (Retd)*

An organisational revolution seems to be in the offing in the Indian Army. There is talk of restructuring, review of officer cadre and rank structure besides doing away with some of the divisional head quarters. A question arises, has the army become so competent that it can handle all these complex issues all together? Perhaps this is the new vision surpassing Sundarji's Vision 2020.

### **Sundarji's Vision 2020**

General Sundarji, on assumption as COAS, had conceptualized a Vision Document 2020 for the Indian Army, that envisaged a generational change as warfare would progressively switch from the conventional to modern high technology warfare. So, he created a directorate of Perspective Planning (PPD) to constantly study at national and international levels the economic, social, military and other relevant factors and formulate Army plans much like the now-defunct Nehruvian-era Five Year Plans.

Gen Sundarji's analysis was based on the ground realities: India's success in the race for occupation of Siachen and the Sumdorong Chu episode with China; the terrain on the borders being altered by undertaking the Ditch Cum Bundh defence system (DCB) and canal network and,; China creating a solid infrastructure, above all its Inter Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) system covering the entire of India. Therefore, Gen. Sundarji talked of air assault, mechanised and reorganised armoured plain infantry divisions (RAPID) and Army Aviation Corps to synergise combat power and carry out pincers and deliver the coup-de-grace to achieve a mission — similar to what had been done in Bangladesh, when Paras were dropped across the Meghna river that led to fall of Dacca and ultimate surrender of Pakistan forces and later became a bench mark for the future when India was obliged to drop the Para Brigade in the Maldives to save the country from a coup and anarchy.

### **The cyber and nuclear dimension**

As the clouds of cyber warfare started hovering, Gen Sundarji created a cyber cell. The communication systems were to be modernised and thus came the future ASCON (Army Static Communication Network), troop-scatter systems etc. The air defence system was strengthened together with AWACS (Air Warning and Communication System). Sundarji through his book, *The blindmen of Hindoostan*, tried to emphasize to the government the necessity of having a second strike nuclear capability — that led to the second test in 1999 in response to growing nuclear capability of Pakistan and China.

However, all this required massive budget allocations to procure the necessary equipment, arms and ammunition. Unfortunately his successors except General Bipin Joshi (who died in harness) did not pursue the vision with same vigour as they did for cadre review, pay and pensions. The question of priorities has brought the army to a stage where it is falling short of wherewithal with a bloated top — more higher HQs and formations; strategic and South Western Commands with truncated areas of responsibility.

### **Reorganisation of the Army**

Gen. Sundarji's vision has been taken forward in fits and starts but a welcome spurt has taken place in the last five years when a strike corps each for plains and mountains began to be raised —

which are yet to be fully equipped. Besides Army Aviation Corps, Air Defence Artillery, RAPIDS, Strategic Command at the lower levels, the infantry battalions too underwent a drastic change with heavy machine guns, anti tank missiles, night vision devices and nuclear protective gears etc. The artillery has acquired heavy and long range guns Prithvi, Agni, BrahMos etc. The mechanized division raised and put through the exercise Brasstacks in 1986-87 was reorganized into armoured division — thereby reducing the mechanized infantry content and increasing the armour content, without realizing that the terrain in the plains would be infested with minefields, canal and DCB obstacles for which mechanised infantry is more suited and can engage targets with anti tank guided missile system at longer ranges than tanks. The transport system has improved tremendously. Border roads and railways have supplemented the armed forces effort in cutting mobilization time.

### **Scrapping Divisional HQs**

Tactically, it is acknowledged that armoured/infantry brigade groups would meet battle requirements. But the question would be of supporting arms and services that form part of the Division. The most important being armour, artillery, engineers and signals which provide intimate and well-coordinated support during the battle — in the scenario they might have to be brought in as the component of each brigade group — to be coordinated at the corps HQ. It is easier said than done that the Chief Of Staff would take over a divisional sized force formed during battle as it may be not possible within the short time frame that the future wars are likely to be fought.

While change is always better. But if takes place due to extraneous reasons, then it becomes a sore point; which clearly is the present thought process. It is a time tested fact that once you remove a link in the chain of command, it invites a catastrophe — like it happened in 1965 war when a GOC was removed and the Command HQ directly started controlling the battle. However it would justify removal of Brigadier's rank as such brigade groups would be commanded by Major Generals spared from the Divisional HQ.



Wed, 29 Aug 2018

## **Year after Doklam thaw, greater Chinese presence 'new normal'**

*Bilaterals, especially Wuhan talks, have led to normalcy*

*By Ajay Banerjee*

Exactly a year after the 73-day military stand-off ended at Doklam, India and China have brought about a semblance of “visible normalcy” along the boundary. Another new normal is the presence of greater-than-before number of Chinese troops at Chumbi valley, located to the north of the disputed site.

While China has permanently stationed some 1,000 troops, India's defences are much superior with more than 30,000 troops and even a regiment of tanks lined up along eastern Sikkim, facing the Chumbi valley.

Beijing has added military infrastructure at Yatung and upgraded an air base at Shigatse, 225 km north of Doklam — an 89 sq km plateau at the trijunction of India-China and Bhutan — but all in its own territory and not the disputed spot. Since last year, the two sides have agreed to resolve issues at the level of local military commanders and not let matters escalate to have long stand-offs. A fresh memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation is being drafted while engagements between the armed forces are being expanded.

“The border is quieter now. The recent high-level visits could result in better measures to be put in place,” said a senior functionary, counting the changes, especially after PM Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke in Wuhan (April 27-28).

After Doklam, the Indian Army issued instructions to its troops to maintain sanctity of the Line of Actual Control, remain within laid down protocol but not to yield ground. Jostling, touching, heckling or shouting at Chinese troops has been banned too.

## दैनिक जागरण

Wed, 29 Aug 2018

# भारत-थाइलैंड रक्षा सहयोग मजबूत करेंगे

जागरण ब्यूरो, नई दिल्ली : भारत और थाइलैंड ने समुद्री मार्गों में उभरती सुरक्षा चुनौतियों पर विचार करते हुए समुद्री क्षेत्र में रक्षा और सुरक्षा सहयोग बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है। दो दिवसीय थाइलैंड दौरे पर गई रक्षा मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने थाइलैंड के रक्षा मंत्री जनरल प्रवित वांगसुवोन से द्विपक्षीय वार्ता में रक्षा और सामरिक सहयोग को और सुदृढ़ करने के इशारे से कई नए फैसले लिए हैं।

समुद्री सुरक्षा में आपसी सहयोग का दायरा बढ़ाने के इशारे से दोनों ही पक्षों ने समुद्री माहौल की जानकारी एक दूसरे से साझा करने का फैसला किया है। दोनों देशों के बीच रक्षा उद्योग, शोध एवं विकास में भी परस्पर सहयोग करने के बारे में बात हुई है।

सीतारमण ने थाई नेतृत्व के साथ क्षेत्रीय सुरक्षा हालात के बारे में भी बातचीत की। दोनों पक्षों ने हिंद-प्रशांत इलाके के बारे में चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि दोनों के बीच इस मसले पर विचार मेल खाते हैं। इस बारे में दोनों देश आपसी सलाह मशविरा आगे भी जारी रखेंगे।

द्विपक्षीय नौसेना अभ्यास के जरिये दोनों देशों की सेनाओं के बीच संपर्क बढ़ाने का फैसला लिया गया है

रक्षा मंत्रालय के बयान के अनुसार द्विपक्षीय नौसेना अभ्यास के जरिये दोनों देशों की सेनाओं के बीच संपर्क बढ़ाने का फैसला लिया गया है। बताते चलें कि थाइलैंड दक्षिण पूर्व एशियाई देशों के संगठन आसियान का एक महत्वपूर्ण सदस्य है और आसियान के साथ गहराते सामरिक सहयोग के मद्देनजर थाइलैंड के साथ भारत का रक्षा आदान प्रदान बढ़ाना काफी अहम है।

रक्षा मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता ने बताया कि दोनों रक्षा मंत्रियों ने दोनों देशों के थल सैनिकों के बीच पहले से चल रहे साझा सैन्य अभ्यास मैत्री का स्तर और दायरा बढ़ाने के मसले पर भी बात की है। दोनों देशों की वायु सेनाओं के बीच पहले से चल रहे सियाम भारत वायुसैनिक अभ्यास का दायरा भी बढ़ाने पर जोर दिया गया।

## रक्षा क्षेत्र में सहयोग करेंगे भारत व वियतनाम

हर्नोई, 28 अगस्त (भाषा)।

विदेश मंत्री सुषमा स्वराज ने मंगलवार को वियतनाम के विदेश मंत्री पाम बिन मिन के साथ बातचीत की और दोनों देशों के बीच व्यापार, निवेश, समुद्री सुरक्षा और रक्षा सहयोग बढ़ाने के तरीकों पर चर्चा की।

स्वराज दो देशों की यात्रा के पहले चरण में वियतनाम आई हुई हैं। यहां से वह कंबोडिया जाएंगी। स्वराज आसियान के इन दो प्रमुख देशों के साथ भारत के कूटनीतिक

संबंधों को मजबूत बनाने के लिहाज से चार दिन की यात्रा पर हैं।

विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता रवीश कुमार ने ट्वीट किया, 'अपनी विस्तृत रणनीतिक साझेदारी को प्रगाढ़ बनाते हुए विदेश मंत्री सुषमा स्वराज और वियतनाम के विदेश मंत्री पाम बिन मिन ने प्रतिनिधिमंडल स्तर की वार्ता की जहां व्यापार, निवेश, समुद्री सुरक्षा और रक्षा सहयोग पर चर्चा हुई।' वियतनाम के विदेश मंत्री के साथ स्वराज ने संयुक्त आयोग की 16वीं बैठक की सह-अध्यक्षता भी की।



## Russia to hold its biggest war games since fall of Soviet Union

By Andrew Osborn

Moscow (Reuters) - Russia will next month hold its biggest war games since the fall of the Soviet Union, Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said on Tuesday, a massive military exercise that will also involve the Chinese and Mongolian armies.

The exercise, called Vostok-2018 (East-2018), will take place in central and eastern Russian military districts and involve almost 300,000 troops, more than 1,000 military aircraft, two of Russia's naval fleets, and all of its airborne units, Shoigu said in a statement.

The maneuvers will take place at a time of heightened tension between the West and Russia, which is concerned about what it says is an unjustified build-up of the NATO military alliance on its western flank.

NATO says it has beefed up its forces in eastern Europe to deter potential Russian military action after Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimea in 2014 and backed a pro-Russian uprising in eastern Ukraine.

The war games, which will take place from Sept. 11-15, are likely to worry Japan, which has already complained about a Russian military build-up in the Far East, something Moscow has linked to Tokyo's roll-out of the Aegis U.S. missile system.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is due to attend a forum in the Russian city of Vladivostok over the same period, and a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said on Tuesday that Tokyo always paid attention to shifts in Russian-Chinese military cooperation.

Shoigu said the war games would be the biggest since a Soviet military exercise, Zapad-81 (West-81) in 1981.

"In some ways they will repeat aspects of Zapad-81, but in other ways the scale will be bigger," Shoigu told reporters, while visiting the Russian region of Khakassia. When asked if China's

involvement meant Moscow and Beijing were moving towards an alliance, Peskov said it showed that the two were cooperating in all areas.

China and Russia have taken part in joint military drills before but not on such a large scale.

NATO spokesman Dylan White said that Russia had briefed the alliance on the planned exercise in May and that NATO would monitor it. Russia had invited military attaches from NATO countries based in Moscow to observe the war games, an offer he said was under consideration.



*Wed, 29 Aug 2018*

## **China's 'Type 002' begins sea trials**

They will verify aircraft carrier's communication and navigation instruments

China's second aircraft carrier, Type 002, being built at Dalian shipyard, has started the second phase of sea trials, state media has reported.

Sea trials are essential to test and fine-tune a brand new ship's complex systems, paving the way for its entry into the Navy. China Daily quoted a unnamed Chinese Navy researcher that he expected the second sea trial to mainly verify the carrier's communication, navigation and other electronic and mechanical instruments.

But analysts say that China's new warship is unlikely to become a game-changer. For starters, it appears similar to Liaoning — China's only aircraft carrier bought from Ukraine. The Liaoning underwent 10 sea trials starting in August 2011 before entering service in September 2012. The new warship has an estimated displacement of around 50,000 tonnes, similar to that of Liaoning.

The National Interest — a U.S. publication — points out on its website that Type 002 retains conventional propulsion and a ski-jump for assisted takeoffs, quite like the Liaoning.

There are only minor changes in the superstructure, including new advanced electronically scanned array radars. The new carrier will board 24 to 30 J-15 fighters — slightly more than Liaoning.

Recalibrating posture

The Type 002, however, compares poorly with much larger U.S. aircraft carriers, which usually have a more than 85,000 tonne displacement. It is likely that the U.S. military power will be further enhanced in the Indo-Pacific under the Donald Trump administration, which is already engaged in a trade war with China.

China is also working on a third aircraft carrier in Shanghai, which will stand in the premier league of similar platforms. The Type 003 is being developed on the same lines as the U.S. Navy's super-carriers, says another National Interest article.

The new ship will be powered by a nuclear engine. It is estimated that by 2020, the Chinese Navy will have 351 warships — a significant advance from the present level, but no match to the heavy arsenal of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command spread across a string of military bases in the Indo-Pacific.

Wed, 29 Aug 2018

## **ISRO sets' 22 target for human space odyssey**

*Rs 10,000-cr project aims to send 3-member crew*

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had long ago started building blocks to realise the dream of joining a select group of countries to send a human on a space odyssey. It now plans to start the mission by despatching two unmanned flights before the target date of 2022, set by PM Narendra Modi.

The manned space programme was off the drawing board in 2004 but did not acquire the pace. With PM Modi declaring this August 15 India's intent to send a "daughter or a son from Indian soil and Indian vehicle" in space, ISRO on Tuesday announced a six-point objective of the Rs 10,000 crore mission.

At a press conference here with Jitendra Singh, Minister of State in PMO (Space), ISRO Chairman K Sivan said that while the task is a great responsibility and challenging, the organisation is capable of accomplishing it by sending the 'Gaganyaan'. "This is the most ambitious space programme undertaken by ISRO till date and is essential as it will give a big boost to science and technology development within the country," Dr Sivan said.

GSLV Mk-III launch vehicle, which has the necessary payload capability for this mission, would be used to launch Gaganyaan. Two unmanned Gaganyaan missions will be undertaken prior to sending humans. The total programme is expected to be completed before 2022 with first unmanned flight within 30 months. The mission will aim to send a three-member crew to space for a period of five to seven days. The spacecraft will be placed in a low earth orbit of 300-400 km.

The space vehicle will comprise a crew module, service module and orbital module, weighing approximately 7 tonne, and will be carried by a rocket. The crew module's size will be 3.7 mts x 7 mts. The crew will do microgravity experiment during the mission.



Wed, 29 Aug 2018

## **Gaganyaan, country's 1st manned space mission, on 'verge of launch'**

*Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says ISRO is now combining Radar & Satellite information*

Union Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office, Dr Jitendra Singh on Tuesday said that the country's leading space agency, ISRO is on the verge of launching the first Indian astronaut into space. Gaganyaan will be the first manned space mission launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). The minister was speaking at a joint press conference with ISRO chief K Sivan here.

"Our weather forecast is now 100% accurate, because now we are combining Radar and Satellite information," Singh said. During the Independence Day 2018 speech last week, Prime Minister

Narendra Modi announced that India will send an astronaut to space in 2022. He stated said when India celebrates 75th year of Independence in 2022, “and if possible even before, an Indian son or daughter” will undertake a manned space mission on board ‘Gaganyaan’ “carrying the national flag”.

Meanwhile, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman Kailasavadi Sivan on Tuesday said that the space agency has lined up 19 missions till March, 2019. “Next year we will be launch SSLV, a small vehicle which will be assembled innovatively in only 3 days instead of the usual 60 days and by 6 people instead of 600,” Sivan said addressing to media.

“ISRO has lined up 19 missions till March 2019”, he added. “January 3 to February 16, 2019 is the window for the launch of Chandrayaan 2,” he added. Asked about scientists advising the government to take help from countries such as the US and Russia for the Gaganyaan mission, K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific advisor to the government of India said the nature of science and technology is of collaboration.

“Russia and the US are leaders in space and science and technology. Discussions with them are natural,” he said. Raghavan dismissed questions raised about the money spent on expensive space missions. He said these questions are not new questions, were raised even during ISRO’S previous missions.

Initially, people asked why India was investing so much to send rockets in space, but ISRO benefitted a lot from these investments, the principal scientific advisor said. “We can anticipate the short-term and long-term benefits of this (Gaganyaan) mission,” Raghavan said.

If India manages to link the man mission with the startup sector and industry, it can become a leading technology mission anywhere in the world, he said.

Asked about the training astronauts and developing the support system for the proposed manned mission, he said training is an important element as it helps in involving the human psychology challenging circumstances.



*Wed, 29 Aug 2018*

## **Work on tech for space mission began in 2004**

India’s space agency ISRO began work on developing critical technologies to send humans to space way back in 2004 but the project was not on the “priority list”, its chief K Sivan said on Tuesday. However, the political decision to take the project forward was taken by the government, Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s Office Jitendra Singh added.

PM Narendra Modi had announced in his Independence Day speech that an Indian would be sent to space before 2022. “The experiments have been going on since 2004 but it was not on our priority list,” Sivan told reporters at a joint press conference with Singh. That did not mean ISRO was not going to take up this project, he added.

The decision to send humans to space was more of a political decision as ISRO’s focus had been on undertaking projects that supported critical areas like communication, agriculture and climate, Singh said. “We had planned it and we were waiting for the prime minister to make an announcement ...( since) it is a very significant announcement .”

To send humans to space, ISRO has developed critical technologies like re-entry mission capability, crew escape system, crew module configuration, thermal protection system, sub-system of life and support system required and the prototype of a space suit.

The Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) was conducted in 2007, Crew Module Atmospheric Reentry Experiment (CARE) in 2014 and Pad

The experiments have been going on since 2004 but it was not our priority list K Sivan, chairman, ISRO

Abort Test in 2018, scientists said. The Pad Abort Test demonstrated the safe recovery of the crew module in case of any exigency during the launch of the mission.

G Madhavan Nair, former ISRO chairperson (2003-2009), said work to develop critical technologies began in 2004 but was subsequently put in cold storage. “In 2009, a detailed project report was submitted to the then PM Manmohan Singh. The Space Commission approved the project, but it was put in cold storage. However, ISRO continued to develop critical technologies,” Nair told PTI.

In 2016, Sivan’s predecessor AS Kiran Kumar said the mission to send humans into the space was not a priority. “We need to get the approval for that programme. Till that comes, we are working on some critical technologies, like environmentally-controlled laboratory, flight suite.”