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पाकिस्तान तक दिखाई देगी के-4 की दहाड़

एजेंसी/भुवनेश्वर

भारत एक और परमाणु मिसाइल के परीक्षण के लिए तैयार है। भारत शुक्रवार (8 नवंबर) को आंध्र प्रदेश के तट से पनडुब्बी के जरिए के-4 परमाणु मिसाइल का परीक्षण करने जा रहा है। समाचार एजेंसी एएनआइ ने इस बात की जानकारी दी है। पनडुब्बियों से अपने दुश्मन के ठिकानों को मार गिराने की क्षमताओं को और मजबूत करने के लिए भारत शुक्रवार को एक और कदम आगे बढ़ाएगा। के-4 परमाणु मिसाइल की मारक क्षमता 3500 किलोमीटर बताई जा रही है। यह मिसाइल प्रणाली रक्षा एवं अनुसंधान विकास संस्थान (डीआरडीओ) द्वारा अरिहंत श्रेणी की परमाणु पनडुब्बियों के लिए विकसित की जा रहा है। अरिहंत परमाणु पनडुब्बियां भारत द्वारा विकसित की जा रही हैं। यह पनडुब्बियां भारत के परमाणु परीक्षण का मुख्य आधार होंगी।

- भारत द्वारा विकसित के-4 परमाणु पनडुब्बी मिसाइल की मारक क्षमता 3500 किलोमीटर है
- इसे न्यूक्लियर पनडुब्बी अरिहंत पर तैनात किए जाने की तैयारी है।



परीक्षण का लक्ष्य

सरकारी सूत्रों ने कहा कि, 'डीआरडीओ शुक्रवार को आंध्र प्रदेश के विशाखापट्टनम कट से एक अंडरवॉटर प्लेटफॉर्म से के-4 परमाणु मिसाइल का परीक्षण करेगा। इस परीक्षण के दौरान डीआरडीओ मिसाइल प्रणाली में उन्नत प्रणालियों का टेस्ट करेगा।' के-4 दो परमाणु पनडुब्बी मिसाइलों में से है, जिसे भारत द्वारा विकसित किया जा रहा है। एक अन्य मिसाइल बी 0-5 है, जिसकी मारक क्षमता 700 किलोमीटर से भी अधिक है।

कितनी रेंज का होगा परीक्षण ?

हालांकि अभी यह स्पष्ट नहीं है कि डीआरडीओ पूरी रेंज पर मिसाइल का परीक्षण करेगा या कम दूरी पर। हालांकि, हालांकि, भारत द्वारा नियोजित टेस्ट-फायरिंग के लिए लंबी दूरी की मिसाइल परीक्षण के लिए नोटिस टू एयरमेन और समुद्र को लेकर चेतावनी पहले ही जारी की जा चुकी है।

कई और मिसाइलों के परीक्षण की तैयारी

के-4 मिसाइल के परीक्षण की योजना पिछले महीने बनाई गई थी, लेकिन इसे स्थगित कर दिया गया था। डीआरडीओ आने वाले कुछ हफ्तों में कुछ और मिसाइलों का भी परीक्षण करने जा रहा है। भारत अग्नि-3 और ब्रह्मोस मिसाइलों के परीक्षण की योजना बना रहा है। सरकारी सूत्रों ने स्पष्ट किया है कि के-4 मिसाइल का परीक्षण पानी के भीतर के पट्टन से किया जाएगा, क्योंकि अभी भी मिसाइल का परीक्षण किया जा रहा है और एक पनडुब्बी से लॉन्च केवल एक बार किया जाएगा जब तक यह तैनाती के लिए तैयार ना हो जाए।

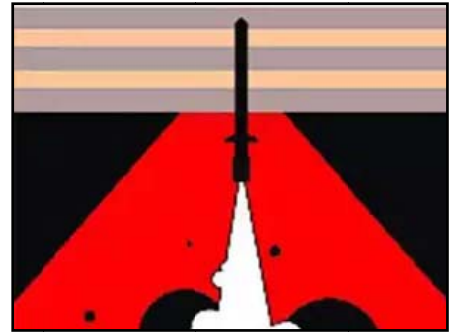
India to test-fire 3,500 km range K-4 nuclear missile

The missile system is being developed by DRDO for the Arihant class nuclear submarines which are being built. "As per plans, the DRDO will carry out test-firing of the K-4 nuclear missile from an underwater platform off the Vishakhapatnam coast. D..

Bhubaneswar: To further strengthen its capabilities of hitting enemy targets from submarines, India is planning to test-fire the 3,500 kilometre strike-range K-4 nuclear missile from an underwater platform off the coast of Andhra Pradesh on Friday.

The missile system is being developed by the DRDO for the Arihant class nuclear submarines which are being built by India. These submarines would be the mainstay of India's nuclear triad.

"As per plans, the DRDO will carry out test-firing of the K-4 nuclear missile from an underwater platform off the Vishakhapatnam coast on Friday. During the trial, the DRDO will test the advanced systems in the missile system," government sources said here.



K-4 is one of the two underwater missiles that are being developed. The other one is the over 700 kilometre strike range BO-5 missile.

It is not yet clear whether the DRDO will test the missile at the full strike range or shorter ranges. However, NOTAM (Notice to Airmen) and marine warnings for long-range missile test have already been issued by India for the planned test-firings.

The K-4 missile test was planned for last month but was postponed.

DRDO also plans test-firing of the Agni-3 and BrahMos missiles in the coming few weeks.

Government sources clarified that the test-firing of the K-4 would be done from an underwater pontoon as the missile is still being tested and launch from a submarine would only be done once it is ready for deployment.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-to-test-fire-3500-km-range-k-4-nuclear-missile/articleshow/71934973.cms>

At least 28 pieces of debris from India's A-SAT missile test still floating in space

NASA has found that at least 28 pieces of debris from India's ambitious anti-satellite (A-SAT) missile test are still in the low Earth orbit — over seven months after India successfully test-fired the missile, thereby joining an elite group to possess such capability.

After the missile test, NASA had said it created around 400 pieces of debris that could threaten the International Space Station (ISS) as well as future space missions.

India's Ministry of External Affairs had, however, then said "whatever debris was generated will decay and fall back onto the earth within weeks". Even DRDO chief G. Satheesh Reddy had said all the fragments would decay within 45 days of the test.

But Jonathan McDowell, an astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, Tuesday told ThePrint that NASA has tracked at least 101 pieces of debris from the A-SAT test initially, of which 28 still remain in low Earth orbit.



"We don't know the size of the debris but most pieces are probably less than a metre in size, maybe 10 cm," McDowell told ThePrint.

McDowell explained that some of these fragments travel at high speed of over 28,000 km/hour and thus pose a risk to satellites.

"In particular, the orbits (debris) can intersect with that of the International Space Station. The risk of collision is low, but not completely negligible," he said, adding that computer models show some of the debris could last in the orbit until 2022.

Concern over space debris ::

Debris in the low Earth orbit slowly starts decreasing their altitude due to friction in the atmosphere. Once these fragments re-enter the Earth's atmosphere, they burn up.

According to NASA, over 5,00,000 pieces of debris or "space junk" are tracked as they orbit the Earth. They travel at such high speed that even a small piece of orbital debris can damage a satellite or a spacecraft.

Increasing space debris has been a cause of concern across the globe as it threatens astronauts aboard the ISS. The threat of a collision in space has also increased significantly with space-faring countries launching more and more satellites.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/At-least-28-pieces-of-debris-from-India%e2%80%99s-A-SAT-missile-test-still-floating-in-space-757839>

ITR pavilion dazzles in Kolkata int'l Sc fest

Baleswar: The Integrated Test Range (ITR) demonstrated its technical superiority and India's prowess in a four-day international event, 'India International Science Festival (IISF)-2019', which began in Kolkata on Tuesday.

The technology exhibition organised at Science City, Kolkata was inaugurated by Union Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan. DRDO, ISRO, CSIR and several other organisations are participating in the mega exhibition.

The ITR received high appreciation in the most immaculate manner.

DRDO with its indigenous products and state-of-the-art defence technologies, made its presence felt at the event. Major products and technologies of DRDO, developed by its various laboratories over the years like MBT Arjun, Missiles (BrahMos, LRSAM, ASTRA, Akash etc), Missile onboard instruments, AEW & C System, SONARS and indigenous radars were demonstrated through models and stunning visual aids.

“The spectacular design of the DRDO pavilion has been conceived and executed in a picture-perfect manner by ITR team. The pavilion was well planned to cater to laboratories from all the technology clusters of DRDO. A well-crafted photo gallery demonstrating key DRDO achievements has attracted a lot of visitors including the young minds inspiring them to embrace science for the growth of the nation,” said Director ITR Dr BK Das , adding, “The Minister of Science and Technology visited the DRDO pavilion after the inaugural function and appreciated DRDO's effort towards making India self-reliant in defence technologies. The technical marvel coupled with lucid demonstration to the visitors has made the DRDO pavilion a crowd puller of the event.”

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/state-editions/itr-pavilion-dazzles-in-kolkata-int-l-sc-fest.html>

IAF tells govt it is ready to buy 300 indigenous fighters and trainers

After several time over-run, the HAL has delivered about a dozen aircraft and fallen behind the scheduled yearly production target. The IAF was forced to raise the first squadron of Tejas fighters with just three in 2016

By Sudhi Ranjan Sen

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has told the government that “it is committed” to buying nearly 300 indigenously made fighters and basic trainers from the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), a senior defence ministry official said on condition of anonymity. The deal will likely cost the government several billion dollars.

IAF’s commitment, however, comes with a rider: designing, manufacturing and delivery will have to be within a prescribed deadline from the time the deal is inked, this person added. “Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and the HAL must get their act together,” the official said. ADA works under the Department of Defence Research and development of the ministry of defence and is tasked with overseeing India’s LCA (light combat aircraft) programme.

IAF has told the government that it is “committed to buying” another 10 Squadrons of Tejas Mark-II (each squadron has 16-18 fighters) and 36 Advance Medium Combat (AMCA) fighters. Besides the fighters, IAF has also told the government that it will buy newly made trainer aircraft HTTP-40 as well. The decision to commit to buying indigenous fighters is the first major decision taken by Air Marshal RK Singh Bhadauria who took over as the Chief of Air Staff recently.

IAF has already bought 40 fighters of the initial version of Tejas. “The final contract for the purchase of 83 indigenously made Tejas Mark-1 fighters will be signed by the end of the current financial. Negotiations between the IAF and HAL is in the final stages,” a second official in the ministry of defence said.

After several time over-run, the HAL has delivered about a dozen aircraft and fallen behind the scheduled yearly production target. The IAF was forced to raise the first squadron of Tejas fighters with just three in 2016.

The designing for the AMCA, which will have stealth capabilities, and advanced radar and weapon packages, is in the nascent stage and will be India’s own next-generation fighter aircraft. The design of the Tejas Mark-II is in a very advanced stage and is likely to be frozen yet soon,” the second official said. “The Indian private defence manufacturing sector should also try to exploit this opportunity along with the Defence Public Sector Units.”

IAF needs a minimum of 42 fighter squadrons to put up a credible deterrence along two borders simultaneously. It, currently has only 30 fighter squadrons. The decision to go with indigenously made fighters is a major leap of faith for IAF which has been accused in the past of preferring foreign-made fighters to indigenous technology.

“Production facilities of LCA, Tejas are being upgraded. As and when orders firm up more effort will be made to ramp-up production,” a HAL spokesperson reacting to the rider of IAF.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/iaf-may-buy-300-indigenous-basic-trainers-fighters/story-OfWTLaGuQUH2j7sp5R12zI.html>

Indian Navy's operational prowess on display

*Demonstration includes storming of suspicious vessel,
replenishment of supplies, ammo and personnel mid-sea*

By Manoj Viswanathan

Kochi: Imagine three warships cruising in tandem in the open sea, while transferring men, ammunition and supply or a commando operation unveiling right in front of your eyes where marine commandos storm and take control of a suspicious vessel. The operational prowess and capabilities of the Indian Navy was on full display as the Southern Naval Command took a team of media persons to the open sea, around 25 nautical miles off the shore, to demonstrate their professionalism and bravery.

While the media persons were accommodated on INS Sunayna, a Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel, three other ships—INS Tir, Coast Guard's ICGS Sarathi and INS Magar—also participated in the demonstration. Two sail training ships INS Sudarshini and INS Tarangini, also joined the operation.



The day started with the display of force protection measures in the Kochi shipping channel, where big vessels have manoeuvrability constraints. A Fast Interceptor Craft which acted as the vanguard and a speedboat of the vessel took on a suspicious boat that approached the vessel despite warning.

Next was the VBSS (visit, board, search and seizure) operation, where a team of marine commandos demonstrated a compliant operation, subduing the master of the ship, searching the vessel and seizing unauthorised items onboard. “We have conducted many VBSS operations this year, including the seizure of drugs from a Pakistani vessel in May this year. We have conducted similar operations in the Gulf of Aden, off Somalian coast, the area which is notorious for pirates,” said Sub-lieutenant Kaushal Kumar Patralekh, the watch-keeping officer of INS Sunayna.

A Chetak helicopter, a single-engine, light-utility copter of the Navy, demonstrated search and rescue operation at sea lowering a personnel to the sea and winching him up. Later, the copter demonstrated landing on a moving ICGS Sarathi, which was swaying pitching and rolling in the sea.

The operations culminated with the demonstration of a replenishment operation, where supply, ammunition and personnel are transferred from one ship to another while moving in tandem at a distance of 36 m. Two media persons were transferred from INS Sunayna to INS Tir using a rope to help understand the intricacies of the operation. INS Tir, INS Sunayna and Coast Guard ship Sarathi participated in the demonstration.

Navy spokesperson Commander Sridhar Warriar, Commanding officer of INS Sunayna, Commander Rohit Bajpai, executive officer and second in command Lieutenant-Commander Akshay Kumar Raja explained the operations. Demonstrations were coordinated by commanding officer of INS Tir Captain Varun Singh, a marine commando who was awarded Mahavir Chakra for his services in the Kargil war, and Commandant Arun Singh, captain of ICGS Sarathi.

Ships that took part in demo

INS Sunayna IINS Tir

IINS Magar IICGS Sarathi

Three-masted sail training ships IINS Tarangini

IINS Sudarshini

Rescue demonstration

1 Chetak helicopter

600 personnel participated in the demo

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/cities/kochi/2019/nov/07/indian-navys-operational-prowess-on-display-2058099.html>

Russia spl groups to maintain defence equipment in India

Moscow agrees to New Delhi's request for after-sales support

New Delhi: India and Russia have agreed to form specific groups that will take care of after-sales servicing of Russian equipment being used by Indian armed forces. Also, the two sides today directed respective teams for early conclusion of the India-Russia inter-governmental agreement on reciprocal logistics support.

These were part of the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) meeting, co-chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Russian counterpart General Sergey Shoigu in Moscow today.

General Shoigu agreed to a request by India to constitute specific working groups for after-sales support of key defence platforms. Both sides agreed to intensify efforts to finalise a cooperation programme for 10-year period beginning 2021.

Rajnath highlighted the importance of the inter-governmental agreement on manufacturing of spares, components and aggregates in India through joint ventures that would reduce cost, timelines of supply and result in progressive indigenisation. This agreement is expected to provide a major boost to the 'Make in India' initiative.

At the India-Russia Defence Industry Conference held in Moscow on Tuesday, India had said it would share with Russia a list of spares and items of military use, which it required to be manufactured in India.

The Russian side affirmed its readiness to operationalise joint venture Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited for the manufacture of Kalashnikov AK 203 rifles in India.

The ministers reviewed the progress of the two working groups on Military and Military Technical Cooperation. It was agreed that the forthcoming Tri-Service Indra Exercises will be a major milestone in military cooperation between the two countries. The Russian Defence Minister requested Rajnath for participation of an Indian contingent in Army parade to mark 75th anniversary of the World War-II victory.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/russia-spl-groups-to-maintain-defence-equipment-in-india/857433.html>

In Russia, Rajnath Singh co-chairs military cooperation meeting

The two defence ministers also held an in-depth discussion on several international issues and General Shoigu briefed Singh about Russia's operations in Syria

New Delhi: On the second day of his three-day trip to Russia, Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh co-chaired the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) meeting, along with his Russian counterpart General Sergei Shoigu in Moscow.

At the meeting, Russia reaffirmed its willingness to make Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited — a joint venture to the manufacture Kalashnikov AK 203 rifles in India — operational at the earliest. General Shoigu also called India an exclusive strategic defence partner of his country.

The two defence ministers also held an in-depth discussion on several international issues and General Shoigu briefed Singh about Russia's operations in Syria. Russia also mentioned that its strong support to India in the field of counter-terrorism will continue and also said that India's security interests in the region are a priority.

Singh laid emphasis on the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries, which he said was strengthened following the Vladivostok Summit in September 2019.

Russia also asked Singh for an Indian military contingent's participation in the Army Parade on the occasion of 75th Anniversary of the victory in the Second World War. Earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin had extended an invite to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the celebrations.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/in-russia-rajnath-singh-co-chairs-military-cooperation-meeting-6106978/>

Russia supports India's counter-terror efforts

New Delhi: Russia on Wednesday backed India in its fight against terrorism and reaffirmed its support to tackle the scourge by boosting India's defence capabilities and providing cutting edge technology. This assurance came during visiting Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Russian counterpart General Sergey Shoigu talks in Moscow. Singh is in Russia on a three-day visit started on Tuesday.

Giving details of the talks between the two leaders held under the aegis of the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC), Defence Ministry officials said here Singh held in-depth discussions on a range of international issues of common concern. Shoigu briefed Raksha Mantri on Russian operations in Syria.

The Russian side reiterated its strong support to India in the field of counter-terrorism and stated that it accords priority to New Delhi's security interests in the region. The Russian Defence Minister underlined Moscow's commitment to extend all possible support in enhancing India's defence capabilities, including cooperation in advance and cutting-edge technology. Singh appreciated Russia's steadfast support.

Welcoming Singh on his maiden visit to Russia, Shoigu termed India as an exclusive strategic defence partner. Singh emphasised that the special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries was further strengthened following the Vladivostok Summit in September 2019.

He highlighted the importance of the Inter-Governmental Agreement on manufacturing of spares, components and aggregates in India through joint ventures that would reduce cost, timelines of supply and result in progressive indigenisation. This agreement is expected to provide a major boost to the 'Make in India' initiative.

Responding to his invitation, the Russian Defence Minister assured robust Russian participation in DefExpo 2020, to be held in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow between February 5-8, 2020.

The Russian side affirmed its readiness to operationalise the joint venture Indo-Russia Rifles Private Limited for the manufacture of world class Kalashnikov AK 203 rifles in India at the earliest. The factory was set up in Uttar Pradesh some months back and will manufacture these rifles for the army to begin with and then para-military forces and the police. The total cost of the joint venture is about Rs 7,000 crores.

The two Ministers reviewed the progress of the two working groups on Military and Military Technical Cooperation. It was agreed that the forthcoming tri-service Indra Exercises will be a major milestone in military cooperation between the two countries.

Both sides expressed satisfaction on the progress in implementing ongoing contracts concluded in the recent past. Russia also agreed to Singh's request to constitute specific working groups for after-sales support of key defence platforms. The ministers directed the respective teams to work closely for early conclusion of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support.

As a special gesture, the Russian Defence Minister requested Singh for participation of an Indian military Contingent in Army Parade on the occasion of 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War. Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin has already extended an invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the celebrations. He also assured that an Indian contingent would be participating in the Parade. Singh will visit St Petersburg on Thursday on the final day of his visit to Russia. His engagements include wreath laying at the Piskarevsky Memorial Cemetery there.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/india/russia-supports-india---s-counter-terror-efforts.html>

Thu, 07 Nov 2019

Upgraded Seahawks for the Indian Navy : India-US to seal deal

India is finally concluding a procurement deal for multi-role helicopters the Navy had publicly labelled as ‘most important’.

Defence ministry sources confirm a contract will be signed in November with the Pentagon (United States department of defence) for 24 Lockheed Martin MH-60R Seahawks for \$ 2 billion to \$ 2.6 billion (Rs 14,000 crore/Rs 140 billion to Rs 18,200 crore/Rs 182 billion).

These choppers, with foldable blades, will be stationed on naval warships for anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, combat search and rescue, vertical replenishment, medical evacuation.

Seahawks are also used for Special Forces commando missions.

For decades the navy’s Sea King Mk 42B/C helicopters carried out these tasks. But with the Sea King being retired, helicopter hangars on board an entire generation of warships are empty, severely reducing the nation’s combat capability.

The navy’s 10-odd Sea Kings are being shared among an aircraft carrier, 14 destroyers, 15 frigates and three anti-submarine warfare corvettes.

Several other warships in production will require more multi-mission helicopters when they enter service.

Given the urgency, the navy is buying 24 MH-60R Seahawks in flyaway condition, and plans to build another 99 in India through the strategic partnership route.

For building them here, Lockheed, the original equipment manufacturer (OEM), will have to transfer manufacturing technology to an Indian strategic partner firm.

Given Lockheed’s burgeoning partnership with Tata Advanced Systems, it is likely that TASL will emerge the strategic partner for the task.

The two collaborate in building a range of aerospace components in Hyderabad and have announced a partnership to build the F-16 fighter in India if the Indian Air Force buys the aircraft.

The first 24 Seahawks are being procured through the foreign military sales route — a US-led process that involves no tendering.

Instead, the Pentagon, acting as a paid agent of the buyer, negotiates price and supply terms with the OEM.

In most such deals, the foreign buyer usually manages to procure the equipment for much cheaper than the US military did for itself. This, because the Pentagon fixes as a benchmark the price the US military paid for its last procurement of that equipment.

Upon that, the Pentagon imposes a price reduction, demanding greater production efficiency and the continual amortisation of overhead costs during the production run.

Foreign military sales procurements also come with the US government’s guarantees on weapons and equipment performance.

The MH-60R Seahawk helicopter — originally built by Sikorsky, a US firm bought by the Lockheed for \$ 9 billion in November 2015 — has had a long production run.

Introduced into the US navy in 2006, there are 300 Seahawks in service, including in the US, Denmark, Australia and Saudi Arabia. South Korea, too, plans to buy 12.

The Seahawks the US navy bought have since been upgraded, making them highly effective at detecting the periscope of enemy submarines.

India will get the upgraded version. Lockheed says the Seahawk has a 98% availability rate and the lowest life-cycle cost in its class (costing less than \$ 5,000 for each flying hour).

The defence ministry gave the permission to buy 24 Seahawks on August 25, 2018.

On April 2, the US congress was informed about the potential sale 'for an estimated \$ 2.6 billion'.

This includes the cost of 24 full-kitted and armed choppers, along with 12 spare engines, six spare multi-mode radars and six multi-spectral targeting systems.

The deal includes 1,000 sonobuoys, or portable sonar systems, for detecting enemy submarines; and Hellfire missiles, rockets and torpedoes to destroy surface and sub-surface targets. A range of communications equipment is also being transferred.

In a separate, ongoing navy procurement for 111 naval utility helicopters, Lockheed is offering its smaller Sikorsky S-76 helicopter.

This sale is also happening under the strategic partner route, but will not be a foreign military sales contract.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/Upgraded-Seahawks-for-the-Indian-Navy--India-US-to-seal-deal-757840>

Massive upgrade of India's Armed Forces - Pak Media

It has been reported in the Indian and Pakistan print media lately that India has firmed up its plan to massively augment its military capability over the next 5-7 years. According to information emanating from an official document and Indian military sources, published in leading Indian Daily 'India Today' on September 11 and some leading English dailies of Pakistan on October 23, 2019, India has decided to take a quantum leap vis-à-vis strengthening its military capability. As reported, India has finalised a plan to spend USD 130 billion over the next five to seven years to modernise its armed forces. The document, as reported in the media, says the Indian government will work on a comprehensive plan to expedite modernisation of its army, navy and the air force. Under this plan, a range of significant weapons, missiles, fighter jets, submarines and warships will be procured in the next few years.

Regardless of all that has been reported vis-à-vis India's plans to strengthen its armed forces phenomenally and it's not so good past track-record with regard to procurement of military hardware for its armed forces, what should be a cause for major concern for the countries of the region, China and Pakistan in particular, is India's unprecedented hegemonic designs in this part of the globe. Strongly backed by the US, in particular, and the other powers that be, in general, which are deeply engaged in selling state-of-the-art military hardware worth billions of dollars to India, augmentation of its armed forces has become a cornerstone of India's defense policy.

According to Indian defense analysts, Pakistan is an immediate threat to India while China will be a medium- term threat, they presume. They, therefore, firmly believe that India should focus more on Chinese military threat because, according to them, if India is prepared take on China it could capably confront two-front wars.

A report of 'The Military Balance', a prestigious annual publication of The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) UK, published in eminent Indian Daily-The Economic Times on February 15, 2018, India overtook the UK as the fifth-largest defense spender in the world in 2017 at \$52.5 billion. Quoting from the 2018 issue of 'The Military Balance 2018', The Economic Times further said that India's defense budget broke into the world's top five, beating the UK for the first time, signaling a key shift in the military balance between the two countries. India overtook the UK as the fifth-largest defense spender in the world in 2017 at \$52.5 billion, up from \$51.1 billion in 2016. In contrast, the UK's defense budget fell from \$52.5 billion in 2016 to \$50.7 billion last year. According to a list (2019 Fact Sheet) published by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) India's defense budget has risen to \$66.5 in 2019.

Bolstering its armed forces beyond justifiable limits cogently reflects India's hegemonic ambitions. It is a known fact that India's phenomenal military buildup is largely focused on containing Pakistan and generally the countries of the region. Yet another reason often given by India for massively augmenting the Indian armed forces is the threat that it claims to be facing from China. The China factor vis-à-vis India's perpetual augmentation of its armed forces is what is being strongly backed by the US in particular and the other powers that be in general. It is a universal fact that the US strongly desires to see India emerge as a regional power particularly to contain China.

The question however is, have people at the helm of governance in India ever realized that attainment of its hegemonic ambitions, through massive build up of its armed forces, is costing its downtrodden masses very dearly? Have they ever thought that the people who have been bringing

them to the citadel of power, time and again, deserve a better deal than what they have always got over the past seven decades? Apparently, they haven't.

According to the latest Indian Human Development Survey, released on May 11, 2019, nearly half (47.9 per cent) the Indian households that have more than five children are severely deprived of shelter, water, sanitation, health and education as compared to 7.8 per cent of poor families without children. According to the World Bank up to 24 per cent of the world's poor live in India, the fifth largest country by gross domestic product in 2017. Sadly, the situation vis-à-vis the issue of poverty in Pakistan is not very encouraging either. Some reports reveal that roughly 40% of the population of Pakistan lives below the poverty line. The prevailing dismal poverty scenario in India and Pakistan conveys a very cogent message to the people at the helm of governments in both countries that they should make sincere and sustained efforts to improve the depressing lives of their browbeaten masses.

What then does the scenario described above depicts and solicits? It evidently portrays that India, in particular, is utterly neglecting the welfare of a very large segment of its masses. It is doing so, by unjustifiably spending a significant part of its resources on strengthening its armed forces rather than on the wellbeing of over 70 percent of its (1.36 billion) underprivileged populace. Compelled by India's massive expansion of its armed forces, Pakistan too is being forced to spend roughly Rs. 1.15 trillion (amounting to 17 percent) of its national budget on its armed forces. This too, undeniably, is a fairly sizeable amount when looked at in the context of its total annual (2019) national budget of Rs.7 trillion.

This extremely unfortunate situation solicits from those at the helm of government in India, in particular, that it should give up its hegemonic ambitions in the region and divert a significant part of the huge sum that it is spending on strengthening its armed forces towards the wellbeing of its poverty stricken, underprivileged segment of the population. If good sense prevails and the Indian government decides to judiciously curtail its gargantuan defense expenditure, for the reason cited above, Pakistan too will then be able to reduce its defense budget to a rational level and spend the money it saves towards the welfare of the underprivileged segment of the country's populace.

India's relations with Pakistan are currently at its lowest ebb. The relations between the two countries cannot improve unless the core issue of Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK), an issue which continues to be a bone of contention between the India and Pakistan for over 7 decades, is not resolved forthwith. The atrocities that the brutal Indian forces continue to brazenly commit in the occupied territory must end immediately. The UN, the US and the world community must play a conclusive role in resolving the grave Kashmir issue by prevailing on India to grant right to self-determination to the people of the occupied territory, in accordance with the charters of the United Nations and the UN Resolution of 1948.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/Massive-Upgrade-of-India%e2%80%99s-Armed-Forces---Pak-Media-757841>

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1,200 Indian, 500 US Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen to take part in ‘TIGER TRIUMPH’

As many as 1,200 Indian and 500 US soldiers, sailors and airmen will take part in the first-ever Tri-Services India-US Military Exercise called ‘Tiger Triumph’ scheduled to be held between November 13 and 21 near Visakhapatnam and Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

“The exercise will include events and field training that simulate moving humanitarian assistance and disaster relief force from ship to shore. This exercise helps build the capacity of both the Indian and US participants while improving their ability to operate together,” an official statement said on Tuesday.

This exercise gives U.S. and Indian forces the opportunity to exchange knowledge and learn from each other as well as establish personal and professional relationships.

During Tiger Triumph, Indian and US forces will become familiar with one another’s aviation support capabilities by conducting cross deck landings by the Indian Air Force on the USS Germantown’s flight deck and executing a simulated casualty evacuation from the shore to the acting hospital ship.

All Tiger Triumph training pertains to developing either counter-terrorism or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capabilities.

“The UNS Jalashwa, USS Germantown, INS Airavat, and a survey vessel in a hospital ship role will be participating in Tiger TRIUMPH. US and Indian forces will embark their counterpart’s ships during the sea phase to become familiar with each other’s tactics, techniques, and procedures,” the statement said.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/1,200-Indian,-500-US-Soldiers,-Sailors,-Airmen-to-take-part-in-%e2%80%98TIGER-TRIUMPH%e2%80%99-757837>