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Tue, 16 Oct 2018

Sitharaman launches DRDO website themed 'The Kalam Vision – Dare to Dream'

New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI) In a mark to pay respect to former President APJ Abdul Kalam, the government on Monday launched a DRDO website dedicated to the theme 'The Kalam Vision – Dare to Dream' for engaging young minds in emerging technologies namely Artificial intelligence, Cyber security, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. On 87th birth anniversary of the former president, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched the website and said, "He was not only a good scientist but also an excellent administrator who could spot and nurture talent among his team members. That among others made this 'missile man' a great team leader." The website will facilitate open competition for students and Startups. Addressing the gathering, Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre said, "Dr Kalam believed in a strong nation – one that is scientifically superior and always used to inspire people for putting their total commitment towards the mission in hand.

<http://www.uniindia.com/sitharaman-launches-drdo-website-themed-the-kalam-vision--dare-to-dream/india/news/1379902.html>



Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Tue, 16 Oct 2018

DRDO pays tribute to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on his Birth Anniversary

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated the 87th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, the former President of India and DRDO chief at a function in DRDO Bhawan here today. Raksha Mantri Smt Nirmala Sitharaman graced the occasion as the Chief Guest which also had the presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri, Dr Subhash Ramrao Bhamre, and Prof K Vijay Raghavan Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA) to the Government of India, along with other dignitaries.

Speaking on the occasion Smt. Sitharaman shared her experience of meeting with Dr Kalam. She said, he was not only a good scientist but also an excellent administrator who could spot and nurture talent among his team members. That among others made this 'missile man' a great team leader.

Addressing the gathering, Raksha Rajya Mantri said, Dr Kalam believed in a strong nation – one that is scientifically superior and always used to inspire people for putting their total commitment towards the mission in hand. This can be gauged in his words, "If you want to shine like sun, first burn like sun."

Raksha Mantri Smt Sitharaman also launched a DRDO website dedicated to the theme 'The Kalam Vision – Dare to Dream' for engaging young minds in emerging technologies namely Artificial intelligence, Cyber security, Robotics, Autonomous Systems, etc. The website will facilitate open competition for students and Startups. It is available at the address: <https://drdo.gov.in/drdo/kalam/kalam.html>.

Hindi version of the book "Incredible Kalam" was released by RRM Dr Bhamre in today's function so that message of Dr Kalam can reach to the masses of the country. The book is the compilation of personal experiences of some distinguished scientists about their association with Kalam.

The function was attended by Students of three Delhi based schools. These schools have set up Atal Tinkering Lab in their schools under Atal innovation mission of Government of India. Students and researchers from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi also attended the function. The aim of inviting young minds was to motivate them with diverse and great qualities of Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, who had special affinity for students and youth of the country. Young scientists from DRDO laboratories delivered presentations at the function regarding the innovative projects they have undertaken.

The students were taken to visit the Kalam Gallery at DRDO Bhawan to get a glimpse of defence systems and technologies displayed. Students took keen interest in the life and work of Dr Kalam depicted in the gallery.

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184193>



Tue, 16 Oct 2018

Reliance Defence to get 3% of Rs 30,000 crore offset

By Manu Pubby

New Delhi: Reliance Defence could get just over 3% of the Rs 30,000-crore Dassault Aviation offsets contract, contrary to the impression that it is the biggest beneficiary of the Rafale fighter jets deal. The joint venture, Dassault Reliance Aviation Limited (DRAL), will see an investment capped at €100 million (Rs 850 crore) for setting up a plant to manufacture parts for Falcon executive jets, ET has learnt. Additionally, a smaller investment would be made for a joint venture with avionics and radar manufacturer Thales, which is also setting up an assembly plant for radars adjacent to the DRAL complex in Nagpur, ET has been informed.

Officials pointed out that offsets for Rafale are divided into four parts between Dassault (the integrator), Thales (radars and avionics), Safran (engines and electronics) and MBDA (weapons). Out of the total commitment of Rs 30,000 crore, Dassault Aviation has to invest in offsets to the tune of Rs 6,500 crore, according to Air Marshal R Nambiar, deputy chief of air staff till last month. Dassault Aviation chief Eric Trappier has now come on record to say that its joint venture with Reliance Defence is geared towards meeting about 10% of this offset obligation for the Rafale fighter jet deal. “Dassault Aviation decided to set up DRAL joint venture with Reliance and build a plant in Nagpur, which should enable us to meet about 10% of the offset obligations. We are in negotiations with about a hundred Indian companies and partnerships have already been concluded with about thirty of them,” the executive said in an interview to AFP. ET has learnt that though the offset plans have not been formalised and presented to the government yet, there is still time as per the policy till October 2019 to share details with the ministry — the share of offsets for Reliance Defence in the deal could be capped at about 3% of the total offsets.

Other beneficiaries of the contract include the Defence Research and Development Organisation for which negotiations are on to revive the Kaveri jet engine programme. French manufacturer Safran is in talks with the Indian team to work out modalities, including work share and transfer of technology that could be counted towards meeting the offset obligations. Safran is also likely to discharge a part of its commitments through Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with which it has a joint venture to manufacture helicopter engines. Thales is likely to have defence public sector unit Bharat Electronics Limited as a major offset partner, besides Larsen and Toubro.

To boost Defence ties, India, France eye tri-service drills

India and France are laying the groundwork for a new format of military exercises involving their armies, navies and air forces in what will be a major boost for defence cooperation between the two countries. The joint tri-service drills came up for discussion when defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman met her French counterpart Florence Parly in Paris last week to explore ways to strengthen bilateral military ties, a senior official familiar with the developments said on condition of anonymity.

The first such tri-service exercise may take place next year, the official added. The existing military exercises between India and France are army-to-army, navy-to-navy and air force-to-air force. While the navy-to-navy exercise is held annually, the army-to-army drills are biennial. The two air forces exercise together once in three to four years. India and France announced their intention to enhance the level of joint military exercises during a summit between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron in March. Russia is the only country with which India holds a joint tri-service exercise — the first of these was held at Vladivostok last October, when more than 900 soldiers, sailors and air warriors from the Indian military took part in the exercise with over 1,000 personnel from the Russian defence forces.

India and the United States are also in the process of formalising a new tri-service exercise, and discussed it at the inaugural ‘2+2’ dialogue between the two countries last month. The plan to conduct the joint tri-service drill with France is being implemented at a time when the two countries are taking steps to operationalise a logistics support pact, which was signed this March and seeks to extend logistical support on reciprocal access to military facilities.

“The new tri-service drills will help us understand how western forces work in a joint environment,” said Air Vice-Marshal Manmohan Bahadur (retd), additional director general, Centre for Air Power Studies.

Sitharaman’s visit came in the middle of a fresh round of allegations surrounding the Rafale jets deal between India and France that has sparked a bitter political battle between the National Democratic Alliance government and opposition Congress party. Last week, a report in French website Mediapart suggested that Rafale-maker Dassault Aviation was forced to choose Reliance Defence as its Indian offset partner for the deal.

But the French firm reiterated that it had “freely chosen” Anil Ambani’s company and sold 36 fighters to India within the framework of a government-to-government agreement between the two countries.

India, China launch training programme for AF Diplomats

New Delhi: The joint training of Afghan diplomats by India and China is visualised by the government as a long term trilateral partnership for the benefit of Afghanistan, foreign minister Sushma Swaraj said Monday. India and China launched a training programme for 10 Aghan diplomats with Swaraj describing it as charting a new course in partnership with India. “The seeds for joint cooperation in Afghanistan were sown at the meeting between the Prime Minister of India and the President of China when they met in Wuhan in April 2018.

Today, we see it blooming with the initiation of this training programme,” said Swaraj. Swaraj said India was committed to partnering with Afghanistan in its efforts to emerge as a united, peaceful, secure, stable, inclusive and economically vibrant nation. “Development partnership, based on the priorities of the government and the people of Afghanistan has been the cornerstone of our multifaceted bilateral cooperation,” said Swaraj.

The minister said India had also started a scholarship scheme for the next of kin of martyrs of the Afghan National Defence & Security Forces.



Tue, 16 Oct 2018

India to set up 3 new agencies, including cyber and space, to boost defence capabilities

By Sudhi Ranjan Sen

India has moved a step closer to dealing with contemporary and new threats with the Cabinet Committee on Security recently clearing the formation of three agencies, the Defence Cyber Agency, the Defence Space Agency and the Special Operation Division, a government official familiar with the matter said on condition of anonymity.

All three will be tri-service agencies, which means they will draw from each service and serve under the command of the Chairman, Chief of Staff Committee, a second official confirmed. In 2012, the Chiefs of Staff Committee recommended the formation of three separate joint commands — cyber, space and special operations — to deal with new and emerging threats. The Centre has also been pushing for more synergy and “jointness” to prepare for threats from the “emerging triad” of space, cyberspace and special operations for future combat. “It is big a step and these will later branch out to form separate independent, stand-alone Commands dealing with Space, Cyber Space and Special Operations, a third official said. “The agencies will lead to lot more synergy, economy and sharing of resources building of best practices.” China, for instance, has already demonstrated its offensive capabilities in the space. In February, it demonstrated its capability to destroy a target in space. It used a long-range missile interceptor, identified as the DN-3, to accomplish the mission. Earlier in 2010, China used a midcourse interceptor to destroy a target missile roughly 62 miles above the earth’s surface. China is the second country after the US to have demonstrated this capability. The Space agency will deal with issues such as these and work in close coordination with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The Special Operations Division will have commandos from the Indian Army, Navy and the Indian Air Force. They will train together to deal with various exigencies when the need arises.

The Army, Navy and Indian Air Force all have special forces – Para-Commandos, Marine Commandos and the Garud Commandos. However, these train separately and largely operate in silos. The Para- Commandos and the Marine Commandos will form the core of the Special Forces Agency. “An agency for special operations will bring a lot of synergies,” a fourth government official said, asking not to be named.

Hindustan Times learns that the cyber and space agencies will be based out of Delhi for close coordination with their civilian counterparts. Lieutenant General KJ Singh, former Western Army Commander, said it was a good move. “One should hold course and these need to be upgraded to the next level - commands... But these don’t need to be staffed all by the military personnel alone. In the areas of cyber and space, experts on contractual basis should be included to get the best talent. And in the case of special operations, it will be a good idea to include the National Security Guard as well, since the NSG is being used increasingly. They should all train together.”

Navy spots China attack submarine in Indian Ocean

The Indian Navy has spotted a Chinese attack submarine in the Indian Ocean, the first such sighting since last year's Doklam border standoff, said an official familiar with the development. The Chinese navy has deployed a submarine, a Type O39A Yuan class boat, in the ocean for the first time in over a year.

China claims that such deployments are in support of its anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. The submarine is accompanied by a rescue vessel.

In an interview to HT in May, Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba said the People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLAN) is here to stay in the Indian Ocean and its military movement had fuelled concerns about China's intent in the region.

The navy keeps a sharp eye on the pattern and periodicity of extra-regional deployments in the Indian Ocean Region. A fleet of 50 combat-ready Indian warships is carrying out round-the-clock surveillance of the waters. At any given time, China has six to seven warships deployed in the region. The PLAN is known to send two conventional submarines to the area every year, Lanba had said.

Navy officials have maintained that anti-piracy patrols and freedom of navigation are the reasons cited by China for its rising presence in the region.



India, France to make logistics pact operational, explore tri-Service military exercise

New Delhi: India and France have resolved to soon operationalize their bilateral military logistics pact inked in March to provide refueling, repair and berthing facilities to each other's warships and aircraft, even as the two countries discuss the possibility of holding a joint tri-Service exercise sometime in 2019-2020. This came up during defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to France on October 11-12 for the first annual defence dialogue with her French counterpart Florence Parly, who also handed over a letter from President Emmanuel Macron for PM Narendra Modi to reaffirm the expanding bilateral strategic partnership, said sources on Monday. The logistics pact with France, the second such reciprocal agreement after the first one with the US, will allow Indian warships access to French bases at the Reunion Islands near Madagascar and Djibouti on the Horn of Africa. France, incidentally, also has a naval air station in Abu Dhabi (UAE). The Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) inked with the US in 2016, in turn, gives India access to American bases in Djibouti, Diego Garcia, Guam and Subic Bay. Both the pacts, coupled with other moves to establish a couple of turn-around bases in Indian Ocean Region (IOR) countries, are crucial for India to expand its naval footprint to counter China's strategic moves in the region.

China, incidentally, operationalized its first overseas military base at Djibouti in August 2017, apart from already having access to Karachi and other ports in Pakistan for its submarines and warships. Almost around the same time, the Indian Navy launched "mission-based deployments" from the Persian Gulf to Malacca Strait, with around a dozen warships spread across "choke points" in the IOR on round-the-clock patrols for any operational eventuality. During Sitharaman's visit to Paris last week, the two countries also agreed to "expand the scope and complexity" of the regular joint exercises already being held between

their armies (called Shakti), navies (Varuna) and air forces (Garuda), while also bolstering their ongoing maritime security cooperation in the IOR.

France will become only the third country with which India will deploy assets and manpower from its Army, Navy and IAF together when the tri-Service exercise is actually held sometime in 2019-2020. India and the US have decided to hold their first-ever tri-Service amphibious exercise off the eastern coast of India next year, as was first reported by TOI. India had deployed over 900 military personnel, along with multi-role stealth frigate INS Satpura, anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kadmatt and two IL-76 heavy-lift aircraft in the first such tri-Service exercise called "Indra" with Russia in October 2017.

Though the expansive strategic partnership between India and France ranges from space and civil nuclear cooperation to arms acquisitions and joint defence production, the ongoing political slugfest between BJP and Congress over the Rs 59,000 crore contract for 36 Rafale fighters has hogged all the limelight since late last year. Sitharaman, incidentally, also toured the production facilities of Dassault Aviation, which is scheduled to deliver the 36 Rafales to the IAF between November 2019 and April 2022, during her visit.

MAIL TODAY

Tue, 16 Oct 2018

India, France to conduct joint tri-service exercise

By Geeta Mohan
in New Delhi

IN A first with France, New Delhi and Paris are in discussions to conduct bilateral military exercise of all the three wings of the armed forces; Army, Navy and the Air Force.

The discussions took place during the visit of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to Paris last week when both sides discussed way to take forward strategic cooperation

The two nations discuss execution of strategic pact

while also exploring ways to operationalise the logistics agreement.

"We have agreed on a bilateral tri-service exercise with France. The modalities are being worked out and it is likely to be held next year," an official source said on Monday. India and France have been conducting bilateral exercises with individual wing of the armed forces: Shakti, Varuna and Garuda respectively for the Army, navy and Air Force; but this will be the first joint tri-service exercise with France. India has held tri-services military exercises with Russia in October last year and has finalised one with the US to be held next year.

During the visit of the Indian



The discussions took place during Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's visit to Paris last week, when both the sides discussed ways to take forward strategic cooperation.

Defence Minister, the two sides discussed implementation of the 'logistics pact' that would give access to each other's military bases, similar to Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) that India signed with the US.

Sitharaman and her French counterpart Florence Parly discussed 'how to operationalise it and make it happen'. "While the agreement has been signed, we now have to identify specific

aspects to implement it," the source added.

Even as India and France are taking the "strategic" relationship to a greater level, President Macron has written a letter to Prime Minister Modi which was handed over to minister Sitharaman by her counterpart since he could not meet her during her visit as he was out. The letter speaks of the importance of the ties and ways to move forward. It also makes a special mention of Vice

President Venkaiah Naidu's upcoming visit to France representing India at the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Armistice. The Arc de Triomphe will be the focus for international remembrance on November 11, with more than 100 countries due to be represented at the Armistice Day Service.

World War-I ended on Nov. 11, 1918. France and its allies are remembering the 100-year anniversary of the armistice with a series of events. *India Today TV*