

Defence Minister evolves methodology to prevent ammunition accidents

New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the recommendations of the Task Force of Experts to evolve methodology to prevent ammunition accidents and minimise its effects.

As directed by the minister, the Task Force was constituted by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy, headed by Lt Gen Philip Campose, former Vice Chief of Army Staff and members from the Services, OFB, DGQA and DRDO, the ministry said.

Mr Singh emphasised that the safety of the soldiers and the common people are of paramount importance and lauded the efforts of DRDO which has come up with several scientifically designed ammunition store houses, that prevents loss of life, even if accidents take place.

The Task Force Chairman, Lt Gen (Retd) Philip Campose explained the causes for ammunition accidents and brought out preventive and mitigative measures.

The recommendations of the Task Force were appreciated by the the minister and gave directions to expedite implementation.

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/india/defence-minister-evolves-methodology-to-prevent-ammunition-accidents/1660161.html>



Rajnath Singh reviews recommendations of Task Force of experts formed to prevent ammunition accidents

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the recommendations of the Task Force of Experts formed to evolve the methodology to prevent ammunition accidents and minimise its effects

New Delhi Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the recommendations of the Task Force of Experts formed to evolve the methodology to prevent ammunition accidents and minimise its effects. The Task Force was constituted by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy, headed by Lt Gen Philip Campose, former Vice Chief of Army Staff and members from the Services, Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), DGQA and DRDO.

"Defence Minister emphasised that the safety of the soldiers and the common people are of paramount importance and lauded the efforts of DRDO which has come up with several scientifically designed ammunition storehouses, that prevents loss of life, even if accidents take place," Ministry of Defence said in a release. The Task Force Chairman, Lt Gen (Retd) Philip Campose explained the causes for ammunition accidents and brought out preventive and mitigative measures.

According to the official statement, the recommendations of the Task Force were appreciated by the Defence Minister who gave directions to expedite implementation. (ANI)

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/politics/591640-politics-rajnath-singh-reviews-recommendations-of-task-force-of-exports-formed-to-prevent-ammunition-accidents>



Wed, 10 July 2019

Is India working on Agni-6? What could be the ramifications if it is test fired

By Vikas SV

New Delhi: Ballistic missiles play a key role in the international geopolitics. The range and type of warhead a missile can carry determines what is called a sphere of influence of particular nation. Long range nuclear capable missiles are strategic weapons which means that it can not only spook the enemy nation with possible consequences if used, but can also serve as a deterrent. Deterrence, in layman terms, is nothing but planting the fear of retaliation in the mind of the adversary.

Most long range nuclear capable ballistic missiles with advance striking capabilities are developed to serve as deterrents. The basic concept is 'If you strike, I can strike back and wreak havoc', it is this fear that prevents war and hostility.

Coming to Indian ballistic missiles, Agni-5 is India's most advanced long range missile which was inducted into the service after multiple trials. Whenever Agni series missiles are test fired, especially Agni-4 and Agni-5, a prompt statement comes from both China and Pakistan. The Chinese response to Agni-5 tests are particularly elaborate as this missile can reach almost all parts of the Chinese mainland.

There have been speculations that India could be working on a longer range ballistic missile - Agni-6. While some reports have suggested that Agni -6 could be in the hardware development phase, some others have gone on to the extent of claiming that Agni VI is being given the finishing touches by the DRDO. The DRDO and the MoD have been tight-lipped about it and no clear statement has been given in this regard.

The fourth test of the nuclear-capable, intercontinental Agni-V missile on 26 December 2016, it was reported that Agni-6 could be armed with MIRV (multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles) capability which is an advanced technology that allows a single missile to carry multiple warheads, with each warhead capable of striking a different target.

Agni-6 could be an ICBM with 8,000 km - 10,000 km range. Developing it or even the mere announcement that India would be developing it in future is a very tricky situation. For one, India would be breaking out of the regional context. Range of ballistic missiles is a contentious issue. Many European nations and experts in the US are likely to argue that why should India develop a 10,000 kms range ICBM when its furthest rival is China.

The range of Agni 5 itself is a mystery of sorts as China claims that it can travel as far as 8,000 kms. The DRDO claims that Agni 5 has a range of 5,000 kms.

After Agni-5's previous test, China's ruling Communist Party-run tabloid Global Times said in its editorial, "India has broken the UN's limits on its development of nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missile...New Delhi is no longer satisfied with its nuclear capability and is seeking intercontinental ballistic missiles that can target anywhere in the world and then it can land on an equal footing with the UN Security Council's five permanent members."

While accusing India of violating limits imposed by UN on nuclear and long range missile development, the editorial further said that Pakistan should have those privileges in nuclear development that India has.

"In general, it is not difficult for India to produce intercontinental ballistic missiles which can cover the whole world. If the UN Security Council has no objection over this, let it be. The range of Pakistan's nuclear missiles will also see an increase," it said.

In a way China is hinting that it would back Islamabad if Pakistan chooses to develop long-range missiles. Now that would seriously hamper peace and stability in the sub-continent, as the existing reasons were enough.

If India unveils Agni 6, then it may irk the US and some European countries. India would be risking sanctions if it blatantly goes ahead and tests Agni 6. India is a rising economic power and at this juncture, it would not like to sour economic ties with Europe. A missile of 10,000 km range is bound to make European nations uncomfortable and this may have an impact on trade ties.

What do we know so far about Agni-6 or Surya ICBM

The information here is based on what is available in the public domain. We would like to mention at the outset that all these are based on speculations in leading defence publications.

Many reports have claimed that the DRDO is working on a three-stage Agni VI missile. Agni 6 could be a three-stage solid fuel ICBM missile which will be heavier and thicker than the Agni-V. Agni-VI could possibly be able to carry 3 tonne warheads thrice that of Agni-V which can carry only 1.1 Tonne warheads. Agni-VI will be the first missile to have the capability to carry 4 or 6 multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles (MIRV) payloads.

It would be based on the components of the polar space launch vehicle (PSLV) and the Agni IRBM, and that it will have a range between 8000 and 12,000 kms.

DRDO usually has a development gap between each Agni-series of around 4-5 years. It has been over 5 years since Agni-V was developed and this has led to speculation that its successor could be ready.

<https://www.oneindia.com/india/is-india-working-on-agni-6-what-could-be-the-ramifications-if-it-is-test-fired-2916461.html>



Wed, 10 July 2019

Thanks to MTCR, India's BrahMos became a whole lot deadlier

The world's fastest supersonic cruise missile, BrahMos has turned deadlier with the new technological advancements made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The missile which was earlier capable of striking upto 300 km range, will now be able to strike as far as 500 km after the latest tests, according to CEO of Brahmos Aerospace, Sudhir Kumar Mishra.

This development came after India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) last year.

"India has successfully test fired a vertical deep dive version of BrahMos, world's fastest supersonic cruise missile, that can now change the dynamics of conventional warfare. The upgraded version of the missile with enhanced range of upto 500 km is also ready," Mishra told in an interview to the Doordarshan news.

The new test has made India the only country in the world to have successfully integrated long-range missiles into fighter jets. DRDO has integrated and tested the BrahMos with Indian Air Forces (IAF) mainstay fighter jet Sukhoi 30.

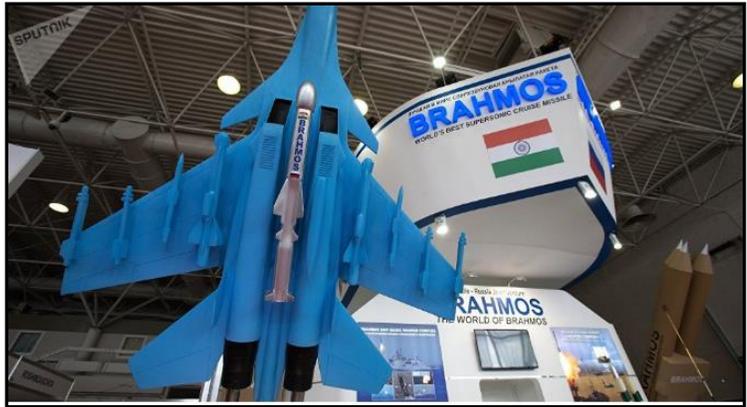
BrahMos travels at 2.8 Mach, which is almost three times the speed of sound. It is also the heaviest weapon to be deployed onboard Sukhoi 30.

“We can take on any ship at sea up to 300 to 400 km far away and after sometime, maybe longer, we can take on land targets up to hundreds of km and with the test that we have conducted some time back, ranges up to thousands of km,” Mishra said.

Mishra added that the BrahMos has become the mainstay weapon of choice for the Army, Air Force and Navy, and the steep 90-degree version has come out as an ultimate aircraft hitter.

The joint venture which started with ₹1,300 crore, has now become a ₹48,000 crore entity, as per reports.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/Thanks-to-MTCR,-Indias-Brahmos-became-a-whole-lot-deadlier-585716>



Wed, 10 July 2019

DRDO gets clearance for missile test facility in A.P.

Defence Ministry says it is a strategic requirement

By T. Appala Naidu

Machilipatnam: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has granted environment and Coastal Regulatory Zone clearances for setting up Missile Testing Launch Facility on the Bay of Bengal coast and Technical Facility at Gullalamoda village in Krishna district.

With this, all necessary clearances to begin the construction work have been obtained by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The Hindu has access to a copy of the EC and CRZ clearance that was communicated by MoEFCC to K. Radhakrishna, Chief Construction Engineer (R&D)-S, Defence Research and Development Organisation, Secunderabad, on July 3.

The EC and CRZ clearance document says: “There is confirmation from Secretary, Ministry of Defence, that this project is a strategic requirement and of national importance and cannot be located anywhere else. It is thus exempted from the public hearing as per EIA notification 2016.”

The Environmental Appraisal Committee of the MoEFCC appraised the DRDO’s EC and CRZ applications during its 34th meeting in August 2018.

Technical studies

IIT-Madras and WAPCOS have done the key technical studies required for the project.

The MoEFCC has also placed 11 conditions, including preparation of Oil contingency management plan and disaster management plan, before the commencement of the construction of the project.

The DRDO has proposed to set up the project on 154.4 hectares in the Krishna Wildlife Sanctuary in Krishna district.

Robust plan

The technical facility will be developed on 130.15 hectares, while the test facility will come up on the 6.07 hectares, according to the project design.

“The DRDO has already prepared a robust plan to commence the construction work. All the necessary procedures to begin the construction work have been completed,” sources associated with the project told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/drdo-gets-clearance-for-missile-test-facility-in-ap/article28339037.ece>