

Sat, 13 July 2019

Failed trials led to cancellation of \$500m Spike Missile deal with India

The Indian army has reportedly axed a \$500 million Spike anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) deal with Israeli firm Rafael after the missiles failed to clear the trials conducted by the Indian army last year.

According to the media, the sensors of the Spike ATGM could not identify the target when the army was testing the missile at Pokhran, Rajasthan state.

"The missile failed in multiple areas during summer trials. Sensors failed to detect the target during trials carried out in Pokhran," a source familiar with the development said.

India was earlier looking forward to buy 21 launchers, 8356 missiles, and 15 simulators from Rafael. New Delhi has stated that the deal was cancelled to favour the "NAG" man-portable ATGM, developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

In February of last year, the Indian defense ministry had said that "there is no need to acquire transfer of technology with the ATGM system on account of indigenous development of third-generation Man-Portable ATGM."

The DRDO has been working on the "fire-and-forget" NAG ATGM since 2009 and has spent approximately \$47 million (INR 322 crore) on its development. The NAG has a lock-on-before-launch capability range of 4 km, making it the longest in the world. The missile recently entered a series of last-leg trials ahead of its induction into the army.

It is a third-generation missile developed to support both mechanised infantry and airborne forces of the Indian Army. Nag can be launched from land and air-based platforms.

The missile is deployed on a specially modified BMP-2 Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV) called the 'NAMICA.'

Once launched, the NAG doesn't need to be guided, allowing the launcher to seek cover.

The missile can use its autonomous on-board guidance to hit even a fast-moving tank. It uses indigenous image-seeking optical guidance, making it virtually jam-proof, unlike the infra-red seekers of Javelin and Spike missiles.

https://www.defenseworld.net/news/25120/Failed_Trials_Led_to_Cancellation_of_500M_Spike_Missile_Deal_with_India



Sat, 13 July 2019

Seminar held on indigenisation in IAF

Vadodara: A seminar on "Innovation and Indigenisation" was conducted by the headquarters of South Western Air Command (SWAC) at the Air Force Station here Friday. It was aimed at promoting indigenisation in the IAF, strengthening private-public partnership in self-reliance and giving a boost to 'Make in India' programme, a defence release said.

Air Marshal H S Arora, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief SWAC; other senior IAF officers, senior officials of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and a few industrialists spoke at the seminar. Presentations were made on 'Indigenisation Opportunities in IAF', 'Technology Development Fund Scheme' and 'Indigenisation Procedures' for the benefit of the industry, the release said.

As many as 35 innovations undertaken by IAF units in South Western Air Command were displayed. Twenty-five manufacturers, mostly from Gujarat, dealing in Defence and Aerospace, also displayed their products.

Items identified for development by private Indian industry were also displayed for potential vendors, the release said. It provided "insight to the industry on indigenisation requirements of IAF, airworthiness certification and quality assurance requirements for airborne indigenous products along with indigenisation procedures", it added..

(This story has not been edited by Devdiscourse staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.)

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/business/595388-seminar-held-on-indigenisation-in-iaf>



Fri, 12 July 2019

Indian Army invokes emergency powers to buy Israel's fire-and-forget anti-tank missiles

- *Indian Army has placed fresh orders for Spike which is an anti-tank missile, from Israel using its emergency purchase powers.*
- *The procurement was discussed at the annual Army Commanders meeting in April and the orders have been placed this month.*
- *The missiles come with a 4 kilometer range and can be fired from various platforms.*
- *DRDO successfully tested indigenous Nag anti-tank missiles in July.*

Indian Army's fire power is set to get turbocharged as it placed orders for Israel's anti-tank Spike missiles.

Spike is an advanced missile system which is known as fire-and-forget guided missile, developed by the country. The Army invoked its power to make emergency purchases for operational preparedness to place this order, reported the Economic Times.

The missiles come with a range of four kilometres and can be deployed in mountainous terrain as well and plains.

The missiles are also special as they can be deployed and launched from different platforms including land vehicles, helicopters, ships and ground launchers, as per sources.

After the Balakot strike

The procurement of the missiles was discussed after the Balakot strike in April, during the annual Army Commanders meeting. The proposal was cleared in the meeting itself, and the orders were made placed this month.

The special powers for procurement of weapons were given to the three armed forces after the IED blast in Pulwama on February 14, which had killed more than 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personals. The forces have special powers to procure equipment worth ₹300 crore.

These orders have been placed after the three service chiefs and Defence ministry officials made a presentation before the its Minister Rajnath Singh, soon after he took charge last month.

While the Indian Army is prioritising the purchase of precision guided missiles for its artillery ammunition, India itself is developing indigenous anti-tank missiles. Recently, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested Nag anti-tank missiles on July 7 in the Pokhran firing range, as per ANI.

<https://www.businessinsider.in/indian-army-places-order-for-israels-anti-tank-spike-missiles/articleshow/70175141.cms>

The Tribune

Sat, 13 July 2019

Defence budget and internal reforms

The revenue expenditure should be brought within sustainable limits. The salary bill is the largest culprit. The defence pensions expenditure should also be reformed since soon it will account for the entire kitty of the Central Government's pension liabilities

By Bhartendu Kumar Singh

Defence budgets are opportunities for discussing and suggesting alternatives to overcome the resource constraints. But most reactions to this year's defence budget have not gone beyond usual discordant notes of disappointment, dissatisfaction and the so-called ill effects on the services' modernisation programme. Fulcrums of opinion, however, miss out that the defence budget, pegged at 2 per cent of the GDP, is in sync with progressive trends in defence economics. The real challenge is to discuss those core economic reforms in the defence sector that would facilitate optimisation of the official budget along with revenue supplementation.

Nearly all reactions to the defence budget boil down to one thing: shortage of funds for buying new weaponry. Given the fund commitments and outstanding liabilities, we may have to stagger some procurement payments for subsequent financial years. While the protagonists of the 'more and more' school are aware about the difficulties in a liberal dose of the budget to the defence sector at the cost of other sectors, they do not want to introspect and check if they can suggest the resources inhouse. Such resource perspective arises out of their philosophical determinism that military prowess is the dominant 'token of power' in international relations. They love talking about a security analysis framework in which the entire discourse revolves around the military sector; often quite ignorant and dismissive of other sectors that are equally important for our comprehensive security.

However, military power is no more the dominant currency in contemporary international relations. Inter-state wars, including great power wars, have drastically come down. The hollowness of power and security provided by military power stands thoroughly exposed. The fad for maintaining larger armies has come down and most great powers have drastically reduced their armed forces' numbers. Concurrently, economic dimension of power, along with other dimensions, has gained prominence. Geo-economic tools have emerged as the dominant mode of inter-state coercion, bargaining, coalitions and negotiated agreements.

Conservative scholars also blissfully remain victims of the 'efficient war hypothesis' in their military paradigm discourses and always blame shortages of budgetary resources for capability gaps. Their framework of analysis has only one benchmark — how other countries are spending. Authoritarian set-ups like China and Pakistan are role models for ideal defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP. Little credence is given to the fact that there is internationally no determined benchmark for defence expenditure as a percentage of GDP. At times, obsession with percentage