

Sat, 12 Jan 2019

DRDO Chairman G Satheesh Reddy visits SRM AP

Amaravati: SRM University AP hosted G Satheesh Reddy, eminent scientist and Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) Chairman, on the campus. He was formally received by SRM University AP Registrar D Gunasekaran and Deputy Registrar B Sivakumar. Besides SRM AP Faculty, Guntur Joint Collector A Md. Imtiaz was also present on SRMAP campus for the interaction with Reddy. Reddy stressed that while R&D is progressing at breakneck speed the world over, India needs to shift from her dependence on imported technology. He encouraged SRM-AP to emerge as a hub for new technology development. "Faculty at academic institutions like SRM-AP can play a major role in developing processes and technologies to help local industries not only improve product quality and output", he said, "but also indigenously manufacture specialised equipment and machines."

Reddy took a keen interest in faculty research presentations particularly themes relevant to aerospace and defence applications such as advanced materials (high temperature coatings), laser technology (warfare and Tera Hertz applications), additive manufacturing and underwater object detection. Providing pointers on developing new technologies, Reddy appreciated the PhD credentials and vast experience of SRM-AP faculty and invited them to submit proposals in fields relevant to DRDO.

G Satheesh Reddy spoke of matters like aligning future university led research objectives with national priorities. Reddy holds four key national government portfolios; He is Secretary to the Government of India in the department of Defence R&D; Chairman, Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO); Director General, Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister (RM). The faculty of SRMAP expressed their interest in participating with Governmental projects and assist in nation building.

<https://www.thehansindia.com/posts/index/Young-Hans/2019-01-11/DRDO-Chairman-G-Satheesh-Reddy-visits-SRM-AP/473360>



Fri, 11 Jan 2019

India gets its own Standards for Bullet resistant jackets; to supply the jackets to South East Asia

The standard has been customised to Indian needs and would eventually lead to reduction in fatal casualties to the security forces wearing such jackets

By Huma Siddiqui

The first-ever Indian Standard (IS) on Bullet Resistant Jacket for protection against small arms and ammunition for the defence, paramilitary and police forces was released today.

As has been reported by the Financial Express Online earlier, after a long time India will have its own Standard for Bullet Proof Jackets (BPJ): IS17051:2018, which has now been finalized. The standard prescribes minimum requirements of bulletproof jackets against small arms & their evaluation procedures.

IS 17051-2018 specifies five size designations based on chest/bust girth- XS (72-80 cm), S (above 80-88), M (above 88-96), L (above 96-104), XL (above 104-112). And shall be designed ergonomically to minimize restrictions of movement, which has been ensured by conducting field tests by personnel.

It also includes optional requirements of Quick release system, Dynamic weight distribution system and high buoyancy jackets and covers physical requirements like protection area of Soft armour panel (SAP) (Front, back, groin, neck, collar etc) and Hard armour panel (HAP), (Front, Back and side for 360 degree

protection), maximum aerial densities of BR panels and total weight of jacket. It also specifies six threat levels faced by Indian Army and Para military (Level 1 to 6).

The standard has been adopted by Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) after the draft finalised by the Textiles Protective Clothing Sectional Committee was approved by the Textile Divisional Council.

The adoption of the standard is considered as a milestone in setting minimum performance requirements of bullet resistant jackets and screens their supply so that only acceptable quality reaches the user.

The standard has been customised to Indian needs and would eventually lead to reduction in fatal casualties to the security forces wearing such jackets. Until now, the bullet proof jackets and helmets being provided to the Indian security forces is based on the NIJ III+ Standard, which refers to ballistic resistance of a body armour.

At a meeting jointly organised by industry body Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and BIS, Prof K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India, said that the action now would be on addressing the queries and concerns of industry by BIS and DRDO labs and equipment and methodologies for testing the standard which falls into the broader category of technical textiles.

The challenge is reducing the weight of the jacket from 10.5 kg to 6 kg in consonance with scientific criteria. And the IS for bullet resistant jackets is expected to help in speeding up procurement by the user agencies and in testing of materials. The standard should be adopted in all procurement orders of the security forces.

According to Surina Rajan, Director General, BIS, said, “Our work begins now as we have the indigenous capacity to go to the next level, i.e. use of lighter material for jackets. The standard could become a base to supply the jackets to South East Asia where the requirements are similar to India’s.”

The new standard may not be uniform for different security forces operating in different types of terrain. Therefore, standards have to be dynamic and change with the change in conditions, Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO, pointed out.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/india-gets-its-own-standards-for-bullet-resistant-jackets-to-supply-the-jackets-to-south-east-asia/1439894/>



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Indian Army will get new sniper rifles by January 20, says General Bipin Rawat

By February or March, the DRDO will be giving us the final timeline as to when the ordered missile and rocket can be introduced, said General Bipin Rawat

Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat has said that the Northern Command of the defence force will get new sniper rifles by January 20. During his annual press briefing in the national capital on Thursday, the Army chief also said a final deadline on ordered and missile and rocket is expected from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) by February or March, 2019.

General Rawat, however, added that if the deadlines are not met, then the Army can explore the options of importing the same.

“By February or March, the DRDO will be giving us the final timeline as to when the ordered missile and rocket can be introduced. If they are failing and timelines are not being met, then we go in for the import mechanism,” said the Army chief.

Talking about the situation along the International Border and the Line of Control (LoC), General Rawat said that “there are around 300 terrorists waiting across the LoC to infiltrate into India”. He, however, added that “we have managed the situation well along borders with China and Pakistan”.

When asked about the modus operandi of the Army in tackling such situations, the Army chief said, “Army is using quadcopters for surveillance of areas for information if somebody is lying there or you can see some warlike material in an area. Then we try and cautiously approach that area where either there's poor visibility or while taking difficult area.”

Talking about the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, General Rawat conceded that the situation in the state needed to be improved further. “We are just facilitators for peace in Jammu and Kashmir,” he added.

On the issue of Army veterans, General Rawat said that he had noticed some “kind of disunity among some of our veterans”. He said, “I think they (veterans) need to be united. Our veterans are a very strong community which is required to support the mainstream, they can do that if they unite and remain united.”

<http://zeenews.india.com/india/indian-army-will-get-new-sniper-rifles-by-january-20-says-general-bipin-rawat-2169557.html>

THE
WIRE

Sun, 13 Jan 2019

Centre Plans to Introduce Plastic Bullets in Kashmir.

Are They Really 'Non-Lethal'?

*“If a plastic bullet hits the face or any vital organ, it is very likely to prove fatal,”
said a DRDO scientist who was part of the team that designed these bullet*

By Mudasir Ahmad

Srinagar: The Centre plans to replace deadly pellet guns with supposedly non-lethal plastic bullets in Kashmir to deal with street protests. However, a senior scientist at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) who was involved in designing the bullets cautions against considering them non-lethal.

“If a plastic bullet hits the face or any vital organ, it is very likely to prove fatal,” Dr Prince Sharma of the DRDO said in an exclusive telephonic conversation with The Wire. “But one advantage with these bullets is that they can be used for precise targeting [...] you can hit only one person at a time unlike pellets balls, which can target hundreds of people at a time.”

A consignment of these plastic bullets has been handed over to the ordnance factory in Varangaon, Maharashtra for mass production before the Ministry of Home Affairs “evaluates” them for use by the security forces, revealed Sharma.

These plastic bullets, Sharma said, are entirely different but can be fired from AK-47 rifles. “If you aim and hit below the waist with plastic bullets it’s not likely to prove fatal, but the probability of fatality will be more if the bullet hits any vital organ,” reiterated Dr Sharma.

A news report on January 6 said the Centre was planning to replace pellet shotguns, originally designed for hunting animals, with plastic bullets. The government has been facing growing criticism nationally and internationally for leaving hundreds blinded and maimed due to pellet injuries in Kashmir.

“A plastic bullet’s lethality is 500 times less than pellets. It can be used for targeted shooting in a riot situation,” Manjit Singh, director of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh, which developed the ammunition, was quoted by the media as saying.

The Wire contacted the offices of Singh to get his comments on plastic bullets, but his public relations officer Manoj Atwal said Singh was “out of station”. However, he confirmed they have passed on “samples” of plastic bullets to the paramilitary forces for “tests” after carrying out experiments at the lab level.

<https://thewire.in/rights/centre-wants-to-introduce-plastic-bullets-in-kashmir-are-they-really-non-lethal>