

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 43 No. 230 26 October 2018



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय

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Akash Vs SPYDER of Israel: UAE will be the first country in the Gulf to get Made in India Akash

By Humma Siddiqui

At the recently concluded visit by a high-level defence delegation from UAE, 'Made in India' Akash surface-to-air missile system (SAM) was high on the agenda.

Sources confirmed to FE Online that the delegation led by UAE Minister of State for Defence Affairs, Mohammed Ahmed Al Bowardi Al Falacy is keen on buying this missile which has been indigenously made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

If the missile which is totally indigenously is being produced by defence PSU Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), has an interception range of 25-km, is exported to UAE, it will be the first time ever that India would have exported a system like this to a Gulf country.

The missile meant to keep fighter aircraft, helicopters and drones from attacking critical installations is comparable to the SPYDER (Surface-to-air PYTHON and DERBY) Missile of Israel. The SPYDER is a short and medium range mobile air defence system developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems with assistance from Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

India's Akash is packed with a battery that can track and attack several targets simultaneously; the missile can carry a warhead of 60 kgs and can hit the target up to 30 Kms.

The SPYDER is a low-level, quick reaction missile expected to neutralise hostile targets up to 15 km away and at heights between 20 and 9,000 metres.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has already inducted the SPYDER Missile along with the homemade Akash surface-to-air missile (SAM) with a range of 25 km as part of a strategic planning for a double layer approach to defend critical assets and locations in the country.

The Israeli Missile can provide air defence for fixed assets and for point and area defence for mobile forces in combat areas fitted on either Tata Trucks or Scania P-series truck, or a Dongfeng truck.

However, the Akash Missile can be launched from static or mobile platforms and can handle multi-target and destroy manoeuvring targets such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV), fighter aircraft, cruise missiles and missiles launched from helicopters. The system also defends vulnerable areas in all weather conditions against medium-range air targets being attacked from low, medium and high altitudes.

India has made certain changes in its Defence Export Policy which would enable it to export different platforms to friendly nations.

As reported by FE Online earlier, the UAE government is possibly looking at the DRDO-developed Astra 70-kilometer range air-to-air missile too to be fitted on the Mirage fighter planes that it is operating.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/akash-vs-spyder-of-israel-uae-will-be-the-first-country-in-the-gulf-to-get-made-in-india-akash/1361194/>

'It's Advantage Rafale For Future Orders'

We were selected in 2012, but had not been able to finalise the HAL deal even in 2015. It was difficult to agree on who will take responsibility for the aircraft, Dassault or HAL, Trappier tells in an exclusive interview

The opposition has been alleging that ₹ 30,000cr offsets have been gifted to Reliance Defence for the Rafale deal. Is this true? It is totally untrue. We have a partnership with Reliance that started in 2011. We have

been a partner to India for the past 65 years. We want to set up facilities because India wishes to develop its own industry and be a global player. We were looking for private partners to transfer our knowhow and manufacturing to India. We partnered Reliance because it was able to give us facilities and some knowhow about the country while I am the one who knows how to produce the Falcon.

We signed an MoU in February 2012 (with the Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Group), around the same time the Rafale emerged as a winner (in India), and we have continued to work together. My purpose is and was to meet full offset obligations, to set up facilities and to make my own supply chain for the Falcon.

What about the question on ₹ 30,000cr offsets to Reliance Defence? In line with our share, we have invested 49% in the joint venture with a capital of ₹ 70 crore. We will gradually increase the capital in the JV. Our plan is to increase this figure to ₹ 850 cr. So, my investment of about ₹ 425 crore (49%) will be over five years.

It has nothing to do with the big figures I have been hearing. As per the rules of offsets, the contract was government-to-government and at the same time Dassault signed a contract for offset as per the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2013. There was a value to the offsets. The JV will produce parts of Falcon and maybe, one day a complete Falcon 2000 at Mihan. We will get some credits for offsets. Today, if I take the number of deals with different companies, I already have 40% of the obligations covered with 30 companies. One of these is the (Reliance) JV which is 10% of the 40%.

But, the JV has said in press releases it is a key partner in the ₹ 30,000cr offsets? What is important is what we are going to do. It is to produce the Falcon, its parts and parts of Rafale. For me, it is key as I need to transfer to this JV the capacity to produce to western standards. We need to have the right quality to be a global company. It is key because the JV is going to become a global aeronautical company that is founded from scratch.

So, which are the rest of the companies that will be doing the offsets for Rafale? We have a list, the job continues as we are in discussion with over a 100 companies. Thirty of these have already been signed up. They are in Bangalore, in Mumbai, in Pune, all over the country.

There has been a lot of confusion and talk on former President Francois Hollande's statement that the partnership with Reliance was compulsory for the deal? It is very simple, Mr Hollande has himself clarified that the two companies partnered on their own. We found Reliance in 2011-12. This was not at the time of Hollande and not at the time of your incumbent PM. We have been in talks with Reliance for a long ime. I want to make it clear that Dassault Aviation is a partner as the Ambanis are a very respectable family. The two brothers and their mother are well-known in India. We are a familyowned company and we feel comfortable with another family-owned company. Was there any pressure or push from the Indian side on choosing Reliance for the offsets? Not at all. The rules of the Defence Procurement Policy says that the choice of offset partner belongs to the contractor. The French have nothing to say about the choice of partners in India.

When I choose a partner it becomes my responsibility to fulfil the obligations, to quality standards and timing. I made the choice. Has India paid a lot more for the 36 Rafale jets than what it would have paid for the previously negotiated contract? There is a mix-up here. I don't want to disclose the information on the pricing but what I can say is that we had a proposal earlier for 126 aircraft. This was based in two parts. First was for 18 aircraft in flyaway condition and the second was for the production of 108 aircraft which included tools, jigs, manhours and documentation.

The unit price for the 18 flyaway Rafales was what was given to the government. The support (spare parts) was changed to adapt to 36. Then, we started negotiations with MoD. The pricing was kept very low and there was also a rebate of 9% on the total price. If it was double the price, I would have been sent back to France without any contract. Compared to the same (UPA) price, India brought down the cost by 9%. Where is the confusion? Apple to apple, the comparison is between the 18 and 36 flyaway jets.

Were you surprised that the number of aircraft to be bought were brought down to 36 from 126? That was part of the (Indian) decision. We were very firm on getting the deal for 126 planes and we had discussions with HAL as it was the lead production agency. For some reasons, the deal did not go through.

What was the problem? We were selected in 2012 and even in 2015 we had not been able to finalise the deal. I will not say why in details but it was difficult to cope with different requirements. One was who will take the final responsibility for the aircraft, Dassault or HAL? I had said that for the first few aircraft it should

be Dassault and then it should be HAL. We had an excellent relationship with HAL and we had many discussions but for some reason it did not go through. Then, if I understand there was an urgent requirement of the IAF and India requested France to supply the aircraft and finalised the deal for 36 Rafales.

In the Rafale deal, corruption complaints have been filed with the CBI and representations have also been made to the Supreme Court. Are you open to an investigation into the contract? Since 2000, there has been a strong international law on anti-corruption in France and we stick to it. We stick to the laws of France and the laws of India and the law of the contract. We are totally against corruption. If there is any investigation in France or India, we are not only open to the investigation, it is our duty (to respond). We will prove that there is no corruption. We are open, we are engineers and we want to be in India.

We want to develop capabilities in India not only for manufacturing but for design and development. There are many opportunities and we are really enthusiastic to be in India. That is why I am just a little bit sad about the controversy. For me, I am very enthusiastic to be in India, to set up the partnership with Indian companies and our teams are committed to it.

Do you think that signing the deal for 36 jets gives you an advantage for two upcoming contracts for 110 fighter to be made in India and a Naval requirement of 57 jets? The IAF had done a complete evaluation of different competitors that included the F/A 18, the Gripen, the Eurofighter as well as the Russian jet and among them, the Rafale was judged the best. So, it does give us an advantage.

The other advantage is that in the deal for 36 jets, the training of pilots, mechanics and support will already be in place. I will fight to try to get both contracts because Rafale is capable of aircraft carrier operations. It could be a competition between us and the US but we have a very good product. The French forces decided from the start to have an aircraft capable of both land-based and aircraft carrier operations. The Rafale will give India real superiority in the air.



Fri, 26 Oct 2018

Army set to create new positions as part of overhaul

Four expert studies being carried out to right size force

By Dinakar Peri

The Army's biggest reform exercise since independence to rightsize the force and reduce mounting revenue expenditure is likely to see creation of new positions of a third Deputy Chief of Army Staff and a Director General of Strategic Communications, among other measures. "The Directorate of Strategic Communications, in addition to the existing Directorates of Military Operations and Military Intelligence, are likely to be moved under a new Deputy Chief of Army Staff," a defence source said.

The Army currently has two Deputy Chiefs, one for information systems and training and another for planning and systems.

Phased manner

The force is undertaking four studies for its overhaul. At the Army Commanders' Conference earlier this month, it was decided that the "studies would be implemented progressively in a phased manner."

The four studies are for restructuring of Army Headquarters (HQ), restructuring which includes cutting down the strength, cadre review of officers and review of terms and conditions of Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and Other Ranks (OR). "The focus of the studies is holistic integration to enhance the operational and functional efficiency, optimise budget expenditure, facilitate force modernisation and address aspirations," the Army had said earlier.

Apart from the new vacancies, other big changes in the offing include having Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs); shifting the Director General Military Training in the Army HQ to the Army's Training Command at Shimla; reorganising several overlapping divisions at the Army HQ and rightsizing the force over the next 6-8 years. In the next step, all the points made at the Commanders conference will be integrated into the study.

“Then they will be sent for feedback, which will be incorporated and the plan finalised,” the source stated and added that for the IBGs, once the feedback is received, one formation will be identified and the new concepts tested for validation before finalising. While finalising the reorganisation of the Army HQ is likely to take 2-3 months, the concept of Integrated Battle Groups is expected to be finalised in 6-8 months.



Fri, 26 Oct 2018

Russian arms will be unrivalled

Moscow — President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia plans to commission new military weapons that would be unrivalled throughout the world. Putin’s statement follows U.S. President Donald Trump’s announcement that he intends to opt out of a 1987 nuclear arms control pact due to alleged Russian violations. Putin has denied any breaches and accused Washington of violating the pact. “Russia doesn’t threaten anyone, and has strictly adhered to its obligations in the sphere of international security and arms control,” he reiterated while speaking at a meeting with top military officers and law enforcement officials.

At the same time, Putin said Russian arsenals would be modernized to ensure protection from potential threats. The new Russian weapons “significantly excel foreign designs and are simply unrivalled,” he said. His comments came as NATO’s biggest military maneuvers since the Cold War kicked off Thursday in Norway with about 55,000 military personnel. Copyright 2018 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

दैनिक जागरण

Fri, 26 Oct 2018

लद्दाख में भारतीय सीमा में घुसे चीन के दो हेलीकॉप्टर

जेएनएन, नई दिल्ली : आए दिन चीन के सैनिकों के भारतीय सीमा में घुसपैठ की खबरें आती रहती हैं। घुसपैठ की हरकतों से बाज नहीं आ रहे चीन के दो हेलीकॉप्टरों ने भी सीमा लांघने का दुस्साहस किया है। चीन की पीपुल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी के दोनों हेलीकॉप्टर लद्दाख के ट्रिग हाइट्स में घुस आए। यह घटना 27 सितंबर को हुई है। करीब 10 मिनट तक भारतीय सीमा में रहने के बाद दोनों हेलीकॉप्टर अपनी सीमा में लौट गए।

कुछ ही दिनों पहले अरुणाचल

प्रदेश में चीनी सैनिकों ने घुसपैठ किया था। चीनी सैनिक एलएसी क्रास कर अरुणाचल सेक्टर में दाखिल हो गए थे। हालांकि, भारतीय जवानों के समझाने पर वे अपनी सीमा में वापस लौट गए थे।

गौरतलब है कि चीनी सैनिकों ने इसी साल अगस्त में उत्तराखंड के चमोली जिले में घुसपैठ की थी। बताया जा रहा है कि इस दौरान चीनी सैनिक सीमा से चार किलोमीटर अंदर भारत-तिब्बत सीमा पुलिस (आइटीबीपी) की चौकी के करीब तक आ गए। जवानों के कड़े प्रतिरोध के बाद सैनिक वहां से लौटे।