

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 44 No. 51 13 March 2019



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय

Defence Science Library

रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केन्द्र

Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre

मैटकॉफ हाऊस, दिल्ली - 110 054

Metcalfe House, Delhi - 110 054

Five BrahMos NG missiles all set to be integrated with Su-30MKI fighters; LCA Tejas to get supersonic missile first

New Delhi: Five missiles of the next-generation version of the BrahMos could be integrated with the Indian Air Force's (IAF) Sukhoi 30-MKI fighters, reports *Financial Express*. The BrahMos NG is a lighter version of the supersonic missile, and will first be integrated with the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

The move is expected to bolster the IAF's future fighting capabilities against any threat from China or Pakistan. The standard BrahMos missile has a range of 300 km and can travel at speeds of up to 2.9 mach. However, the NG version is much faster, capable of reaching speeds of up to 3.5 mach.

"The new BrahMos NG missiles will provide future-ready air dominance to the Indian Air Force. The design and development of the BrahMos NG is being done by the DRDO," stated CEO and MD of BrahMos Aerospace Dr Sudhir Mishra.

He explained that even though the BrahMos is a joint venture between India and Russia, the new BrahMos NG will, for the most part, be a 'Make in India' product.

Another advantage of the new version is that it will cost only half as much as the existing model. Being light-weight, the BrahMos NG will also be easier to adjust according to the weight carrying limitation of the LCA Tejas.

The new BraMos NG missile will provide the IAF teeth to particularly target enemy AWACS (Airborne Early Warning and Control System), refuelling and transport aircraft. The NG version will also be capable of being fitted on to submarines and torpedo tubes.

<https://swarajyamag.com/insta/five-brahmos-ng-missiles-all-set-to-be-integrated-with-su-30mki-fighters-lca-tejas-to-get-supersonic-missile-first>

The Tribune

DRDO successfully conducts 3rd Pinaka rocket test

New Delhi: The Defence Research and Development Organisation on Tuesday successfully test-fired the multi-barrel rocket system Pinaka from Pokhran range in Rajasthan for the third time.

The earlier two tests were conducted on Monday.

"All the three trials met the mission objectives. The consecutive successful missions of guided Pinaka prove the efficacy, reliability and high precision capabilities of the weapon system," the DRDO said in a statement.

The weapon system, mounted on a Tatra truck, is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance kit comprising



an advanced navigation and control system.

On Monday, the weapon system impacted the intended targets with high precision and achieved desired accuracies in both the trials.

The telemetry systems tracked and monitored the vehicle all through the flight path, the defence PSU said.

The indigenously developed Pinaka will significantly boost the capability of the artillery to make precision hits, it added.

The system has a maximum range of 40 km for Mark-I and 75 km for Mark-II, and can fire a salvo of 12 rockets in 44 seconds. — IANS

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/drdo-successfully-conducts-3rd-pinaka-rocket-test/742030.html>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Wed, 13 Mar 2019

Chinese materials find way into army bulletproof vests

40% of the jacket material, comprising fabric and boron carbide powder, are being imported from China

By Manu Pubby

New Delhi: China may be standing in the way of a United Nations ban on terrorist leader Masood Azhar but its companies are getting a large chunk of the Rs 639-crore Indian Army order for new bulletproof jackets. Azhar heads the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist group that's responsible for numerous attacks in India, including the one in Pulwama on February 14 that led to heightened border tensions.

Chinese companies are now the main overseas raw material source for the 180,000- jacket order after Indian company SMPP changed its suppliers after winning the bid in April last year.

The order has been described by the government as one of its biggest contributions for soldiers who have been denied similar jackets in the past. ET has found that 40% of the jacket material, comprising fabric and boron carbide powder, are being imported from China.

ET has learnt that during the selection process, SMPP presented jackets that contained raw material from western sources in Europe and the US but changed its suppliers after winning the contract. The company said this will make no difference to the product.

“Yes, we have changed the suppliers and have informed the army about it. There is no change of quality and the jackets are of the same standard that was tested,” SMPP executive director Ashish Kansal told ET.

Records available with ET show that at least Rs 26 crore have been paid to a



Behind the Armour

SMPP SELECTED IN APRIL 2018 TO SUPPLY 186,000 BULLETPROOF JACKETS TO INDIAN ARMY

Order value ₹639 cr, SMPP has been already paid more than ₹60 crore	But it is sourcing 40% of raw material from Chinese suppliers
Go to supply first batch of 10,000 jackets by Apr 2019	
SMPP presented jackets that contained raw material from sources in Europe and the US	Company claims this will make no difference to product quality

set of Chinese companies operating in Beijing's Changping district by SMPP since it won the order last year and that the material has been delivered to the Indian company at its manufacturing unit.

SMPP has been paid more than Rs 60 crore in advance.

Jackets Being Thoroughly Tested Officials say the first batch of 10,000 jackets are being accepted after a series of firing tests to check for quality.

The Indian Army did not respond to queries by ET. However, the jackets are being thoroughly tested before acceptance and force majeure cannot be invoked by the Indian company in case its suppliers back off in any eventuality, said the people cited above.

Defending the change of suppliers, SMPP said it had driven down costs by going directly to the manufacturers of the material instead of western suppliers that were getting it from the same source. "Even during the testing phase, five out of the 10 competitors had jackets with Chinese materials. They were not disqualified for that reason," Kansal said.

The biggest of the four suppliers – Beijing Protech New Material Science Company Ltd – said in its profile that the company was started in 2003 and that its products have been certified by the Chinese government. A listing on Chinese portal Alibaba showed that 45% of its exports are to the Middle East and 10% to Southeast Asian companies.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/chinese-materials-find-way-into-army-bulletproof-vests/articleshow/68384425.cms>

The Tribune

Wed, 13 Mar 2019

Slowdown no deterrent to China's defence spend

Beyond numerical polemics, what distinguishes China's defence budget is its capability to optimise expenditure, best reflected in its political economy of development and military modernisation. Here is a country that swiftly converted itself from being the largest arms importer to a lead exporter

By Bhartendu Kumar Singh

Understanding China's defence budget is a difficult exercise. While the traditional knowledge gap between global perceptions and Chinese official pronouncements has narrowed in recent years, the mystery remains. Therefore, when China hiked its 2019 defence budget recently by 7.5 per cent to \$177.5 billion, the official narrative of the single-digit growth since 2016 due to 'slow economic growth' was unconvincing. China still hides its correct defence budget and finances them from discreet sources; the traditional correlation between the GDP growth rate and the defence budget is being diluted. China will fund its military modernisation process, irrespective of its economic performance.

After years of rapid growth, China's GDP is growing slowly, though from a much higher base. For some Chinese, the slowing growth is a natural consequence of a maturing economy. Officially, China has been very candid about this, as reflected in this year's Work Report that speaks of a lower GDP target of 6 to 6.5 per cent against 6.5 per cent last year. This is a sharp fall from the double-digit growth until a few years ago and reflects China's slowing economy and uncertainty in futuristic outcomes. It is also true that the double-digit growth of economy in the past enabled China to facilitate double-digit hikes for the defence budget. In the process, China became the second largest defence budget holder and military power after the US.

However, China's sluggish economic growth would not anyway constrain a liberal dose for the defence budget. Several factors allude to this reality. First, China's PLA (People's Liberation Army) is undergoing a massive structural, technological and operational transformation. While China would save some money due to manpower reduction of 3 lakh soldiers from the PLA's payrolls by 2020, it

would still need more to finance its various activities in high-tech military power. The military R&D, for instance, has started paying dividends and needs further push for self-sustenance in leapfrogging technologies. Second, China is almost bogged down with the immediate issues of Taiwan and South China Sea, where its military confidence and resilience is being severely tested by regional players in alliance with the US. China has made huge financial investments in shoring up its confidence, but the tempo needs to be maintained for dominating the game in the long term. Third, Chinese official and unofficial figures are not even one-third of the US defence budget, proposed at \$750 billion for 2019. With this money, China can only tease the Americans and not challenge or harm them.

Even if Chinese facts, figures and statements on the defence budget are taken at face value, they still reflect a larger base. So, even a marginal increase in percentage terms converts to substantial amount in real terms and enables China to widen the gap with other countries with the sole exception of the US. According to the Military Balance 2019, Russia-China defence budget gap has widened significantly in the past decade. In 2008, China spent 1.5 times more than Russia on estimated total military expenditure. In 2017, this gap increased to 2.4 times, when measured in real terms. China is already spending 3.5 times higher than the Indian defence budget. Much of Chinese increases have come between 2006 and 2016, during which the global defence expenditure was almost stagnant or rose marginally like 1.1 per cent in 2017. It emerges, therefore, that global recession or its own slow growth do not cut into the Chinese defence budget growth.

Beyond numerical polemics, what distinguishes China's defence budget is its capability to optimise expenditure, best reflected in its political economy of development, military modernisation and a grand strategy. For the first two decades of economic reforms under Deng Xiaoping, China focused on agricultural, industrial and trade reforms as part of 'four modernisations'. Military reforms were the last priority. Thus, China had ample time and resources to focus on development issues. This approach validates the primacy of butter in the 'guns vs butter debate'. China's defence modernisation is another test case. Here is a country that swiftly converted itself from being the largest arms importer to a lead exporter. China produces almost all big-ticket military items and has indeed emerged as the lead producer of ships. Very few countries have brought about such a large-scale metamorphosis (from import substitution to self-reliance and export capabilities) of their domestic military industrial complex (MIC) as China has managed. China is not only creating domestic jobs; it is also becoming a technology leader, and above all, producing weaponry at cheaper rates and saving the precious penny earlier spent on costly imports. China's political economy approach is also evident in its grand strategy through avoidance of outright conflicts with the US, selective pinching and teasing the US, selling weapons at competitive rates in reciprocation for political support, and above all, leasing of foreign bases and ports and engaging host countries in informal coalition-building exercises. China has also positioned PLA troops to secure its interests under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) in Pakistan, something that was not practised earlier.

While it is unfortunate that Sinologists have not been able to correctly assess China's actual defence budget despite proliferation in assessment tools and techniques, the bigger tragedy is that many scholars continue to be victims of 'contradictory wisdom' and remain trapped between opposite views on China's defence budget. It would be better, instead, to focus on China's increasingly aggressive strategic behaviour with a rise in relative capabilities under Xi Jinping.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/slowdown-no-deterrent-to-china-s-defence-spend/742183.html>

वायुसेना/लड़ाकू विमानों के लिए पाक-चीन सीमा के करीब बनेंगे 110 शेल्टर, सुखोई-30 भी रखे जाएंगे

- इस निर्माण में खर्च होंगे 5000 करोड़ रुपए
- फ्रंटलाइन फाइटर जेट्स यहां बिना किसी चिंता के रखे जाएंगे

नई दिल्ली: क्रॉस बॉर्डर फायरिंग और मिसाइल के हमलों से वायुसेना के लड़ाकू विमानों को बचाने के लिए सरकार ने पाकिस्तान-चीना सरहद के करीब 110 मजबूत शेल्टर बनाने की अनुमति दी है। सूत्र के मुताबिक, 'इस प्रोजेक्ट में 5000 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होंगे। यह निर्माणकार्य कुछ चरणों में पूरा हो जाएगा। इसके बाद सेना अपने फ्रंटलाइन फाइटर जेट्स यहां बिना किसी चिंता के तैनात कर पाएगी। इन विमानों में सुखोई-30 भी शामिल होगा।'

सुरक्षा के लिए बनाए जा रहे हैं शेल्टर्स

1. अभी इन शेल्टर्स के अभाव में सेना को अपने फ्रंटलाइन एयरक्रॉफ्ट्स सीमा से दूर रखने पड़ते हैं। शेल्टर्स बनने के बाद इन्हें सीमा के करीब ही रखा जा सकेगा।
2. 1965 में पाकिस्तान के साथ हुई लड़ाई में भारतीय वायुसेना ने अपने कुछ विमानों को खो दिया था। इसकी वजह यह थी कि ये विमान बिना किसी शेल्टर के एयरस्ट्रिप पर खड़े थे।
3. 1965 के बाद से ही लड़ाकू विमानों को बचाने के लिए सीमा पर इस तरह के शेल्टर्स का निर्माण किया जा रहा है, ताकि दुश्मन के हमलों से बचा जा सके।
4. यह शेल्टर्स कांक्रीट की बहुत मोटी दीवार के बने होते हैं, जो बड़े हमलों से लड़ाकू विमानों को बचा लेते हैं।

पुलवामा हमले के बाद सीमा पर चौकसी बढ़ी

5. पुलवामा हमले के बाद भारतीय वायुसेना ने 26 फरवरी को पाकिस्तान स्थित आतंकी कैम्पस पर एयरस्ट्राइक की थी। इसके बाद 27 फरवरी को पाकिस्तानी विमानों ने भारतीय सीमा में घुसपैठ की नाकाम कोशिश की।
6. रिपोर्ट्स के मुताबिक, पुलवामा के बाद से ही सेना ने सरहद पर अतिरिक्त सैन्य बल की तैनाती करना शुरू कर दिया है। भारत ने दुनिया को स्पष्ट किया है कि आतंक के खिलाफ कार्रवाई करने से वह बिल्कुल पीछे नहीं हटेगा।