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Tue, 18 Feb 2020

DRDO missiles abound but are yet to be fielded

With 52 labs & over 7,800 scientists, the Defence Research & Development Organisation [DRDO] has delivered more misses than hits over the decades. DRDO's list of successes is short. Its list of failures is much longer.

Thus, DRDO's record in producing weapon systems has not been encouraging as exemplified by the delayed induction of the TEJAS, the mess-up that is Arjun MBT and the virtual rejection of the INSAS rifle by the Indian Army. But leapfrogging on the success achieved by scientists in space-related technologies, DRDO has excelled in producing potent ballistic missiles that have enhanced India's strategic options.



The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was set up in 1958 with a vision to “provide our defence services a decisive edge by equipping them with internationally competitive systems and solutions”.

One of India's flagship biennial military exhibitions – DefExpo 2020 (the other being Aero India) – was concluded recently in Lucknow. A wide range of strategic and tactical weapon systems, defence equipment and technologies developed by DRDO were on display at the DefExpo 2020 which was held in Lucknow from February 05-09, 2020.

DRDO highlighted products from its eight technology clusters, Aeronautical Systems, Armament & Combat Engineering (ACE), Electronics and Communication Systems (ECS), Life Sciences (LS), Micro Electronic Devices and Computational Systems (MED & CoS), Missile & Strategic Systems (MSS), Naval Systems & Materials (NS & M) and System Analysis and Modelling (SAM). Technology clusters, each headed by a Director General are entrusted with design and development of systems, products and core defence technologies.

Missile cluster is responsible for the design and development of state-of-the-art Missiles and Strategic Systems required for the deterrence and defence of the nation. India's first ASAT missile used in Mission Shakti to demonstrate anti-satellite precision strike capability will be on display at the DefExpo.

<https://www.defenceaviationpost.com/2020/02/drdo-missiles-abound-but-are-yet-to-be-fielded/>

DH exclusive: Manpower shortage derails DRDO as govt sits on proposal to increase manpower

Kalyan Ray

Highlights

- *Final approval for 436 posts from the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Modi is yet to come*
- *While authorised strength of scientists is 7,353, the existing strength is 7,107*
- *Since 2001, DRDO is managing with the same authorisation*
- *142 scientists left the agency between 2014 and 2018 on personal grounds*

New Delhi: For months, the Narendra Modi government is sitting on a proposal to create 436 new posts for scientists at the Defence Research and Development Organisation, which is in desperate need of additional manpower due to its expanding research mandate. The agency with 52 laboratories has been tasked with several new projects ranging from next generation missiles to unmanned combat drones by the central government, but manpower shortage remains a matter of concern for the top brass.

While the authorized strength of scientists in DRDO is 7,353, the existing held strength of is 7,107.

Since the scientific manpower is insufficient for the committed R&D projects, its own manpower planning board in April 2010 recommended hiring another 4,966 scientists.

The proposal was subsequently toned down by the Union Finance Ministry that slashed the number to 1,316 posts. The Department of Expenditure further lowered the figure and cleared only 436 posts in the first phase.

However, the final approval for those 436 posts from the Cabinet Committee on Security headed by Modi was yet to come, sources told DH.

Reached out for a reaction a DRDO spokesperson, refused to make any comment.

But its officials recently conveyed to a panel of lawmakers that since 2001, DRDO was managing its task with same authorization inspite of more than six times increase in its outlay from the 9th plan period (Rs 13,866 crore) to 13th plan period (Rs 90,000 crore).

The scientific manpower authorisation for all these years was fixed at 7,255 compelling the organisation to “optimally utilise the scientific manpower”. To make the matter worse, 142 Scientists left DRDO between 2014 and 2018 on personal grounds.

In a 2018 report, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence noted that there were 93 ongoing major projects in different DRDO labs, including Agni IV and Agni V ballistic missile, Nirbhay cruise missile, submarine-launched K-15 missile, anti-tank Nag missile, beyond visual range Astra missile for the IAF, airborne radar AWACS, Arjun battle tank and Tejas Light Combat Aircraft.

Out of 30 major on-going projects (each costing more than Rs 100 crore), there have been cost revisions in six and time revisions in 16 projects. Besides, 12 projects are more than five years old (sanctioned prior to 2011) while 17 major projects were approved during the 11th five year plan (April 2002 to March 2007). None have been completed.



Several Parliamentary Committees over the years have put in record their dissatisfaction on the "inordinate delay in execution of almost all DRDO projects", which had become a common phenomenon.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/dh-exclusive-manpower-shortage-derails-drdo-as-govt-sits-on-proposal-to-increase-manpower-805398.html>

hindustantimes

Tue, 18 Feb 2020

Karachi-bound ship held in Gujarat over cargo that can be used in missile launch

According to people familiar with the matter, the ship, intercepted on February 3, is undergoing a detailed inspection at Kandla Port in Gujarat

By Shishir Gupta

The spectre of nuclear proliferation between China and its all-weather ally Pakistan was revived this month when Indian Customs officials detained a ship -- bearing a Hong Kong flag and bound for Port Qasim in Karachi -- for wrongly declaring an autoclave, which can be used in the launch process of ballistic missiles, as an industrial dryer.

According to people familiar with the matter, the ship, intercepted on February 3, is undergoing a detailed inspection at Kandla Port in Gujarat. They added that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which has been examining the ship, is sending a second team of nuclear scientists this week to check the large autoclave on board.

The ship, which left Jiangyin port on the Yangtze river in China's Jiangsu province, dropped anchor at Kandla, and was bound for Port Qasim. The detention of the vessel has been brought to the notice of the highest levels of national security establishment and the intelligence agencies.

Though national security officials and the external affairs ministry declined to share details of the ship, HT has learnt that it is named Da Cui Yun and carries a Hong Kong flag. The vessel was intercepted on the basis of intelligence tip-off, and one DRDO team has already inspected the 18x4-metre autoclave on board. The autoclave -- a pressure chamber to carry out various industrial and scientific processes -- has been prima facie certified as a "dual-use" item, which means it can be used for civilian and military purposes.

A second high-level DRDO team of missile scientists will go to Kandla port on Monday to further examine the cargo, according to an official who asked not to be named. If this team upholds the findings of the first team, Customs will seize the cargo, and charge the vessel and its owners for violations of Special Chemicals, Organisms, Materials, Equipment and Technologies (Scomet) export regulations.

According to marinetraffic.com, which maps the movement of all listed ships, the Port Mohammed Bin Qasim-bound Da Cui Yun left Jiangyin Port on January 17, 2020, and has been moored at Kandla since February 3, 2020. The 28,341-tonne dead weight vessel measures 166.5x27.4 metres and was built in 2011 in the home port of Hong Kong. Port Qasim is in Karachi, Sindh, where the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Suparco), responsible for Pakistan ballistic missile programme, is based.

Indian security officials are concerned because the nuclear nexus between Pakistan and China dates back to 1989, when Islamabad signed a deal with Beijing to purchase 34 solid-fuel M-11 ballistic missiles. The M-11s, which can deliver a 500kg payload over 300km, are at the core of Pakistan's

ballistic missile capability with all its other delivery platforms a derivative of the Chinese weapon. Around the same period, Pakistan purchased 12 to 25 liquid-fuel No-Dong ballistic missiles from North Korea despite not being a signatory to any proliferation regime. The No-Dong system can deliver a 700-1,000kg payload over 1,000-1,300km.

Experts said the autoclave episode revives memory of North Korean ship Ku Wol San, which was seized at Kandla at the height of the 1999 Kargil war. The Pakistan-bound ship had wrongly declared missile components, metal casings and Scud missile manuals as water-purification equipment. The story was first reported by HT at that time.

In the case of Da Cui Yun, DRDO investigators have so far found that the industrial autoclave is used for manufacturing composite lining for the solid-fuel ballistic missiles. The ballistic missile is propelled by a solid-fuel-based booster in its critical Phase I. For this, the solid fuel is placed in a steel alloy casing, which needs a composite material liner to withstand the high pressure and high temperatures during the launch process. An autoclave is used to manufacture sheets of silica under controlled temperature and pressure, so that they can be used as liners.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/karachi-bound-ship-held-in-kandla-over-cargo-that-can-be-used-in-missile-launch/story-yitIfsajL08Vv3Mi9x3RhK.html>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Tue, 18 Feb 2020

Air Defence Command within a year, southern Peninsular Command by end-2021: CDS

For ease of understanding the Supreme Court's (SC) judgment extending permanent commission (PC) to all Women Officers (WOs), including command opportunities, it is important to first understand what the army's Arms and Services are, writes Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd)

By Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd)

New Delhi: India must look for overseas logistics bases or seal more reciprocal military logistics pacts like the one with the US, said chief of defence staff General Bipin Rawat on Monday, even as he declared that the country's proposed joint Air Defence Command (ADC) would be in place in a year and will be followed by the southern Peninsular Command by end-2021. As far as the borders with Pakistan and China are concerned, the first theatre command – with the assets and manpower of the Army, Navy and IAF under one operational commander – will roll out by 2022, said Gen Rawat, while talking to a group of journalists here.

TOI on February 4 had reported that the proposed plan is to establish one or two commands (a northern one west of Nepal and an eastern one east of Nepal) to handle China, two commands on the western front with Pakistan (one in J&K and the other to include Punjab, Gujarat and Rajasthan) and a southern command for peninsular India.

This setting-up of “geographical” theatre commands along with “functional” tri-Service commands for air defence, logistics and training, will be the biggest-ever military restructuring exercise in India's history. The ADC, which will integrate the disparate air defence weapons and radars of the three Services, will be headed by an Air Marshal of the IAF.

Gen Rawat, who is also tasked with cutting costs and right-sizing manpower in the backdrop of the ballooning pay and pension bills of the almost 15-lakh strong armed forces, also indicated the Navy is unlikely to get the approval for a third aircraft carrier any time soon. “Submarines are a critical priority,” he said, adding that aircraft carriers “are very expensive”.

Similarly, the IAF proposal to acquire 114 fighter jets -- under a “strategic partnership” project for over \$20 billion (Rs 1.4 lakh crore) in a joint venture between a selected foreign aviation major and its Indian partner – could be in the doldrums.

A new approach of staggered acquisitions or buying weapons in tranches is in the works, said Gen Rawat. If the Navy says it requires 10 submarines, the IAF 114 aircraft and the Army 1,000 tanks, only one service will benefit if we go for such large numbers in one go. But if procurements are prioritised, then all the Services can procure limited number of weapons at regular intervals thereby maintaining operational readiness, he added.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/air-defence-command-within-a-year-southern-peninsular-command-by-end-2021-cds/articleshow/74183180.cms>



Tue, 18 Feb 2020

Forces to get first theatre command by 2022: CDS

Air Defence, Peninsular integrated commands to be in place soon

New Delhi: In what could alter the structure of Indian armed forces, the Department of Military Affairs has set a target of rolling out the first “theatre command” by 2022, but before that, it’s immediately setting up two integrated commands — Air Defence and Peninsular.

A theatre command will provide all assets for war under a single commander. “There can be as many as five theatre commands along the western and northern land borders,” said General Bipin Rawat, who heads the newly created Department of Military Affairs.

Speaking to a group of journalists today, the General, who is also the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), said, “By the end of this year, a thorough study will be ordered on having theatre commands. It will tell how many theatre commands are needed. We hope to roll out the first one by 2022.”

The services are still examining if J&K will be a separate theatre command. At present, the three services collectively have 19 commands each.

Gen Rawat said a report was expected by March 31 on the Air Defence command. It would integrate all air-defence assets under the Air Force, including the coastal guns of the Navy and ground-based air-defence missile launchers of the Army.

This could be in place by the end of this year. The Peninsular command will look to merge the eastern and western naval commands. The Navy has been sounded out and a formal study will be ordered in a few weeks from now. “The security of the Indian Ocean region has to be done by a single commander. He will be given air assets and also Army troops (for doing amphibious operations),” the General said.

The existing tri-services command at Andaman and Nicobar Islands would remain as it is, he said. There is a plan to upgrade the three runways available on the island chain.

On having a third aircraft carrier, General Rawat said, “Let the first indigenous one sail; we will take a call on the next one after that. For now, the priority is submarines.”

The DMA is also looking to have a common training command and a war doctrine. “We have to have a common doctrine and cross-postings of middle-level officers,” he said. The DMA has moved a proposal for casting contours of the department created on December 31.

Military reforms

- A theatre command will provide all assets for war under a single commander
- There can be five theatre commands along the western and northern land borders

No tinkering with Andaman-Nicobar command

- The Air Defence command will integrate all air-defence assets under the Air Force, including coastal guns of the Navy and air-defence missile launchers of the Army
- The Peninsular command will merge the eastern and western naval commands to ensure security of the Indian Ocean region; it will have air assets and Army troops under a single commander
- The existing tri-services command at Andaman and Nicobar Islands will remain as it is

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/forces-to-get-first-theatre-command-by-2022-cds-43184>

THEWEEK

Tue, 18 Feb 2020

Need for submarines to torpedo Indian Navy's plan for 3rd carrier?

Rawat said need for 3rd carrier would be looked at after seeing Vikrant's performance

Adding to concern about the Indian Navy's prospects to acquire a new aircraft carrier, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat said on Monday that acquisition of new submarines was a priority over aircraft carriers. Rawat was interacting with journalists in Delhi.

The Indian Navy has one serving aircraft carrier, the INS Vikramaditya, and another ship being built in Kochi, the Vikrant, which is expected to be commissioned by 2022. Both ships have displacement of about 45,000 tonnes.

Rawat was quoted by news agency ANI as saying, "When we know that there would be two aircraft carriers there, and if the submarine force is dwindling, then our priority should be for submarines".

Rawat added that the Indian Navy's demand for a third aircraft carrier would be considered after "assessing performance" of the Vikrant. The indigenously built Vikrant is scheduled to begin its first sea trials later this year.

In an interview with THE WEEK in December, Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh had declared that the Indian Navy needed a 65,000-tonne aircraft carrier. "I am convinced that the country needs three aircraft carriers, so that two are operational at all times," Singh had told THE WEEK.

Progress on finalising the design parameters of the third aircraft carrier has been slow, though the Indian Navy first projected its requirement over a decade ago. A third aircraft carrier has been considered vital by experts in the face of China's relentless naval expansion.

The proposed third carrier, referred to the Vishal, was to have been significantly larger than the existing Vikramaditya and Vikrant. The Indian Navy had also said the third carrier would have electromagnetic catapults to launch its aircraft.

The Vikramaditya and Vikrant are designed to use 'ski-jumps' to launch their aircraft. Aircraft using ski-jumps have momentum only from their engines and are thus unable to carry heavy fuel and weapon loads. A catapult, on the other hand, gives the aircraft added momentum, enabling it to launch at higher weights and provides an advantage in surface-attack missions or long-range air defence roles. Moreover, catapults enable the launch of specialised aircraft like airborne early-warning systems.

The Indian Navy's plans to acquire six new diesel-electric submarines has been proceeding at a snail's pace even as induction of the indigenously built Scorpene class continues after years of delay.

The third aircraft carrier is not the only procurement priority on the back-burner. Rawat said the Indian Air Force's requirement of 114 fighter jets would have to be staggered. The value of the proposed deal for 114 jets is estimated to be around \$15 billion.

Rawat said, "I am in favour of staggered acquisitions of weapon systems where small orders are placed, which gives us time to take care of their downtime and also allow modernisation of the three services simultaneously."

Rawat declared the Eastern and Western commands of the Indian Navy would be integrated into Peninsula Command.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2020/02/17/need-for-submarines-to-torpedo-indian-navy-plan-for-3rd-carrier.html>

पंजाब केसरी

Tue, 18 Feb 2020

चीन पर नजर रखने के लिए तैनात किया था टोही विमान



नई दिल्ली, (भाषा): चीन के साथ 73 दिनों तक चले डोकलाम गतिरोध के दौरान भारत ने चीनी सैनिकों की गतिविधियों पर नजर रखने के लिए नौसेना का पी-8 आई पनडुब्बी रोधी युद्धक विमान तैनात किया था। प्रमुख रक्षा अध्यक्ष (सीडीएस) जनरल विपिन रावत ने राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा की चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए तीनों सेनाओं के बीच तालमेल लाने की आवश्यकता की चर्चा करते हुए नौसेना के विमान के उपयोग की पुष्टि की। जनरल रावत ने पत्रकारों के एक समूह से कहा, "भारतीय नौसेना के पी-8आई विमान को डोकलाम में (गतिरोध के दौरान) तैनात किया गया था।"

India-Russia defence deals set to cross \$16 bn; to include S-400 systems, Kalashnikov rifles

The two countries signed 14 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) during the recent Defexpo 2020 in Lucknow that covered development and production of land, air and naval systems and hi-tech civilian products

New Delhi: Defence deals between India and Russia are set to cross \$16 billion and Moscow is committed to the timely implementation of contracts, including the supply of S-400 air defence systems and production of Kalashnikov rifles and Kamov helicopters.

The two countries signed 14 memorandums of understanding (MoUs) during the recent Defexpo 2020 in Lucknow that covered development and production of land, air and naval systems and hi-tech civilian products.

Russia's state-run Rosoboronexport inked deals with the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for advanced pyrotechnic ignition systems, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for export of spares and services to friendly countries, and Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) for land systems, said a statement from the Russian embassy.

A separate MoU was signed by Russian Helicopters and Indo-Russian Helicopters Ltd for localisation of component to be used in Kamov Ka-226 helicopters. India has plans to buy 200 Ka-226 helicopters.

"We are about to cross \$16 bn amount of deals. Both sides are committed to their timely and successful implementation, including supply of the S-400...air defence systems by 2025, an early production of Kalashnikov AK-203 machine guns and Ka-226T multi-purpose helicopters under relevant joint ventures with maximum possible level of localisation," the statement said.

As reported by HT, India made the first payment of \$850 million last year for the \$5.4-billion deal for five S-400 systems through a special mechanism worked out by the two sides.

The S-400 deal and other purchases of Russian military hardware face the possibility of US sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). Despite pressure from the US, India has said it will go ahead with military deals with Russia.

Russia was the largest foreign exhibitor at Defexpo 2020, held during February 5-9, and Moscow remains committed to the Make in India programme and Indian localisation requirements, the statement said.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-russia-defence-deals-set-to-cross-16-bn-to-include-s-400-systems-kalashnikov-rifles/story-U40gtN75ab7Y9eymECVmmK.html>

SC okays command role for women

Tells govt to consider granting permanent commission to all women Army officers in 3 months

By Satya Prakash

New Delhi: Noting that “the right to equality is a right to rationality”, the Supreme Court on Monday paved the way for women in command positions in the Army as it ordered the government to consider granting permanent commission to all women officers in three months.

“An absolute bar on women seeking criteria or command appointments would not comport with the guarantee of equality under Article 14. Implicit in the guarantee of equality is that where the action of the state does differentiate between two classes of persons, it does not differentiate them in an unreasonable or irrational manner. In this sense, even at its bare minimum, the right to equality is a right to rationality,” a Bench headed by Justice DY Chandrachud said.



The Bench, however, said, “Whether a particular candidate should or should not be granted a criteria or command assignment is a matter for the competent authority to consider having regard to all exigencies of service, performance and organisational requirements.”

Women officers’ counsel Meenakshi Lekhi welcomed the verdict, saying, the judgment has given women officers the same rights as their male counterparts.

There are 1,653 women officers in the Army, 3.89 per cent of the total number of officers in the Army. The Bench termed as “disturbing” the government’s argument of physiological limitations and social norms for denying command posts to women officers and called for a change of mindset on the part of the government to put an end to gender bias in the armed forces. The top court expressed strong displeasure over the Centre not implementing the 2010 Delhi High Court’s order allowing grant of permanent commission to women officers despite there being no stay on it, saying the government showed scant regard in implementing the directions for a decade.

Today’s order is based on the Centre’s policy decision conveyed to the court on February 25, 2019, to grant of Permanent Commission to Short Service Commission women officers in all 10 streams where women have been granted SSC in the Army.

“The decision of the Union Government to extend the grant of PC to other corps in the support arms and services recognizes that the physiological features of a woman have no significance to her equal entitlements under the Constitution,” it said.

“Seventy years after the birth of a post-colonial independent state, there is still a need for change in attitudes and mindsets to recognise the commitment to the values of the Constitution,” the court said.

Gender parity

- All serving women SSC officers to be considered for grant of permanent commission (PC)
- Women SSC officers with over 14 years of service who do not opt for being considered for grant of PC will be entitled to continue in service until they attain 20 years of pensionable service
- As a one-time measure, benefit of continuing in service until attainment of pensionable service shall also apply to all existing SSC officers with over 14 years of service who are not appointed on PC

- SSC women officers with over 20 years of service who are not granted PC shall retire on pension in terms of the policy decision

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/sc-okays-command-role-for-women-43183>

नवभारत टाइम्स

Tue, 18 Feb 2020

‘महिलाएं किसी से कम नहीं, सरकार बदले सोच’

■ विशेष संवाददाता, सुप्रीम कोर्ट

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने सेना में महिला ऑफिसरों को परमानेंट कमिशन और उनकी कमांड पोस्टिंग मामले में कहा कि केंद्र की यह दलील परेशान करने वाली है कि महिलाओं की नियुक्ति नहीं करने की वजह शारीरिक और सामाजिक परिस्थितियां हैं। आजादी के 70 साल बाद मानसिकता बदलने की जरूरत है और महिला ऑफिसरों को सेना में समान अवसर देने की जरूरत है। सरकार को इस बाबत अपने नजरिए और मानसिकता में बदलाव लाने की जरूरत है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कहा कि हमारा मानना है कि शारीरिक फीचर परमानेंट कमिशन देने में कहीं से भी आड़े नहीं आता। जस्टिस डीवाई चंद्रचूड़ की अगुआई वाली बेंच ने कहा कि अगर कोई महिला अफसर स्थायी कमिशन चाहती है, तो उसे इससे वंचित नहीं किया जा सकता। भले ही उनकी नौकरी 14 साल से अधिक हो गई हो। कोर्ट के बाहर मौजूद महिला अफसरों ने कहा कि अब महिलाओं को आगे आने का मौका मिलेगा।



कोर्ट ने कहा- महिला अफसरों को स्थायी कमिशन से वंचित नहीं किया जा सकता।

फैसले पर कांग्रेस बनाम बीजेपी

सुप्रीम कोर्ट के फैसले पर कांग्रेस के पूर्व अध्यक्ष राहुल गांधी ने बीजेपी सरकार द्वारा कोर्ट में दी गई दलील को देश की हर महिला का अपमान करार दिया। वहीं, कांग्रेस महासचिव प्रियंका गांधी ने कहा कि यह फैसला नारी शक्ति का विरोध करने

वाली पूर्वाग्रह से ग्रस्त मोदी सरकार को करारा जवाब है। उधर, बीजेपी ने भी राहुल गांधी पर पलटवार करते हुए कांग्रेस को महिला विरोधी ठहराया है। बीजेपी नेता प्रीति गांधी ने कहा, 'राहुल गांधी, किस सरकार ने भारतीय महिलाओं का अपमान किया?'

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने अपने फैसले में कई नामों की मिसाल दी

■ विशेष संवाददाता, सुप्रीम कोर्ट : सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने फैसले में कहा कि महिलाएं अपने पुरुष अधिकारियों के साथ कदम से कदम और कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर काम करती हैं। महिला अधिकारी अपने परामर्श में कहीं से भी कम नहीं हैं। कोर्ट ने कहा कि महिलाओं को शारीरिक आधार पर परमानेंट कमिशन न देना संवैधानिक मूल्यों के खिलाफ है। कोर्ट ने केंद्र के 25 फरवरी 2019 की नीति को मान्यता दी। साथ ही, कहा कि चाहे महिला अधिकारी का सेवाकाल कुछ भी हो लेकिन उन अधिकारियों पर भी ये लागू होगा। इंजिनियर्स, आर्मी ऑडिनेंस कोर, आर्मी सर्विस कोर, इलेक्ट्रोनिक्स व मैकेनिकल इंजीनियर्स, एयर डिफेंस, आर्मी एवियेशन, इंजीनियर्स सिग्नल जैसे 10 विंग में व्यवस्था लागू होगी।



आर्मी में महिला अफसरों की कुल संख्या 1653 है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कई बहादुर महिला अफसरों का जिक्र भी किया है। कोर्ट ने कहा कि ये महिलाएं कई वीरता पुरस्कार जीत चुकी हैं। अदालत में इन महिलाओं की लिस्ट भी दी गई।

- ले. कर्नल सोफिया कुरैशी: ये पहली महिला अधिकारी हैं, जिन्होंने इंडियन आर्मी की टुकड़ी का नेतृत्व किया है। कुरैशी 2006 में यूएन के शांति ऑपरेशन में शामिल हुईं।
- ले. कर्नल अनुवंदना जग्गी: ये यूएन के मिलिट्री ऑब्जर्वर टीम में महिला टीम लीडर के तौर पर काम कर चुकी हैं।
- मेजर मधुमिता: पहली महिला ऑफिसर हैं, जिन्हें सेना मेडल (वीरता पुरस्कार) से नवाजा गया। इन्होंने अफगानिस्तान में तालिबानी आतंकवादियों से जंग लड़ी।
- लेफ्टिनेंट भावना कस्तूरी: इंडिया आर्मी में पहली महिला, जिन्होंने ऑल मेन आर्मी कंटिजेंट को लीड किया है।
- कैप्टन तानिया शेरगिल: ये पहली महिला हैं, जिन्होंने 26 जनवरी 2020 को ऑल मेन कंटिजेंट परेड को लीड किया।
- लेफ्टिनेंट ए. दिव्या: इन्हें ऑफिसर ट्रेनिंग में सम्मानित किया गया था।
- मेजर गोपिका भाटी: मेजर भाटी ने कमांड से लेकर अन्य जगह बखूबी काम किया।
- मेजर गोपिका अजीत सिंह पवार: इन्हें यूएन पीस कीपिंग मेडल से नवाजा गया था।
- मेजर मधुराणा, प्रीति सिंह और अनुजा यादव: इन तीनों को यूएन मेडल दिया गया था। ये यूएन मिलिट्री मेंबर के तौर पर क्वॉलिफाई कर चुकी हैं।
- कैप्टन अश्विनी पवार और कैप्टन रिप्रा मजूमदार: इन दोनों को 2017 में सेना मेडल से सम्मानित किया गया था।

नवभारत टाइम्स

Tue, 18 Feb 2020

सेना में महिलाएं भी बन सकेंगी कमांडर, सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने दिया बराबरी का मौका

■ विस, नई दिल्ली: सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने 3 महीने के अंदर सेना में सभी महिलाओं को परमानेंट कमिशन देने का आदेश दिया है। इससे महिलाओं को आर्मी में कमांड पोजिशन का रास्ता साफ हो सकेगा। कोर्ट का फैसला कॉम्बैट (युद्धक) विंग छोड़कर अन्य सभी पर लागू होगा। युद्धक भूमिका देना सरकार का नीतिगत फैसला है। जस्टिस चंद्रचूड़ की अध्यक्षता वाली बेंच ने परमानेंट कमिशन देने के हाई कोर्ट के आदेश पर एक दशक तक अमल न करने पर केंद्र की खिंचाई की। सरकार की इस दलील को परेशान करने वाला बताया कि शारीरिक और सामाजिक स्थितियों के कारण महिला अफसरों को सेना में कमांड पोजिशन नहीं दी जाती। कोर्ट ने कहा कि सरकार को इस बारे में अपनी विचारधारा बदलने की जरूरत है। आर्मी में जो महिला अफसर नौकरी में हैं, उन्हें परमानेंट कमिशन का विकल्प दिया जाए, चाहे उनकी नौकरी 14 साल से ज्यादा हो गई हो। जो महिलाएं स्थायी कमिशन का ऑप्शन नहीं चुनतीं, उनकी 20 साल तक की पेंशन वाली नौकरी होगी। ▶▶ पेज 12



“ स्थायी कमिशन देने में महिलाओं की शारीरिक, सामाजिक स्थिति आड़े नहीं आती.. सरकार मानसिकता बदले। -कोर्ट

Understanding the inner workings and selection process of army

For ease of understanding the Supreme Court's (SC) judgment extending permanent commission (PC) to all Women Officers (WOs), including command opportunities, it is important to first understand what the army's Arms and Services are, writes Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd)

By Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd)

The entire issue of commissioning of officers into the armed forces is a complex one not easily understood outside the uniform. In the case of the army, it is rendered even more complex because of the presence of diverse departments, across Arms and Services. For ease of understanding the Supreme Court's (SC) judgment extending permanent commission (PC) to all Women Officers (WOs), including command opportunities, it is important to first understand what the army's Arms and Services are.

First are the so-called Combat Arms: Infantry, Mechanized Infantry, Armoured Corps and also Artillery (the last is classically not counted among these, but by virtue of the nature of its task involving battle fires is colloquially counted as such). WO's do not get commissioned into these.

We then have the Combat Support Arms: Signals, Engineers, Army Air Defence, Aviation and Intelligence. WO's are commissioned in all five as these roles involve limited direct combat with the enemy. Then come the Services: Army Service Corps (ASC), Army Ordnance Corps (AOC) and the Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (EME) who in conventional war serve in administrative support roles. WO's are commissioned in all three.

There are also two other departments: Army Education Corps (AEC) and the Judge Advocate General's Branch (JAG); WO's are commissioned in both; in fact these are only two departments that, from 1992 onwards, have given PC to WO's.

From 1991 onwards, WO's have received Short Service Commission (SSC) in eight of the above 10 Arms/Services and PC in the two departments. In September 2019, the government extended PC to the eight Arms/Services too but restricted this to only WO's who have been commissioned from 2014 onwards. The order is effective from April 2020. A large number of WO's with SSC from earlier years continued to serve in the Army beyond their contracted period pending final resolution of a legal case for PC. The SC in its judgment on Monday has granted PC to all WO's, irrespective of year of commission. It is, however, unclear whether they will also have to undergo a selection process for grant of such PC as is applicable in the case of male officers.

There is a second and very important functional issue which the SC has included in its judgment -- that of command opportunities. If WO's have to be placed in the same category as male officers with PC, with applicability of similar terms and conditions applicable to the latter, then their career management as PC officers has to be addressed. Thus far, under SSC, WO's were denied the requisite training and opportunity to assume command in the rank of Colonel which is the first "selection grade" rank. Male officers of this rank command units of respective Arms and Services but not all are given such opportunity; it is strictly through a stringent selection by a promotion board based upon confidential reports, record of service and qualifications. They are tested in command capability as Colonels and this makes them eligible for further selection for progression to higher ranks. The Indian Army, which is command oriented, tests its officers in command capability before any selection for promotion.

Now serving beyond the stipulated SSC terms, WOs too want command opportunity, which the army was reluctant to give them, citing acceptance problems by the men they will command as Colonels (by selection) and the physical challenges involved.

The SC has dismissed the army's arguments and extended equal command opportunities to WOs. Since there is a deep selection procedure every WO is not going to get such opportunities -- only 30% of male officers of the ASC, for instance are cleared by a promotion board. My personal experience with WOs serving under my command is that they are fully competent to command Services units; the Army may begin with affording them command of peacetime establishments such as supply depots and then graduate to operational units. As regards to Combat Support Arms, an experimental exercise must be done to ascertain command capability of selected WOs in both peace and field conditions under close supervision of senior male officers. These units have more manpower and bear operational risks of a higher order, which involves lives of soldiers. JAG and AEC departments where the criterion of testing is different have no such problems.

The SC is right in stating that "soldiers must have the physical capability to do one's role ... women in the army is an evolutionary process". Some parts of the army can be expected to be unhappy about the judgment. However, it needs to be realised that the army's selection process for command has stood the test of time. The evolutionary process will ensure that WOs progressively improve with further motivation of a career in the army. Their induction into Combat Arms is likely to be the next big issue which will need a separate debate although its time too will come, albeit after a longer wait.

(The writer is former GOC of the Srinagar-based 15 Corps)

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/opinion/understanding-the-inner-workings-and-selection-process-of-army/story-7vR5Tlr6qjZnn24gzS0MyK.html>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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Hindustan Aeronautics Limited back on Rafale Radar, talks on for making jets in India

French aircraft manufacturer Dassault and state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited have worked most recently on \$2.1 b deal to upgrade IAF's Mirage 2000 fleet. General Rawat has spoken of staggered purchases of fighter jets in the future, his idea being that small batches would be ordered to ensure that allocated funds can cover the price

By Manu Pubby

New Delhi: French aircraft manufacturer Dassault and state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are in talks for possible cooperation in producing Rafale fighter jets in India for additional anticipated orders under a 'staggered procurement' plan.

Sources have told Economic Times that a few rounds of discussions have taken place between the companies on possible work share for additional orders of the cutting edge combat jet, though there is no going back to earlier discussions that broke down in 2012 over differences in localisation and pricing.

The two aviation companies are old partners, having worked most recently on the \$2.1 billion deal to upgrade the Indian Air Force's Mirage 2000 fleet. If additional orders are placed for Rafale — Chief of Defence Staff Gen Bipin Rawat hinted recently that 36 more fighter jets could be ordered within four years — a work share model could be worked out to manufacture parts for the fighter jet at HAL facilities.

At present, French manufacturers are executing the order for 36 jets and investing 50% of the €7.8 billion contract price in the Indian aerospace and defence sectors as part of the offsets clause, with a factory in partnership with Reliance Defence at Nagpur also geared to produce the Falcon executive jets.

Working Out Contours

While the contours of a possible partnership have not been finalised, detailed discussions have taken place on how HAL facilities and expertise could be used for the next round of localisation when more jets are ordered

The current batch of Rafales on order are following the 'staggered payments' model, with India paying for 11 fighter jets every year till deliveries end

Two airbases that are being created for the Rafales on order are capable of absorbing additional jets without any change, which would also bring down the cost of the deal

If the Rafale jet deal is extended with the 'staggered order approach', it could lead to a rethink on earlier plans of acquiring 110 fighter jets under the strategic partnership model

While the contours of a possible partnership have not been finalised, sources confirmed that detailed discussions have taken place on how HAL facilities and expertise could be used for the next round of localisation when more jets are ordered.

In several comments over the past weeks, General Rawat has spoken of staggered purchases of fighter jets in the future, his idea being that small batches would be ordered to ensure that allocated funds can cover the price. The top officer also suggested that 36 more Rafales could be ordered in three to four years to make up for gaps in fighter squadron strength.

The current batch of Rafales on order are following the 'staggered payments' model, with India paying for 11 fighter jets every year till deliveries end. If the contract is extended, the staggered procurement could stretch over the next few years to make up for fighter shortages.

As reported by ET, an offer is on the table for the sale of two more squadrons, which means 36 additional Rafale jets, for the IAF. While the deal for 36 Rafale jets signed in 2016 cost €7.87 billion, the additional 36 aircraft could cost significantly lower at around €6 billion as fixed costs covering India specific enhancements, training equipment and infrastructure have already been made.

The two airbases that are being created for the Rafales on order are capable of absorbing additional jets without any change, which would also bring down the cost of the deal. If the Rafale jet deal is extended with the 'staggered order approach' it could lead to a rethink on earlier plans of acquiring 110 fighter jets under the Strategic Partnership (SP) model that requires an Indian company to tie up with a foreign collaborator to produce the aircraft domestically.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/hal-back-on-rafale-radar-talks-on-for-making-jets-in-india/articleshow/74183640.cms>