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Navy eyeing more ‘submarine killers’

It has already inducted eight aircraft, and placed orders for four more

The Indian Navy is considering the acquisition of more Boeing P-8I aircraft for surveillance and Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), according to Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba.

In an interview to the magazine *India Strategic*, Admiral Lanba said air surveillance capability was an important subset of naval operations and that while the proposal was on the table, he could not disclose the required numbers.

His predecessors have spoken of a requirement of 30 Long-Range Maritime Reconnaissance (LRMR) aircraft, under which the Navy has already inducted eight aircraft and placed an order for four more.

Because of the overall tardy process of routine modernisation of the armed forces over the last 30 years, the Navy has not been able to renew its inventory of submarines but the acquisition of the P-8I (I stands for India) has given it a very strong offensive capability to hunt hostile submarines.

In fact, in terms of contemporary weapon technologies, the P-8I, often referred to as the “submarine killer”, is perhaps the most advanced system that any of the three Indian services have acquired in recent years. The aircraft was deployed in 2013 by the Indian Navy around the same time the U.S. Navy did.

The Defence Ministry has officially stated that the P-8I is “capable of thrusting a punitive response and maintaining a watch over India’s immediate and extended areas of interest”.

Significantly, the agreement for the P-8Is was signed on January 1, 2009, within a couple of months of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks which exposed the vulnerability of the country’s maritime defences.

New assault rifle gears up for trials

By Dinakar Peri

The 7.62-mm automatic rifle with ‘98% consistency’ will replace the in-service INSAS rifle

The trials of an assault rifle being developed by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) have made progress after initial bottlenecks. The sixth round was completed in November by the Project Management Team (PMT) and the OFB is gearing up for consistency trials later this year.

“We are currently assembling 50 rifles from which some of them will be picked up randomly and checked for consistency. This is likely in the first week of May. After that the PMT would decide on the way forward,” a senior OFB official said.

The new 7.62-mm rifle is fully automatic and weighs 4.5 kg. The development of the gun began on October 1, 2016 and some inconsistencies were noticed during the basic trials.

“There was problem with consistency in the firing. The Army wanted 99% consistency and we have now achieved 98%,” he said.

One Army officer said the rifles were being made in small batches and so they “asked the OFB to make at least 50 rifles to check for consistency”.

Tough specifications

The Army has been trying to replace the in-service INSAS rifle with a modern one, but the tender was withdrawn due to overambitious service quality specifications of having interchangeable barrels capable of firing both 5.56-mm and 7.62-mm calibre bullets. The Army has subsequently decided to go for 7.62-mm calibre and issued fresh General Staff Quality Requirements (GSQR).

To meet the immediate requirement and the cost factor, the Army has decided to go for two different rifles — import a high-tech rifle in small numbers for the frontline infantry soldiers and procure the indigenous rifle in large numbers to meet the balance requirement.

“Procurement of assault rifles got delayed because of the to change in the GSQR. We are now going for procurement of an assault rifle with 500 metre range with night vision capability,” Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat said on Friday.

He said the remaining requirement would be through indigenous solutions which would be split between the OFB and the private industry to create competition and get a better product. “The infantry soldier deployed in the front will get the high-tech assault rifle. We have identified the gun and trials are on. We will get it very soon preferably through the government to government route,” Gen. Rawat said.

The Project Management Team, which oversees the development comprises representatives from the Army’s Infantry Directorate, the Ishapore Rifle Factory, the Director-General, Quality Assurance, and the Defence Research and Development Organisation. The initial requirement for 1,85,000 rifles is likely to go up.



Sun, 14 Jan, 2018

New Trump policy could bolster role of nuclear weapons in US

Draft Document Leaked: Policy could explicitly leave open the possibility of nuke retaliation to major nonnuclear attacks

Washington: US President Donald Trump’s administration could pursue development of new nuclear weaponry and explicitly leave open the possibility of nuclear retaliation for major non-nuclear attacks, if a leaked draft policy document becomes reality.

The Pentagon did not comment on the document, which was published by the Huffington Post website and prompted criticism from arms control experts, who voiced concerns it could raise the risks of nuclear war.

The defence department said on Friday it did not discuss “predecision, draft copies of strategies and reviews.”

“The Nuclear Posture Review has not been completed and will ultimately be reviewed and approved by the President and the Secretary of Defence,” the Pentagon said in a statement.

One source familiar with the document told Reuters the draft was authentic, but did not say whether it was the same version that will be presented to Trump for approval.

Trump’s predecessor, Barack Obama, declared his intent to reduce the role of nuclear weapons in his Nuclear Posture Review in 2010, the last time the policy document was crafted.

The Trump administration’s draft document, said that Obama assumptions of a world where nuclear weapons were less relevant proved incorrect.

It more readily embraces the role of nuclear weapons as a deterrent to adversaries, and backs a costly modernisation of the aging US nuclear arsenal.

Foot in mouth disease

US President Donald Trump's description of African and certain Central American countries as "s***holes" is just the latest in a long line of racially charged remarks



S***HOLE COUNTRIES

During a meeting with lawmakers on Thursday, Trump questioned why the US would want to have immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador and African nations, referring to them as "s***hole countries". He also asked why the US could not have more emigrants from Norway

"BIRTH" CONTROVERSY

After flirting with politics in the 1990s and 2000s, Trump shot to political prominence by promoting the falsehood that Barack Obama — US's first African-American president — was not born in the country, and therefore not qualified for the post

MEXICAN "RAPISTS"

Announcing his candidacy for the 2016 presidential elections in 2015, Trump, talking about immigrants from Mexico, said: "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best... They're bringing crime. They're rapists, and some, I assume, are good people"

ANTI-MUSLIM RHETORIC

Trump has repeatedly raised questions about the loyalty of Muslims to the US. He falsely claimed Muslims in New Jersey celebrated after the September 11, 2001 attacks, and after the San Bernardino terror attack, called for a "total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States". After taking office, he restricted immigration from a number of Muslim-majority nations

MEXICAN JUDGE

Trump argued in June 2016 that the Mexican heritage of a US federal judge should disqualify him from presiding over a fraud lawsuit involving Trump University

"VERY FINE PEOPLE"

After a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia resulted in clashes and the death of a protestor, Trump refused to appropriate blame. He said: "I think there is blame on both sides... You also had people that were very fine people on both sides"

The Congressional Budget Office estimated that modernising and maintaining the nuclear arsenal over the next 30 years will cost more than \$1.2 trillion.

The document noted maintenance of the existing stockpile would account for nearly half the projected costs. An effective nuclear deterrent was also less expensive than war, it said.

The draft document noted that Russia and China were modernising their nuclear arsenals, while North Korea's nuclear provocations "threaten regional and global peace."

The draft said the US, while honouring all treaty commitments, would pursue development of a new nuclear-armed sea launched cruise missile.

In what arms control experts said appeared to be a nod to the threat of a devastating cyber attack, the document also left open the possibility of nuclear retaliation in "extreme circumstances."

अमेरिका ने ईरान परमाणु समझौता बरकरार रखा

वाशिंगटन, (भाषा) राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने आर्थिक प्रतिबंधों को हटा कर ईरान परमाणु समझौता बरकरार रखा लेकिन यूरोपीय सहयोगियों तथा कांग्रेस को आगाह किया है कि अगर 2015 में हुए ऐतिहासिक समझौते की खामियों को उन्होंने दूर नहीं किया तो यह माफी आखिरी होगी। व्हाइट हाउस ने बताया कि ट्रंप आखिरी बार ईरान के खिलाफ प्रतिबंधों को माफ करेंगे लेकिन इसके लिए जरूरी है कि अगले 120 दिन के अंदर अमेरिका और यूरोप के बीच एक समझौता हो जाए ताकि परमाणु सौदा मजबूत हो सके। ट्रंप ने एक बयान में बताया “तीव्र अनिच्छा के बावजूद मैंने अब तक अमेरिका के ईरान परमाणु समझौते से अलग नहीं किया है।” उन्होंने अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय, खास कर अपने यूरोपीय सहयोगियों से



ईरान के लिए अंतिम मौका

इसके लिए जरूरी है कि अगले 120 दिन के अंदर अमेरिका और यूरोप के बीच एक समझौता हो जाए ताकि परमाणु समझौता मजबूत हो सके

कहा है कि या तो “संयुक्त समग्र कार्य योजना” को दुरुस्त किया जाए या वह अमेरिका को परमाणु समझौते से अलग कर लेंगे। उन्होंने कहा “यह आखिरी बार है। (अमेरिका

और यूरोपीय शक्तियों के बीच) कोई ऐसा समझौता न होने की स्थिति में अमेरिका ईरान परमाणु समझौते में बने रहने के लिए एक बार फिर से प्रतिबंधों को माफ नहीं करेगा।”

ईरान ने परमाणु समझौते में किसी बदलाव से किया इंकार

तेहरान, (एएफपी): ईरान ने विश्व के शक्तिशाली देशों के साथ अपने परमाणु समझौते में किसी तरह के बदलाव की बात आज खारिज कर दी। विदेश मंत्रालय ने एक बयान में कहा कि ईरान इस समझौते में किसी बदलाव को स्वीकार नहीं करेगा, चाहे यह अब हो या बाद में हो। ट्रंप ने परमाणु से जुड़े प्रतिबंधों में शुक्रवार को फिर से राहत देते हुए यह मांग की है कि यूरोपीय साझेदार समझौते के घातक शर्तों को तय करें, अन्यथा अमेरिका इससे हट जाएगा। उन्होंने कहा

कि नया समझौता को ईरान के मिसाइल कार्यक्रम को रोकना चाहिए और ईरान के परमाणु संयंत्रों पर स्थायी प्रतिबंधों को शामिल करना चाहिए। वहीं, ईरान के विदेश मंत्री मोहम्मद जावेद जरीफ ने कहा कि 2015 में कोई समझौता नहीं किया जा सकता। ईरानी विदेश मंत्रालय के बयान में 14 लोगों पर नये प्रतिबंधों की आलोचना की गई। मानवाधिकार मुद्दों और ईरान के मिसाइल कार्यक्रमों को लेकर ये प्रतिबंध अमेरिका ने शुक्रवार को लगाए।