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Fri ,14 Dec 2018

Indian Air Force Deploys Locally-Made AEW&C During Indo-US Exercise

The Indian Air Force has deployed the CI-18, an indigenously made Airborne Early Warning and Control System aircraft (AEW&C) during the COPE India exercise with the United States Air Force.

“The AEW&C system has been recently inducted into the IAF. We have been participating in various exercises. This is the first international exercise we are participating. The aircraft is capable of air-to-air refuelling which gives it enormous flying capability for long durations and large forces engagement,” Group Captain Pradeep Batra who commands AEW&C squadron said in the video posted on IAF’s official social media handles Tuesday.

The AEW&C system, ‘Netra’ developed by Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO), is mounted on a Brazilian Embraer-145 jet. DRDO had purchased three EMB-145 aircraft from Embraer in 2008 and customized them for serving are air-borne radar system known as AEW&CS for the Indian Air Force. Under ” AWACS India ” India plans to build six more next-generation Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) on the Airbus platform to enhance surveillance and detection with longer range. The aircraft are also has a refuelling capability so that it can used for escort aircraft. The AWACS will have a 300-km range and 360-degree angle of coverage as against 200-km range and 240-degree angle of Netra.

This Indian spy-in-the-sky will be protected by a comprehensive self-defense system. The plane can act as a command-and-control center to support air defense operations like the AWACS aircraft India got from Israel, and can monitor multiple target aircraft and areas, DRDO Chairman S Chirstopher has said in Feb last year.



Fri ,14 Dec 2018

India,Russia to boost joint production in defence

Private firms Private will also be involved in manufacturing spares.

India and Russia have agreed on way to simplify export clearances to take forward joint manufacturing in defence. This was among various issues discussed during the 18th meeting of the India-Russia Inter-

Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Russian counterpart General Sergei Shoigu on Thursday.

“The two focus areas of the discussions were on further expanding military to military and defence industrial engagement between the two countries,” a defence source official said on condition of anonymity. India is keen on moving from license manufacturing of defence equipment to joint production under Make in India. This includes allowing Indian companies, both Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSU) and private sector, manufacturing spares for Russian systems in India.

“We have worked out some formats for end use clearances,” the official stated. Eventually India is keen that its companies supply components and spares to export to third world countries. “There is a larger shift to that,” the official explained. The two sides also agreed to take forward inter-governmental arrangements for facilitating joint manufacturing of spares for Russian origin equipment in India, under the ‘Make in India’ initiative, Ministry of Defence (MoD) said in a statement. In this regard, four military -industry conferences were held between Russian manufactures and Indian companies to take the process forward.



Fri, 14 Dec 2018

US Army to get rifles that fire with the power of a battle tank

The U.S. Army is eyeing a new assault rifle that can rip through body armor with the power of a battle tank. A lineup of Next Generation Squad Automatic Rifles (NGSAR) are expected to be in troops hands as soon as 2022, according to [The Military Times](#). The 6.8mm rifles not only pack greater force, but also feature improved precision from greater distances and are also able to handle all-weather and terrain encountered by soldiers. Army officials are so pleased with the outcome that they say the rifles are 'better than any weapon on earth today, by far.

"This is a weapon that could defeat any body armor, any planned body armor that we know of in the future Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley told Military Times. There is a target acquisition system built into this thing that is unlike anything that exists today,' Milley said. He added that it's a 'very sophisticated weapon' that will likely be 'resilient' to many of the conditions soldiers endure. 'It will stand all the rigors of weather, terrain and soldier use, and all of that kind of stuff,' Milley told Military Times. This is a pretty impressive gun. It will be better than any weapon on earth”

Will Rafale deal be probed? SC judgment today

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 13 December

The Supreme Court is scheduled on Friday to pronounce verdict on pleas seeking court-monitored probe in the multi-billion dollar Rafale fighter jet deal with France.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi had reserved its verdict on a batch of pleas on November 14. Advocate M L Sharma was the first petitioner in the case. Later, another lawyer Vineet Dhanda had moved the apex court with the plea for court-monitored probe into the deal.

AAP leader Sanjay Singh has also filed a petition against the fighter jet deal.

After the three petitions were filed, former Union ministers Yashwant Sinha and Arun Shourie along with activist advocate Prashant Bhushan had moved the apex court with a plea for a direction to the CBI to register FIR for alleged irregularities in the deal. The Centre has defended the deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets and opposed public disclosure of the pricing details.

India signed an agreement

with France for the purchase of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft in a fly-away condition as part of the upgrading process of Indian Air Force equipment. The deal is estimated to be about ₹580 billion. The Rafale fighter is a twin-engine Medium Multi Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) manufactured by French aerospace company Dassault Aviation. While reserving the verdict, SC had said that the pricing details of Rafale jets could only be discussed after it decides on whether to make it public.

The observation by an apex court bench had come after the government refused to publicly divulge pricing details of the deal, saying it would give advantage to India's enemies.

While hearing pleas alleging criminality in Rafale deal and seeking court-monitored probe into it, the apex court had asked wide-ranging questions from the government on issues including lack of sovereign guarantee from the French government, selection of Indian offset partner by the Dassault Aviation and need of entering into Inter-Governmental Agreement with France.