

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A Daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 44 No. 208 29 Oct 2019



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

In a first, India acquires floating test range capability for testing missiles at sea

Only few nations around the world have similar defence capability

New Delhi: For the first time ever, India has finally acquired a defence capability that will be a game changer for the forces. Sources say that India has developed a floating test range that will be soon used to test missiles. The first FTR has been stationed at sea. Developed by the DRDO, the FTR is actually a 10,000-tonne ship that can be used as a launchpad for the missiles. The speciality of FTR is that the missile tests can be carried out without the issues of trouble to local population or any land limitation. This means that the missile tests from FTR would be largely hassle-free.

Only few nations around the world have similar defence capability. According to a report by the Hindustan Times, apart from the testing launchpad, the FTR will also be used to destroy enemy missiles in mid-air. FTR will enable the authorities carry out such missile tests at much shorter notice as there would be no requirement of any notice from the local authorities.



The FTR, however, won't be used to test Agni missiles.

“The FTR has all the capabilities of Interim Test Range (ITR) with the capability to test missiles in deep sea with minimum safety precautions as the latter allows only a cone of two to three degrees to launch a missile. It is for testing all missiles including BMD,” a senior official was quoted as saying by The Hindustan Times.

The FTR, however, won't be used to test Agni missiles. “The FTR has all the capabilities of Interim Test Range (ITR) with the capability to test missiles in deep sea with minimum safety precautions as the latter allows only a cone of two to three degrees to launch a missile. It is for testing all missiles including BMD,” a senior official was quoted as saying by The Hindustan Times. The FTR is part of India's ambitious Phase II of the ballistic missile defence . In April this year, the phase one of the Ballistic Missile Defence programme was completed. While Phase-II is about covering the skies of eastern India, the Phase-I was about securing national capital Delhi and financial hub Mumbai.

<https://www.newsnation.in/india/news/in-a-first-india-acquires-floating-test-range-capability-for-testing-missiles-at-sea-242442.html>

Philippine Army shows interest to buy India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to increase its coastal security

This extraordinary missile has been developed as a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia as BrahMos Aerospace via an inter-government agreement

The Philippine Army has shown a keen interest in buying the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, regarded as the world's fastest supersonic missile, in order to strengthen its coastal defences.

Major General Reynaldo Aquino, the Vice Commander of the Philippine Army, confirmed this over the weekend while undertaking a tour of the visiting Indian Navy Ship (INS) Sahyadri docked in the country's capital Manila.

Philippine Army wants BrahMos missile as its First Land-Based Missile System Battery (1LBMS).

Philippine Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala also confirmed that Major General Reynaldo Aquino and INS Sahyadri Commanding Officer Captain Ashwin Arvind discussed the possible acquisition of the BrahMos missile.



The Indian-manufactured weapons system is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. The BrahMos missile, with a flight range of 290 kilometres, can ensure the lower dispersion of targets, quicker engagement time and non-interception by any known weapons system in the world. It is the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation.

This extraordinary missile has been developed as a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia as BrahMos Aerospace via an inter-government agreement.

It was successfully test-fired at 10.20 am on September 30, 2019, from Chandipur in Odisha for its full range of 290-km during the launch jointly conducted by DRDO and BrahMos Aerospace. The successful flight test was a landmark achievement in enhancing India's "Make in India" capabilities. While several nations have expressed interest in the BrahMos, India has yet to secure an export deal for the weapon, which was first tested in 2001.

Last year when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Philippines, India and Philippines signed four agreements, including one to step up bilateral cooperation in the defence and logistics sector.

<https://www.opindia.com/2019/10/philippines-buy-india-brahmos-supersonic-cruise-missile/>

Defence ministry to seek Cabinet nod for prototype of desi stealth jet

By Rajat Pandit

HIGHLIGHTS

- *The defence establishment plans to seek the Cabinet Committee on Security’s approval for the detailed design and prototype development of the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA) by early next year*
- *The twin-engine AMCA will basically combine advanced stealth, supercruise, super-maneuvrability, data fusion and multi-sensor integration with AESA (active electronically scanned array) radar*

New Delhi: With the IAF now fully backing the indigenous development of a fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA), it’s all systems go for the desi stealth jet. The defence establishment plans to seek the Cabinet Committee on Security’s approval for the detailed design and prototype development of the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA) by early next year.

The twin-engine AMCA will basically combine advanced stealth, supercruise (the capability to achieve supersonic cruise speeds without the use of afterburners), super-maneuverability, data fusion and multisensor integration with AESA (active electronically scanned array) radars.

Development of a FGFA is an extremely complex and costly affair, with the American F/A-22 Raptors and F-35 Lightning-II Joint Strike Fighters being the only fully-operational ones around the globe at present. “Both the Chinese J-20 and the Russian Sukhoi PAK-FA do not have the requisite super-cruise and stealth capabilities,” said a senior IAF officer.

DRDO, in turn, rejects widespread concern the developmental saga of the “swing-role” AMCA may go the same way as the long-delayed Tejas light combat aircraft. “The design work on AMCA began in 2009. By 2014-2015, the fighter’s configuration, in tune with IAF requirements, had

JET, SET, GO

1st Gen Jet Fighters (1940s-1950s) | Used turbojets for propulsion instead of earlier piston-driven aircraft (Messerschmitt-Me262, Mystere-IV, MiG-15 etc)

2nd Gen (1950s-1960s) | Integrated new technologies, swept or delta wings & guided missiles for BVR (beyond visual range) combat (MiG-21, Sukhoi-7, F-104 Starfighter etc)

3rd Gen (1960s-1970s) | Inducted improved radars, missiles & avionics (Mirage-III, MiG-25, F-4 Phantom-II etc)

4th Gen (1970s-1990s) | Incorporated fly-by-wire controls & multi-role capabilities (Mirage-2000, MiG-29, Sukhoi-27, Tornado, F-16 Fighting Falcon, Sukhoi-30MKI etc)



4.5 Gen | More advanced avionics & electronics, with some stealth (Eurofighter Typhoon, Rafale etc)

5th Gen | Swing-role, with advanced stealth technology, composite materials, supercruise, thrust-vectoring & multi-sensor integrated avionics (F/A-22 Raptor, F-35 Lightning-II Joint Strike Fighter)

AMCA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 25-tonne weight ➤ 110 KiloNewton engine ➤ Balanced stealth & performance ➤ Internal weapon bay ➤ AESA radar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Advanced sensors with data fusion ➤ 360-degree enhanced situational awareness ➤ Integrated vehicle health management
---	--

been worked out. But the problem was that there was no engine,” said a scientist.

Consequently, the decision has now been taken to go in for two squadrons of AMCA Mark-I with the “available” General Electric-414 afterburning turbofan engine in the 98 Kilonewton thrust class.

“The next five to six squadrons of AMCA Mark-II will have a more powerful 110 Kilonewton engine, which will be developed indigenously with foreign collaboration parallelly. The supercruise of Mark-I will be slightly limited due to the older engine but it will be upgraded in Mark-II,” said a source.

After the Rs 400 crore design sanction for AMCA in December 2018, it will now take “another seven to eight months” for the nod for the prototype development phase at a cost of around Rs 7,000-8,000 crore, which will be required over a decade, said sources.

As per existing plans, the 25-tonne AMCA’s “roll-out from the hangar to the runway” will take place by 2024-2025, with the first test-flight a year after that. “By 2029, the clearance to begin production of AMCA Mark-I should come. Mark-II production, in turn, should begin by 2035,” said the source.

DRDO says the advanced technologies to make AMCA a stealth fighter range from “serpentine air-intake” and an internal weapon bay (internal carriage of smart weapons) to radar absorbing materials and conformal antennae. “Most of the designing for stealth shaping of AMCA has already been done,” he said.

The plan is to produce the single-engine Tejas in greater numbers, with the IAF already committed to acquiring 123 of them. Another 200 Tejas Mark-II, with more powerful engines and advanced avionics, will be inducted at a later stage.

“The first test-flight of Tejas Mark-II or the MWF (medium weight fighter) should take place by 2023. The specialised AMCA, which will cost double the Tejas Mark-II, will be inducted in smaller numbers ... stealth aircraft are expensive,” said the source.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/defence-ministry-to-seek-cabinet-nod-for-prototype-of-desi-stealth-jet/articleshow/71798166.cms>



Tue, 29 Oct 2019

L&T bets on big submarine contracts to sustain growth

Engineering and construction major Larsen and Toubro (L&T) is betting on big orders from the defence segment in the second half of this fiscal to boost its order book and sustain growth momentum.

L&T’s MD and CEO S.N. Subrahmanyan told The Hindu, “In defence shipbuilding, after a long time, the government has come out with 9-10 requests for quotation (RFQs). If we are even lucky in getting one or two, our shipbuilding yard will be occupied. I am optimistic and it should happen in the next 3-4 months.”

In June, the Defence Ministry issued four shipbuilding requests for proposal (RFP) amounting to Rs 15,000 crore for the acquisition of various ships and craft for the Navy and Coast Guard.

The government is considering a mega Rs 60,000 crore ‘Make in India’ project named P75I for the construction of six conventional submarines with advanced abilities to stay underwater for extended

periods. L&T is keen to participate in the project and has opposed the idea that submarine projects should be given to public sector shipbuilders on a nomination basis.

Mr. Subrahmanyam said, “Submarine is a strategic issue. The government is talking about Indian make of P74I; they [government] will have to decide the foreign partner first for the technology and then it will be made in India with local partners.”

‘Policy inaction’

According to L&T, the sector continues to be plagued with policy inaction on allowing the private sector to participate in defence manufacturing and fabrication.

With a Rs 573-crore in orders during Q2, L&T’s order book in the defence arena stood at Rs 10,603 crore as on September 30, 2019, with the international order book constituting 16% of the total.

“The execution of tracked artillery gun order continues to drive revenue growth and margins in the segment. The current policy continues to inhibit private sector participation,” said L&T Group CFO R. Shankar Raman.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/LandT-bets-on-big-submarine-contracts-to-sustain-growth-747685>



Tue, 29 Oct 2019

Mr Rajnath Singh, take a leap of faith

Rajnath Singh erred by transforming what is traditionally a simple domestic military ceremony in the IAF into a political and religious one with all the trappings of a single religion abroad. Singh does not represent a single-service faith. He is the Defence Minister of a multi-faith military which is secular, apolitical and professional

By Maj Gen Ashok Mehta (retd)

The images of India’s third most powerful leader — Defence Minister Rajnath Singh — in a flying suit with Rayban glasses after flying in the Rafale and in dhoti-kurta performing shastra puja before the flight — are two contrasting visuals of India’s state of defence equipment: from the legacy Russian MiG variants still flying to the fourth generation French Rafale fighter in the pipeline.

It is also a reflection of Singh’s conviction in religion, superstition and personal faith which he displayed on the 87th Air Force Day and Dasehra while performing the traditional shastra puja in France on receipt of the first Rafale aircraft from his French counterpart. The deification of the Rafale was very elaborate. The Ambassador to France was asked to arrange for a pandit. Singh cracked a coconut, placed flowers, tied mouli, applied the Om tilak, all behind the cockpit while tying chillies and lemons to the wheels of the aircraft — the ritual watched by a bemused French audience. In this puja, Singh was assisted by an Indian priest and Air Commodore-rank military air attache to France.



As a soldier, I have witnessed and performed the shastra puja in my battalion for six decades on Vijayadashami, a ritual which is strictly in the domain of three persons: the Commanding Officer, the unit priest and the seniormost non-officer rank officer, the Subedar Major. All weapons are

symbolically worshipped before they are returned to the Quarter Guard. One has never known an outsider perform this ceremony even if he is the Defence Minister of India.

The Rafale belongs to the IAF, which has never performed a religious ceremony abroad while receiving a new imported aircraft. At an election rally in Haryana, Singh had announced that he wrote Om on the Rafale, 'as per our tradition'. After Bofors, Rafale has proven to be politically volatile, especially the procedure followed in its acquisition on which the Supreme Court has reserved its judgment, even as the ruling party showcased it electorally before its operationalisation. Applying the tilak on an aircraft is not an IAF tradition.

Singh's actions and his self-defence have attracted criticism from the opposition, many calling it theatrics and puja politics. NCP chief and former Defence Minister Sharad Pawar mocked Singh for tying chillies and lemons to ward off evil as truck drivers do. Singh's colleague, Finance Minister and former Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, whose main contribution to defence was the defence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the purchase of Rafale, both inside and outside Parliament, said: "Those who had faith had the right to conduct rituals because he is no ordinary citizen but Defence Minister of India." She compared his shastra puja with Indian diplomats/politicians launching ships abroad by cracking a coconut (used to be a bottle of champagne). But no Om was emblazoned on the ship. A letter to the editor of The Pioneer newspaper read: 'Politicians wedded to Hindutva ideology are adept at converting every event into an opportunity.' He suggested that chillies and lemons should have been attached to Chandrayaan-II.

In the military, it is best not to mix religion with superstition or politics.

Singh's final statement was defiant: 'I did what I thought was right and will continue to do so. This is our faith, that there is a super power, and I have believed it since childhood.' Never to be left out of India's internal affairs, Maj Gen Asif Ghafoor, head of Pakistan's ISPR (Inter-Services Public Relations), chipped in: 'Nothing wrong in Rafale puja as it goes by the religion and that must be respected. It is not machine alone which matters, but competence, passion and resolve of the men behind the machine. Proud of Pakistan Air Force Shaheens.'

Singh erred by transforming what is traditionally and essentially a simple domestic military ceremony in the domain of the IAF into a political and religious one with all the trappings of a single religion, abroad. Singh does not represent a single-service faith. He is the Defence Minister of a multi-faith military which is secular, apolitical and professional. In all-India caste Army regiments, the prayer room contains multi-faith areas where soldiers of different denominations worship their God. Although Singh has asserted he will do what he did in France, again, for the sake of the Indian armed forces, he should take a leap of faith and avoid doing it.

As Defence Minister, Singh has done great things: sending powerful signals of India's rise as a great power; raking up the issues of No-First Use after visiting Pokhran and retaking PoK in the aftermath of the parliamentary resolution of 1994; opening up Siachen to tourism and generally boosting the morale of the armed forces. At his election rally in Satara, Maharashtra, PM Modi had said his government had brought India's armed forces on a par with those of other countries and provided the three services with modern weapons.

Judging from the sparse funding for capital account of the defence budget in the last five years, Modi's claim is an exaggeration. Singh's real contribution to the military would be in getting at least Rs 50,000 crore annually for capital spending, over and above the existing liabilities during the remaining term of this government in order to catch up with China. Deterring Pakistan has largely been achieved. The government has shown recently how it can loosen its purse-strings. When there is a will, there is a way.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/comment/mr-rajnath-singh-take-a-leap-of-faith/853294.html>

Tue, 29 Oct 2019

Armies of India, France to take part in bilateral drill in Rajasthan

The armies of India and France will take part in a bilateral drill, with a focus on counter-terror operations, in Rajasthan from October 31 to November 13, an Indian Army spokesperson said on Monday. The joint drill, christened 'Exercise Shakti', commenced in 2011.

As part of Exercise Shakti-2019, French troops arrived in India on October 26 for training with their Indian counterparts.

The bilateral training exercise will be conducted at Foreign Training Node at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.

A contingent of the Sikh Regiment of Sapta Shakti Command will represent the Indian Army in the exercise, while the French Army delegation comprises troops from the 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Armoured Brigade.

The bilateral exercise will be conducted from October 31 to November 13.

"The joint exercise will focus on counter-terrorism operations in the backdrop of semi-desert terrain under United Nations mandate. The training will focus primarily on high degree of physical fitness, sharing of drill at tactical level and learning of best practices from each other," the spokesperson said.

The drill will culminate with a 36-hour validation exercise which will involve neutralisation of terrorists in a village hideout, the official added.

The exercise aims at enhancing understanding, cooperation and inter-operability between the two armies.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/Armies-of-India,-France-to-take-part-in-bilateral-drill-in-Rajasthan-747679>

Tue, 29 Oct 2019

India to deploy Naval aircraft at France's La Réunion for joint surveillance mission

Within the first few months of 2020, India will deploy a naval aircraft at France's reunion island as part of joint surveillance mission with France in the southern Indian Ocean.

This was revealed by the French President Emmanuel Macron during his first presidential visit to the French overseas territories earlier this week. This has been partly a consequence of a larger political understanding between India and France to have closer maritime cooperation in the southern Indian Ocean, where it administers the islands of La Réunion, Mayotte and the French Southern and Atlantic Lands.

Macron, who arrived at La Réunion on October 23, was greeted with calls of protests which are part of a year-old strike by trade unions over the faltering economy.

Therefore, a key highlight of Macron's island travels was his speech at the "Choose La Reunion" forum which aimed to bring in investment and link to business chains in Africa and the Indian

subcontinent. India's minister of state for external affairs V. Muraleedharan took a business delegation to the forum for the first time.

In his speech in French at the business forum, Macron laid out the strategic importance of Reunion in the Indian Ocean and the need to position it within the axis of the African and Indian subcontinent.

"We are working very closely with India. In the first quarter of 2020, a patrol aircraft from the Indian Navy will be deployed at La Reunion to participate in surveillance missions," said Macron, as per a translation of his remarks.

It had earlier been reported that the French president had referred to the basing of an Indian naval patrol vessel. However, diplomatic sources clarified that the Macron was referring specifically to an aircraft.

In March 2018, Macron had visited India for the first time. Together with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he had unveiled a "Joint Strategic Vision of India-France Cooperation in the Indian Ocean region".

It was also during that visit that the two sides signed an agreement for "Provision of Reciprocal Logistics Support" that would allow each other to access the other's military facilities.

For the Indian Navy, access to French southern Indian Ocean territories would mean longer deployment missions in regions where visible flag-waving is seen as crucial to counter growing Chinese naval presence. Earlier this month, Indian Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu had visited Comoros – following in the steps of President Ram Nath Kovind's trip to Madagascar last year.

Macron had also acknowledged that France's closer ties with India came from a "profound change" as a result of a common strategic agenda. "This common security agenda in the region is an agenda of maritime surveillance, protection of our marine areas, construction of a joint agenda to avoid any form of hegemony or intrusion," he said on Wednesday.

France has always pointed out that it is the second largest maritime power in the world, but it has not got the recognition for its role in the Indian Ocean.

The French government is also hoping that an enhanced cooperation with India would also be a smoother path towards greater collaboration with the key regional body, Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

In the joint vision document, India had "welcomed" France's "enhanced participation" in IORA, while Paris offered to back New Delhi's role as an observer at the Southern Indian Ocean-centric Indian Ocean Commission (IOC).

Macron's reference to a joint surveillance mission with India is significant as the French president indicated that protecting traditional fishing waters from Chinese deep-sea fishing boats.

He said that France was working with regional partners in the Indian Ocean on an initiative to preserve the biodiversity.

"Defending biodiversity in the Indian Ocean is building a truly sustainable fishing industry. Today it is paradoxical to see how our territorial waters where we have insufficiently exploited our fisheries being exploited by some predatory power who come in our waters to do industrial fishing and sometimes deplete our fish stocks without any benefit for the employment or the economy in our regions," said Macron.

He added that there is a legal instrument in the works to stop this exploitation of fishing stocks by foreign fleets. "The key, the answer is to preserve our biodiversity and to enforce our sovereignty," he said. India has also been tracking the rising presence of Chinese fishing boats in southern Indian ocean. According to a report by The Hindu, there have been at least 500 Chinese trawlers present at the region at any one time.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/India-to-Deploy-Naval-Aircraft-at-France%e2%80%99s-La-R%c3%a9union-for-Joint-Surveillance-Mission-747666>