

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A Daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 45 No. 33 14 February 2020



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
Defence Science Library
रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केन्द्र
Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre
मैटकॉफ हाऊस, दिल्ली - 110 054
Metcalf House, Delhi - 110 054

BrahMos to test airborne early warning aircraft killer missile soon - Aerospace Chief

BrahMos Aerospace has been aiming to develop a hypersonic version of a missile that will be able to hit the target five times faster than the speed of sound. Jointly developed by India and Russia, the versatile BrahMos missile will be used by the Indian Armed Forces.

BrahMos Aerospace, an Indo-Russian joint venture, will soon be used to test an air-to-air missile system capable of destroying airborne warning and control systems.

“We are thinking to develop the air-to-air version with anti-AWACS capability. The range can be in excess of 400-500 km and the test will be sometime in the near future,” Mishra said in an interview with the online Manorama daily.



Defence sources told Sputnik that the missile can even hit enemy surveillance systems, enemy refuelling aircraft, and transporters from long distance.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is dependent upon the Russian missiles to destroy long-range radar surveillance and control systems for air defense. However, as Pakistan, India's neighboring state, could eventually purchase longer range killer missile from China, the IAF has shown interest in a missile that can destroy the enemy radar system from afar.

Earlier this month, India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Chief Sathesh Reddy claimed the country had received many queries about the BrahMos system.

"BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is one of the most important products that we are looking to export. We have received many queries about the missile system."

At least 14 countries have shown an interest in BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. The Philippine's Secretary of National Defence Delfin Lorenzana announced on 16 December that Manila is set to order the system from India in 2020 as part of its military modernisation programme.

“We expect (signing the agreement) sometime in April or May,” Praveen Pathak, the chief general manager for marketing and export of the Russian-Indian joint venture BrahMos Aerospace told reporters on 19 January.

<https://www.defencenews.in/article/BrahMos-to-Test-Airborne-Early-Warning-Aircraft-Killer-Missile-Soon---Aerospace-Chief-809295>

Ready to help India on Tejas and advanced combat aircraft projects: Lockheed Martin

"We are very open to any requirement from the government of India or the Indian Air Force for any help for the Tejas as well as the AMCA (advanced multi-role combat aircraft) project," Vivek Lall, vice president of Strategy and Business Development for Lockheed Martin told PTI in an interview without divulging specific

New Delhi: US aerospace giant Lockheed Martin has offered to help India in its multibillion dollar programme to develop a next generation advanced multi-role combat aircraft and boost capability of the Tejas fighter jet.

The offer by the US aerospace firm comes ahead of President Donald Trump's maiden visit to India on February 24-25 during which both strategic partners are expected to further expand defence and military cooperation.

Vivek Lall, vice president of Strategy and Business Development for Lockheed Martin, said the company is "very open" to assisting India in further development of the Tejas combat jet as well as the ambitious next generation aircraft.

"We are very open to any requirement from the government of India or the Indian Air Force for any help for the Tejas as well as the AMCA (advanced multi-role combat aircraft) project," Lall told PTI in an interview without divulging specifics.

The indigenously developed Tejas has been a showpiece project of India being implemented by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). Both HAL and ADA are now focusing on an upgraded version of Tejas to make it a world class plane.

India is also working on an ambitious USD 5 billion project to develop a fifth-generation medium weight deep penetration fighter jet to significantly bolster its air power capability.

Lall showcased Lockheed Martin's F-21 jet as an attractive option for IAF's hunt to procure a batch of 118 fighter planes, saying choosing the American jet will link India to a USD 165 billion worth global aerospace eco-system.

"Once you get a platform like the F21, that is just start of a very long-term relationship for future configurations that India desires, future platforms that India wants to develop," he said.

Eyeing the IAF's USD 18 billion deal, Lockheed Martin has exclusively offered its newly rolled out F-21 fighter to India and even promised to set up a manufacturing facility in India if the company gets the contract.

The company said it will not sell the jet to any other country if it wins the contract for the 114 jets.

Hard-selling F-21 as the best platform for the IAF, he said the aircraft, a derivative of the F-16, will have 40 per cent more weapons package than its competitors.

Asked about weapons package, he said the aircraft had 138 configurations. The company may look at integrating weapons as per India's requirement subject to approval of the US government, he added.

Besides having a traditional boom-delivered refuelling facility, the F-21 also has a extendable hose-and-drogue refuelling probe.

"This is only fighter in the world which has both the capabilities," Lall said, adding that the jet has an unique India-specific electronic warfare suit.

"F 21 is being exclusively offered to India. It is a unique platform for India. It has several India-unique configurations," he said.

In April last year, the IAF issued an RFI (request for information) or initial tender to acquire 114 jets at a cost of around USD 18 billion, which is billed as one of the world's biggest military procurements in recent years.

The top contenders for the deal include Lockheed's F-21, Boeing's F/A-18, Dassault Aviation's Rafale, the Eurofighter Typhoon, Russian aircraft MiG 35 and Saab's Gripen.

Lall said the F-21 provides all the capabilities at 30-40 per cent less cost than a twin engine aircraft.

The Lockheed executive said the F-21 has an advanced APG-83 active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar which significantly enhances the jet's ability to track and attack more targets with higher precision.

Defence and security ties between India and the US have been on an upswing in the last six years. Bilateral defence trade touched USD 18 billion mark in 2019, reflecting growing defence cooperation between the two sides.

There are indications that the two sides may announce further deepening of defence ties during Trump's visit later this month.

Both sides have also been pushing for joint venture and collaboration between private sectors of the two countries in defence manufacturing.

In June 2016, the US designated India a "Major Defence Partner", intending to elevate defence trade and technology sharing with India to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/lockheed-martin-says-ready-to-help-india-on-tejas-and-amca-projects/articleshow/74117509.cms>



DEFENCE AVIATION POST

Your Connect To The World Of Defence And Aviation

Fri, 14 Feb 2020

India purchasing American air defence system to fill the gap that exists despite S-400

Ahead of US President Donald Trump's visit to India, the US State Department approved the sale of integrated air defence weapon systems to India at a cost of \$1.867 billion. New Delhi had already contracted to purchase five S-400 long-range air-defence missile systems from Russia in 2018.

Despite developing the country's own ballistic air defence system, the Indian government had requested to buy an Integrated Air Defense Weapon System featuring the National Advanced Surface to Air Missile System-II (NASAMS), which was approved by the US State Department on 10 February.

A group of Indian defence analysts hinted that the purchase of the American system could prove to be of major significance for India's air defence, which is faced with consistent threats from Pakistan as well as China.



Rajiv Nayan, a defence analyst specialising in weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), said that despite India's own air and ballistic missile defence systems, a gap still exists despite the S-400s and the American system would bridge the gap in the Indian air defence system.

Earlier, it was reported in Indian media that a domestically-produced air defence programme is complete and will be installed in Delhi in three to four years to secure the nation's capital from both nuclear and conventional missiles.

Rahul Bhonsle, a former Indian Army Brigadier, said: "The procurement of the NASAMS was in the offing for some time now and essentially it appears to be for the national capital. This would imply that either the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Missile Defence system is seen as not reliable enough to cover Delhi or that this is being planned for other major metros, such as Mumbai."

However, DRDO had claimed in the past, on several occasions, that the weapons system radars tracked one target among simultaneously-incoming multiple targets in real-time and the missile locked on to it and intercepted the target with a high degree of accuracy.

The Indian government also voiced their appreciation that scientists in the past had developed the country's advanced air defence missile system.

<https://www.defenceaviationpost.com/2020/02/india-purchasing-american-air-defence-system-to-fill-the-gap-that-exists-despite-s-400/>



Fri, 14 Feb 2020

FA-18 Super Hornets Elbowing MiG out of india carrier jet race?

Boeing has announced plans to test its F/A-18 Super Hornet jet on a carrier ski-jump to make a pitch for India's carrier-based aircraft procurement program even as Russia's MiG is expecting an order to supply the MiG-29K jets for the same.

India's Russian origin aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya and India's first Indigenous aircraft carrier (IAC-1) use the ski-jump system while US carriers use the catapult-launch system. India has also been planning to build 65,000-tonne IAC-2, INS Vishal. Last year, BAE Systems offered to build a customized HMS Queen Elizabeth-type aircraft carrier for India, with an adaptable design for ski-jump and catapult launch.

The Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet will need to be tested and certified for ski-jump operation before it can make a pitch for the Indian procurement.

"Testing plans are underway," Thom Breckenridge, a Boeing vice president for international sales, said at the Defexpo2020 Indian arms show. "We will rigorously check our aircraft on the ski jump."

"Russia is waiting for a request from the Indian Defense Ministry for the delivery of deck-based MiG-29K fighters for the Vikrant," a Russian aviation industry told Tass today in response to Indian media reports that the wait for the country's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant has been extended due to issues with the delivery of aviation equipment from Russia.

The Indian side has not yet issued a tender for the supply of deck-based aircraft, although the Indian side made the relevant inquiry back in 2017. On Russia's behalf, the state arms seller Rosoboronexport will take part in the tender, the source told Tass.

According to India's plans, the light aircraft carrier Vikrant is due to be delivered to the Indian Navy in March 2021. The warship is expected to carry up to 14 MiG-29K fighters and several helicopters.

India's current fleet of 45 MiG-29K aircraft, procured for \$2.2 billion, currently operate from Navy's sole aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, and plans to buy 57 more. The flight deck of INS Vikrant will reportedly have the capacity to hold 19 aircraft and the hangar inside will have room for 17 fighters.

New Delhi issued a request for information (RFI) for a "day-and-night-capable, all-weather, multi-role, deck-based combat aircraft which can be used for air-defense, air-to-surface operations, buddy refuelling, reconnaissance, etc. from (the Navy's) aircraft carriers." The country has, however, not yet issued even a call to bid in a tender for the supply of deck-based aircraft.

In future, these aircraft will fly from the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) Vikrant once it enters service.

<https://www.defencenews.in/article/FA-18-Super-Hornets-Elbowing-MiG-Out-Of-India-Carrier-Jet-Race-809294>



Fri, 14 Feb 2020

India plays crucial role in shaping global paradigm on security, trade: President

By T N Raghunatha

Mumbai: President Ram Nath Kovind said on Thursday that as a leading power, India played a crucial role in shaping the global paradigm with respect to international security, trade and commerce.

Speaking at a ceremony after presenting 'Colour' to the INS Shivaji at Lonavla near Pune, the President said: "India's rise in the international order has been fuelled by many factors including the capabilities and valour of our armed forces".

"Today, the geopolitical situation in the world and in the Indo-Pacific in particular demands greater vigilance. I am aware that the Navy has adopted mission-based deployments in the Indian Ocean region," Kovind said.

Heaping praise on INS Shivaji for imparting technical training of highest standard to marine engineers from the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and friendly foreign countries, Kovind said: "High quality training of marine engineers is crucial for sustained deployments and presence in our areas of interest. The future will also see great diversity in the propulsion systems ranging from conventional to nuclear and electric and hybrid propulsion".

"Concepts of maintenance will also undergo a paradigm shift with increased requirements on operational availability of platforms. INS Shivaji will need to impart the requisite skills to all trainees to prepare them to meet future challenges," the President said.

"As INS Shivaji completes 75 years of excellence, let us introspect and reflect on the journey so far and also glance at the future. Technology is leapfrogging to produce autonomous vessels. Artificial intelligence and machine learning are being deployed for decision-making and war-fighting," Kovind said. "The training of marine engineers will also need to be tailored to train them to work with evolving technologies, while maintaining competence in the core engineering profession. I am confident that INS Shivaji would impart the skill set required in the future to all trainees passing out through its portals," the President said.

"I am glad to note that more than two lakh officers and sailors of the marine engineering branch of the Navy, Coast Guard and friendly foreign countries have been trained in this fine institution till date," he said.

“INS Shivaji has distinguished itself with stellar service to the nation over the years. It has a proud record of professional excellence, and has discharged its responsibilities with distinction,” the President said, he lauded the INS Shivaji’s contribution to the Indian Navy.

“A nation’s maritime interests are usually also linked to its economy and the well-being of its people. I am told about 90 per cent of our trade, by volume, is handled by sea routes. This enhances the role of the Indian Navy not just in national security but also in economic security, and thus in the wider process of nation building,” he said.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/india/india-plays-crucial-role-in-shaping-global-paradigm-on-security--trade--president.html>



Fri, 14 Feb 2020

Should women be given command posts in the Army?

Like men, women should be judged on the basis of their professionalism and merit

By Dinakar Peri

Last week, in response to an ongoing hearing in the Supreme Court on permanent commission for women officers, the government cited “physical” and “physiological limitations” in granting command positions to women officers in the Indian Army. To this, the Supreme Court responded that there is a need for administrative will and “change of mindset”. In a conversation moderated by **Dinakar Peri**, Lieutenant General Syed Ata Hasnain and Lieutenant General D.S. Hooda discuss this question. Excerpts:

Could you provide an overview of the reasoning behind the government’s stand?

Lt Gen Hasnain: Till September 2019, permanent commission for women was restricted to only two departments: the Army Education Corps and the Judge Advocate General’s branch. In September, the Defence Ministry announced that it is opening this up to eight other arms and services from April this year, for women already selected for the Short Service Commission. So, permanent commission now is open in 10 departments, or what you call arms and services. Now, women’s careers can be furthered only if they get what are called command assignments or criteria appointments. The question is, how do you define a criteria appointment? The Indian Army is what is called a command-oriented Army. That is, anyone who has to be given further positions up the chain of command has to first be experienced in command at the level of a full Colonel, a unit command. So far, this was denied to women. That is the main issue.

My opinion is that the time has come for us to at least experiment, if nothing else, and that experiment needs to be done first with the Services — Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps and Corps of Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. In all these there are women who have been commissioned for the last 30 years as Short Service Commissioned officers. Many of them have commanded workshops. Some of them are in a position to be selected. The focus is on the word selected because they have to be selected through their confidential reports, a board of officers, a promotion board, which will determine whether they are fit to command. Only then will they command a unit.

Gen Hooda, apart from the point about gaining acceptability from other soldiers, the government has argued that there are other issues such as motherhood and domestic obligations. Do you believe that these are stumbling blocks in women holding command positions? For the last 30 years we have had women in the Army.

Lt Gen Hooda: There are challenges — domestic issues, fitness, pregnancy — all that has been quoted by the government in its affidavit. But this is an argument we had 30 years ago when we were inducting women into the Army. All these issues have been handled by the Army in a very mature manner over the years.

Coming specifically to the issue of whether they should be given command or not, there is very little justification in saying that while women officers can be company commanders, platoon commanders, second in command, [they should be excluded] when it comes to command appointments, commanding a unit, only on the basis that they are women.

This argument doesn't hold water. As Lt Gen Hasnain said, there is a board of officers to decide whether promotions to the rank of Colonel can take place or not for a particular officer. It's not as if all male officers get automatically promoted as Colonels. In some cases, in some services, less than 30% of male officers are promoted to the rank of Colonel. The decision is made by a board of officers. Let the same board of officers decide whether a woman officer is fit to command a unit. Women should be judged on the basis of their professionalism and on the basis of merit.

The Commanding Officer holds a very significant position in the Army. What distinguishes the command positions and what's the way forward to have women in these roles?

Lt Gen Hasnain: Let's understand it from a career management angle as well as a functional angle. What are criteria appointments which someone has to fulfil before they can be promoted to even higher ranks? These appointments can be directly in command of troops or many times they are also not in command of troops. For example, there can be appointments in the Army Education Corps and the Judge Advocate General's branch or such things where you have a certain responsibility, but you are not directly commanding troops. There are arms and services such as the Army Service Corps and Electrical and Mechanical Engineers where you have resources under your command and you have a large number of personnel under your command. In the Engineers Corps, a criteria appointment could be to set up an appointment such as the Commander Works Engineer who is responsible largely for projects of maintenance, of a lot of construction assets, and things like that, and very little responsibility for the personnel under you. So, there is a whole range of such responsibilities.

But the one important aspect is that the difference between a sub-unit command and the command by a Commanding Officer is that the Commanding Officer is the place where the buck stops. So the question many are asking is, do women have it in them to be able to accept that kind of responsibility? And will they be able to exercise that authority over male personnel under them? Now, this has only been experienced in sub-units where there could be 100-120 men serving under a lady officer of rank of a Major or Lieutenant Colonel and they have done extremely well in those appointments. So there is nothing wrong in giving them command assignments.

That is why I said let's experiment with it. Give it a five-year period, and if you find something drastically wrong, which I'm sure you will not, then maybe you can give it a review. But on the face of it, denying them this opportunity only on the basis of their gender is not legally correct, I think, though of course the Supreme Court will decide that. I don't think it is morally correct. Because now that you have given them permanent commission, you've given them this on the basis of the assumption that they are equally good [as men], they're responsible, and they can be developed to become better, I think it's incumbent on the organisation to actually repose a certain level of trust in them and give them these command responsibilities.

Gen Hooda, you had written that there is some merit in not having women in combat roles. Can you elaborate on this?

Lt Gen Hooda: I think there is some justification in not permitting women in combat roles at this time. There are issues about soldiers and officers living on the front lines. Officers and their men all live together in, say, one bunker along the Line of Control. So, there are issues and if you are going to induct women in Combat Arms, try and shield them from some of these more difficult roles. At this stage, it could only invite more resentment regarding why we are having women in Combat Arms. We should keep that debate for later. Let's start with mainstreaming those arms and services where women already are present.

You had mentioned stressful conditions like working in close proximity on the front lines. Now we're talking about command positions, but combat roles in front line combat will come up after that. How can these issues be addressed?

Lt Gen Hooda: We need to look at things in a more practical manner. We've already started inducting women as permanent commission in some of the supporting arms and services. We need to completely integrate all the people in the Army, and that includes women officers. It's ridiculous that we are fighting battles in court. The Supreme Court might give some judgment based on its wisdom. But within the Army, if we can internally resolve these issues, that will be a much better approach. So let's look at both sides of the debate. And the fact is, you have to integrate women better in the Army, you have to give them their professional aspirations, their personal aspirations have to be met. Let's start debating this and see how everyone can be pulled together. Frankly, some of the arguments that have been made in the Court — I dare say I'm using this word with a little caution — are regressive, and don't reflect the reality on the ground today.

What were your efforts in this direction?

Lt Gen Hasnain: That's a good question. I admit that I started with a negative mindset myself, way back in 1991. But my mind changed very early because of the demonstrated capability on the ground. In almost every arm and service, I visited in my own division on the Line of Control, I saw a detachment of engineers working feverishly on a particular operational track and the person commanding that detachment and spending time on the deck of the bulldozer at night, for three to four weeks with the men, was a lady officer. Thereafter, there have been many occasions where I've seen young women, convoy commanders, who've done a marvellous job under the most challenging circumstances in cases of ambushes on the Uri-Baramulla road.

Lt Gen Hooda: I will give you two stories. In 2005, I took over command of the Brigade from Lt Gen Hasnain, and we had this earthquake in September 2005. My Brigade Major wasn't there [in Uri]. The officer below him, the captain who is called the G3, was injured. And we had no officers there, we were completely cut off. The Education Officer, Captain Rosie, performed the role of Brigade Major and she handled the whole operational side. Hats off to the way she handled it.

So, I have no doubts about women officers handling responsibilities during a crisis. Then we had Colonel Santosh Mahadik, Commanding Officer of a unit, when I was the Army Commander, who was killed while fighting terrorists in September 2015. When my wife went to pay condolences, his wife said she wanted to join the Army. She was 35 years old, 10 years older than anybody who can get commissioned into the Officers Training Academy. We took up her case. She got commissioned in 2017 as a Lieutenant in the Ordnance (Corps). Now, the inspiration we get from her story is beyond words.

Generals, in retrospect, would you have taken orders from a woman officer?

Lt Gen Hasnain: Without blinking an eye, if someone above me, whether man or woman, was someone who demonstrated capability and leadership qualities, there is no question that I would not accept directions, orders. In the Army, we are trained to do that. It's just a mindset [regarding women], we need to overcome that. I would have overcome it almost immediately.

Lt Gen Hooda: Soldiers respect professionalism, good leadership, irrespective of whether it is demonstrated by a male or female officer.

(D.S. Hooda is a former Northern Army Commander; Syed Ata Hasnain is former GOC 15 Corps and is now the Chancellor of Jammu University.)

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/should-women-be-given-command-posts-in-the-army/article30812585.ece>

Business Standard

Fri, 14 Feb 2020

Ambitious goals for defence

If India is to have any chance of doubling exports, it must first recognise exports and production are two sides of the same coin

At the Defence Expo held in Lucknow recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi exhorted Indian manufacturers to double defence exports to \$5 billion (₹37,000 crore) over the next five years. Around the same time, reports indicated that a major private sector company aspiring to become a producer of military platforms had gone into liquidation, forcing the government to en-cash all its bank guarantees. These two developments are incongruous and require some discussion.

In 2011, the Indian Navy placed an order for five Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) with a private sector entity, the Pipavav Defence & Offshore Engineering Company. These vessels, the simplest of all naval platforms, were to be built at a cost of ₹2,500 crore and delivered starting 2014-15. By 2015, this company had stopped functioning and was taken over by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited (R-Naval). In July 2017, R-Naval actually launched two OPVs, though these were nowhere near the final stage of construction. The company, which spelt out grandiose plans for manufacturing advanced warships and submarines, has filed for insolvency. The Ministry of Defence has advance payments made for the ships amounting to ₹980 crore but the ships are nowhere on the horizon. The order has been cancelled and no deliveries have been made. Yet, if any naval platforms have a chance of getting exported, the OPVs would be at the very top of that list.

This, of course, is the naval experience. Another privately-owned shipyard has also struggled to

remain productive, but with little success. Only Larsen and Toubro has made headway, first by fabricating hulls of our nuclear submarines and then by building a few conventional but simpler ships. The picture in the other two arms of the military is no different. The private sector is far from manufacturing even the simplest aircraft or helicopter. In fact, even Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

(HAL), the public sector unit assembling sophisticated fighters under a licensing agreement for decades, cannot produce these platforms in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of our own Air Force. The question of exporting any of these then does not arise. In two categories where the design is our own — viz. the fighter Tejas and the Advanced Light Helicopter — the capacity is well short of our own military needs. To expect serious enhancement in production

with existing capacity is too ambitious. So, there are no air platforms for export. As for the Army, the one indigenous platform is the Arjun tank, but its weight and manoeuvrability are not suited for most countries; many other systems, such as BMPs and T90 tanks, are assembled under a licence and, therefore, export is unlikely to be allowed. In short, India does not have a military platform that can pass the test for being developed as a potential export item. One possibility is the M77 howitzer gun being manufactured by Mahindra Defence Systems in collaboration with a US company, provided the contract allows for it and the requirements of our Army are first met. This leaves smaller



PREM VIR DAS

items such as rifles, ammunition, grenades and light artillery for exports. It is unlikely that these, even if substantially enhanced, can help get us to the target that has been specified. I am assuming that missile systems like Agni, Prithvi and Aakash are not figuring on the export list. Where do we go from here is a question that merits examination.

All defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs) have been in the business for many years and have acquired skills and knowledge even if these are not enough to meet the needs of our military, either in quality or quantity or both. These capacities take time to be absorbed and to expect that private sector companies will not be subject to the same time constraints is to be simplistic. Merely tying up with a foreign manufacturer will not replicate its capacities in India in quick time; in any event, why should any prospective client not prefer to buy the item from the original manufacturer itself, say, Lockheed Martin or Boeing? In this context, the choice lies between strengthening the DPSUs, which already have capacities, howsoever unsatisfactory these might presently be, and to invest more proactively in the private sector, treating them as start-ups—literally. There could be a combination of both.

Existing policies require identification of a specific Indian partner who would then collaborate with the chosen foreign supplier. As already mentioned, neither a DPSU nor a private sector company can adequately meet this major technological challenge. The answer is to combine both into joint ventures, which could then collaborate with the original manufacturers. This is easier said than done. The operating philosophy, work culture and discipline of both are miles apart and, while the first strives to meet targets set by the user, the second has profit as its prime motivation. Often the two might not coalesce. Only stringent policies when strictly implemented can overcome this dilemma and it is not certain if the political will or ability to enforce both is currently there in the government. So, prospects of India becoming a credible manufacturer of defence platforms or major weapon systems for export are remote.

Fundamental to our inadequacy is the inability to design platforms and equipment needed by the militaries. There is some of this expertise in the Navy nurtured over decades but none in the other two branches where this work is the responsibility of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, whose strengths, though, are primarily in the sphere of missile systems. As such expertise will never be transferred by foreign suppliers, our first and foremost priority must be to focus on generating this capability; without it, we can never become self-sufficient in the field of defence hardware, much less be able to export to others.

The writer has served as Director General, Defence Planning Staff, and has been a member of the National Security Advisory Board

Pakistan terms US decision to sell air defence weapon system to India as disturbing

Pakistan has termed the US decision to sell integrated air defense weapon system to India as disturbing saying it will further destabilize the already volatile region.

At her weekly news briefing in Islamabad on Thursday, Foreign Office Spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said the sale of such sophisticated weapons to India will disturb the strategic balance in South Asia with security implications for Pakistan and the region.

She said the defense relations between the US and India are contributing to destabilization of peace and security in South Asia.

Aisha Farooqui said the international community is fully aware of India's aggressive policy designs against Pakistan and the threatening statements of Indian political and military leadership.

She said South Asia cannot afford an arms race and conflict. It, is therefore, incumbent upon the international community to prevent destabilization of the region.

Voicing concerns over increased ceasefire agreement violations by India, the spokesperson said India has committed two hundred and seventy two ceasefire violations since the start of this year. As a result of which three civilians have embraced martyrdom and twenty five others sustained serious injuries.

Aisha Farooqui said Pakistan has been warning for a long time about the possibility of some false flag operations by India. She said we are concerned about the possibility of India resorting to some distraction during the forthcoming high profile visits to the region including those of the Turkish President and the UN Secretary General to Pakistan and the US President Donald Trump to India.

Foreign Office Spokesperson said Indian provocations are obviously designed to divert global attraction from its state terrorism in occupied Jammu and Kashmir as well as from Pakistan's ongoing successful efforts in countering terrorism and with respect to fulfillment of our obligations under FATF regime.

She warned the Indian acts carry inherent risks of further inflaming the bilateral environment and potentially leading to unforeseeable consequences.

Foreign Office Spokesperson said Pakistan maintains an unwavering resolve to respond most effectively and immediately to any Indian provocation and continue its path towards national development and regional peace and stability.

When asked about US President Donald Trump's mediation offer on Kashmir dispute, the spokesperson said Pakistan hopes that these offers made on more than one occasion will translate into action.

She said we also hope that the US President will raise the matter during his visit to India.

Responding to a question about Pakistan's expectations from getting out of FATF grey list, the spokesperson said we are hopeful and our partners in the international community are willing to support the country on this issue.

About coronavirus, the spokesperson said the foreign office and our missions are in constant touch with the Chinese friends to fully take care of the needs of Pakistani nationals. She was appreciative of the fact that China has taken care of our nationals and students as their own.

<https://www.defencenews.in/article/Pakistan-terms-US-decision-to-sell-air-defence-weapon-system-to-India-as-disturbing-809293>