

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A Daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 45 No. 23 31 January 2020



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DRDO ‘keen on’ setting up technology centre at Gujarat University

Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama, who was the guest of honour, expressed disappointment that in the world’s top 200 universities, there was none from India

- *“During the visit to the under-construction research park, Vice-Chancellor Himanshu Pandya proposed a DRDO centre at the park. We are very positive towards it,” Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Chairman of DRDO said*

Ahmedabad: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is exploring possibility to set up a centre for advanced defence technology at the Gujarat University’s upcoming Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Extension and Research and Innovation (CERI).

In his address at the Gujarat University’s 68th annual convocation on Wednesday, Dr G Satheesh Reddy, chairman of DRDO, who was the chief guest, said, “During the visit to the under-construction research park, Vice-Chancellor Himanshu Pandya proposed a DRDO centre at the park. We are very positive towards it. We will send a team next week to look at the infrastructure and see how we can collaborate with the university in promoting advanced defence technology and how we can benefit from students...”

Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama who was the guest of honour expressed disappointment that in world’s top 200 universities, there is none from India. “This won’t work. Gujarat is a prosperous and model state... infrastructure-wise it is inspiring and encouraging but what is lacking,” he said.

Talking about the university national rankings, Gujarat University Vice-Chancellor Himanshu Pandya in his address said, “We missed being in the top 100 national ranking by 0.30 points. But we are hopeful this year the results would be different.”

Drawing parallels with Chandrayaan-2 moon mission where scientists lost touch with the Vikram lander moments before what would have been a successful landing, the minister said, “The Gujarat University is like Chandrayaan. We can see it but it could not land... As Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, it was a good attempt and will certainly gain success. In the coming rankings, Gujarat University will find its place.”

On majority of girls winning gold medals, Gujarat Governor and GU Chancellor Acharya Devvrat asked boys to pull up their socks and “stop wasting time on unnecessary things”.

As many as 45,294 students were conferred with diplomas and degrees, of which the highest number was from Commerce faculty (23,765) followed by Arts (8,600) and Science (5,951).

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/drdo-keen-on-setting-up-technology-centre-at-gujarat-university-6241902/>

Big guns are in town for DefExpo

Lucknow: The country's third-generation main battle tank Arjun, anti-aircraft weapon Tunguska, T-90 tank and other war machines on Thursday arrived at Vrindavan Yojna, Sector 15 – the venue for Defence Expo-2020 in Lucknow.

Named after Arjun, the archer prince of Indian epic Mahabharat, the main battle tank was indeed a head turner as it arrived at the venue.

People from the nearby localities too turned up to capture the glimpse of the war machine. But due to high security, they were denied entry.

The tank, Arjun is one of the many DRDO-developed innovations that would be kept on display during the five-day-long Defence Expo from February 5 to 9.

Some defence personnel, who were taking care of the arrangements at the venue, called it a state-of-the-art machine.

"12mm calibre gun makes Arjun, a step ahead of other tanks in the world. And its computer controlled integrated fire control system gives it day-night stabilised sighting system that makes it more accurate with its target. It's one of the deadliest war machines," the personnel said highlighting the specifications of the war machine.

Modular Bridging System, Advanced Carbon Composite Modular Bridging System, Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP), Counter Mine Flail (CMF) Medium Power Radar, Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), Advanced Towed Artillery gun System (ATAGS) and Unexploded Ordnance Handling Robot (UXOR) are a few other innovations that will be put on display by DRDO.

Gargi Malik, PRO, defence said the expo would have a segment where these war machines and their capabilities would be displayed in full public view.

Anti-aircraft gun Tunguska was another attraction at the venue. It is a Russian self-propelled anti-aircraft weapon, armed with a surface-to-air gun and missile system.

"The weapon carries eight 9M311-M1 surface-to-air missiles. The missiles have semi-automatic radar command to line-of-sight guidance and weigh 40kg with a 9kg warhead. They are 2.5m long with a diameter of 1.7m and wingspan of 2.2m. The missile's maximum speed is 900m/s and can engage targets travelling at speeds up to 500m/s. Range is from 15 to 6,000m for ground targets and 15 to 10,000m for air targets," said a defence personnel.

"The two twin-barrel 30mm anti-aircraft guns are mounted on the vehicle. These guns have a maximum firing rate of 5,000 rounds per minute and a range of 3,000m against air targets. This extends to 4,000m against ground targets," added the personnel. Besides, T-90 tank had already been brought to the venue for the final day.

MBT Arjun

*12mm calibre gun makes Arjun, a step ahead of other tanks in the world. And its computer controlled integrated fire control system gives it day-night stabilised sighting system that makes it more accurate with its target.

Anti-aircraft gun Tunguska

*Anti-aircraft gun Tunguska was another attraction at the venue. It is a Russian self-propelled anti-aircraft weapon, armed with a surface-to-air gun and missile system.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/big-guns-are-in-town-for-defexpo/story-BCgl3G5Whjkvu9SIPfFQ4H.html>

Make in India at DefExpo 2020: Indigenously-developed military systems and technologies to be the focus

This year it is also going to have the live demonstration of Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun MK IA, Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP)

New Delhi: New technologies, indigenously-developed military systems are going to be the focus at the 11th DefExpo. India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) are going to showcase indigenously-developed military systems and technologies.

This year it is also going to have the live demonstration of Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun MK IA, Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP). Also of the 15m Advanced Composite Modular Bridging System (ACMBS) and Modular Bridge.

In line with the theme of the event "Digital Transformation of Defence", more than 500 products from all technology clusters will be on display and it will also display around 23 products in the India Pavilion. This Pavilion has been put up specially to showcase the products of DRDO, as well as those of the public and private sector companies in defence manufacturing.



Kanpur based MKU

MKU, a leading defence and security solutions provider is committed to 'Make in India' and has been transforming the defence industry landscape in India by deploying newer and advanced technologies in electro-optics and armour solutions.

The products of the company are not only indigenously designed and developed, are also manufactured in their units in India and Germany. The products of this company are used by both national and international forces across 100 countries.

At this show they will be displaying: A wide range of Night Vision (Image intensified) weapon sights, monocular and bi-oculars that deploy Gen 3 sensor technology for excellent performance in very low light conditions. Also on the display will be Rugged Thermal Weapon Sights for assault rifles, sniper rifles, LMG, MMG etc which offer longer ranges and better performance even in zero visibility conditions.

Instavest series is their new line up of quick-release survivability and protection jackets as per BIS Standards for male and female soldiers in tactical, combat and law enforcement configurations. And feature the highest level of protection in the lightest configurations using Gen 6 armour technology.

Also, newly designed Insta Load Distribution System (ILDS) for jackets which are based on the Exo Skeleton technology; Polyshield – H bolt free helmets that have the capability of providing uniform protection across the head.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/make-in-india-at-defexpo-2020-indigenously-developed-military-systems-and-technologies-to-be-the-focus/1839546/>

HAL products to hog limelight at DefExpo

LCA 'Tejas', LCH copter to be on show

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Homegrown military aircraft, helicopters and a host of products will be the highlight of displays at DefExpo-2020 starting next week at Lucknow, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd said here on Thursday.

HAL, the lead organiser and national exhibitor at the event, said it would showcase models of its products – the Light Combat Aircraft or LCA 'Tejas', the Light Combat Helicopter LCH, the multi-purpose Advanced Light Helicopter, the Dornier-228 civil plane and the advanced jet trainer Hawk – at its indoor stall. A Sukhoi-30 MKI cockpit simulator upgraded by HAL will be unveiled.

"HAL is instrumental in organising major defence expos in the last couple of years. HAL's indigenously designed and developed fixed and rotary wing [helicopter] platforms will steal the show," a HAL release said quoting Chairman and Managing Director R. Madhavan.

Flying displays

Flying displays will also mainly feature HAL's fighter planes and helicopters: the

LCA; Rudra, which is ALH Mk IV; the LCH; the LUH and Do-228. Flying displays are part of a DefExpo for the second time this year – a trend started with the previous edition of 2018.

HAL said its Light Utility Helicopter LUH would be on static display.

The Defence Ministry is hosting the two-yearly international defence exhibition, the 11th edition, during February 5-8 with the theme of digital transformation of defence.

DefExpo is being held for the first time in Lucknow. Delhi was its venue right from the first event but in 2016, the event was taken out of there for the first time, to Goa. The next show of 2018 was shifted to Tamil Nadu. The MoD has identified Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh as locations of two planned defence corridors.

Other HAL products include avionics, accessories, assemblies, devices such as the Indigenous Digital Map Generator, Engine & Flight Display Unit, Gas Turbine Electrical Generator, Air Producer Engine, a glass cockpit for Do-228, Automatic Target Recognition and its Digital Sand Rapid Prototyping Technology.

Hindustan Aeronautics gears up for DefExpo-2020 in Lucknow

Besides providing huge logistic support, Hindustan Aeronautics will showcase its prowess in defence and aerospace, centred on the theme 'Digital Transformation of Defence'

Bengaluru: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is taking the lead in organising the DefExpo-2020 to be held in Lucknow from February 5-9.

The 11th biennial edition of defence expo will be held in coordination with the Ministry of Defence. Besides providing huge logistic support, HAL will showcase its prowess in defence and aerospace, centred on the theme 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.

"HAL is instrumental in organising major defence expos in the last couple of years. HAL's indigenously designed and developed fixed and rotary wing platforms will steal the show," HAL Chairman and Managing Director R Madhavan said.

The HAL will display models of light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas, light combat helicopter (LCH), advanced light helicopter (ALH), Do-228 and Hawk.

Some of the avionics, accessories, assemblies, products such as indigenous-digital map generator (i-DMG), engine and flight display unit, gas turbine electrical generator (GTG)-60, air producer engine, glass cockpit for Do-228, automatic target recognition (ATR) and digital sand rapid prototyping technology will be put up for display.

An upgraded Sukhoi-30 MKI cockpit simulator will be an added attraction at the HAL stall, he said. A light utility helicopter will be showcased at the outdoor static display area and ALH Mk IV Rudra, LCH, LUH, Do-228 civil and Tejas will dazzle in flying display, he said.

HAL plans to hold an MoU signing programme, meetings with foreign delegations, seminars and conferences on diverse aerospace topics during the event.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2020/jan/31/hindustan-aeronautics-gears-up-for-defexpo-2020-in-lucknow-2096967.html>

दैनिक जागरण

ब्रह्मोस से लैस सुखोई की तैनाती

बालाकोट एयरस्ट्राइक के बाद से कई किस्म के हथियारों को हासिल करने का क्रम लगातार जारी है। वायुसेना ने हाल ही में तमिलनाडु के तेंजावुर में सुखोई-30 एमकेआइ के स्क्वाड्रन को तैनात किया है। इस बेड़े में सुखोई विमानों को 2.5 टन के हवा से मार करने वाली ब्रह्मोस मिसाइलों से लैस किया गया है। यह मिसाइलें 300 किलोमीटर की दूरी तक अचूक निशाना लगाती हैं। भारतीय वायुसेना के एक स्क्वाड्रन में 18 लड़ाकू विमान होते हैं। जल्द ही सुलुर में तेजस का एक जंगी बेड़ा तैनात किया जाएगा। भारत को 36 युद्धक राफेल विमानों की आपूर्ति अप्रैल, 2022 तक हो जानी है। पिछले बजट में वायुसेना के लिए सर्वाधिक धन 39,302 करोड़ रुपये आवंटित किए गए थे।

DefExpo-2020: Made in India Viper and Sabre snipers! Check details

Speaking to Financial Express Online, a top company executive said “All these weapons are purely made in India. And will on display at the DefExpo next week.”

By Huma Siddiqui

New Delhi: The latest version of Sniper rifles, assault rifles, upgrade kits, optics, small calibre ammunition & tactical gears will be displayed by the Bengaluru based SSS Defence Company. Speaking to Financial Express Online, a top company executive said “All these weapons are purely made in India. And will on display at the DefExpo next week.” As has been reported earlier, this is the first time ever a private sector company in India has made a sniper rifle in two calibres. And these have not only been designed and developed indigenously by a passionate technical team in a laboratory but also manufactured in India.

The company SSS Defence holds the IPR and has a joint venture with a Brazilian company CBC Global Ammunition for these snipers.

Until now no Indian private sector company has manufactured military-grade ammunition for the small arms. Under the joint venture with the Brazilian company, plans are to manufacture multiple ammunition for different calibres including the 9 mm, 7.62×39 mm, 7.62×51 mm, .338 Lapua and 12.7 mm. These will be both for the domestic (military & law enforcement) and for exporting to a third country.



More than Rs 20 crore has been invested by the SSS Defence in R&D and IP asset creation which is used for all their verticals including -Small Arms, Optics, and Ammunition.

According to company officials, the focus is to create a manufacturing and exporting hub for weapons like snipers. “This will help in cutting down India’s dependence on foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for not only the weapons but also optics and ammunition.”

“The rifle has a two-stage trigger which has been designed indigenously and it also has highly efficient muzzle brake and sound suppressor. They have been designed for accurate and long-range precision shooting.”

The ‘Viper’ chambered for the .308 (7.62×51 mm cartridge) and the ‘Sabre’ .338 Lapua Magnum Cartridge (8.6×70 mm cartridge) are preferred by both military and law enforcement snipers across the world. These have been ergonomically designed keeping in mind the Indian soldier and his body built, finger length etc.

An Assault Rifle 7.62×39 mm calibre and Close Quarter Battle Carbine platforms have been undergoing testing after completion of development.

Indian Army needs 5,719 rifles with ammunition. And SSS Defence has plans for manufacturing 15000 arms per annum from day one during Phase 1 and in Phase II 45,000 arms per annum and then gradually scale it up to 80,000 arms per annum in some years.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/defexpo-2020-made-in-india-viper-and-sabre-snipers-check-details/1839571/>



Fri, 31 Jan 2020

India set to buy thousands of ‘night sights’ for infantry assault rifles in bid to reduce casualties

New Delhi: India has lost 82 security personnel in terror attacks and cross-border firing since it conducted the Balakot air strike on 26 February, 2019. The Indian Army is now seeking night vision devices for its infantry to minimise similar losses in the future.

The Indian Army is seeking to buy 22,000 long-range night sights for infantry assault rifles.

The purchase has been authorised to minimise the casualties in cross-border fire or during counter-terror operations in Kashmir. The sights will be manufactured in India and used by troops deployed on the frontline.

“Thermal Imaging Night Sights would enable troops to undertake long range accurate engagements in dark and all weather conditions thereby enhancing the night fighting capabilities,” the Indian Defence Ministry said.

The search was launched after the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved the design, development and manufacturing of 'Thermal Imaging Night Sights' for assault rifles in November 2019.

The army said the uncooled thermal imagine sight desired by the Indian Army should be lightweight and able to accurately engage targets in the hours of darkness.

The Indian Army has already initiated the process to eliminate the night blindness of tanks and light machine guns, which have been used by infantry deployed along the Pakistan border.

Having a range of around 1,000-meters is crucial in the mountainous Himalayan border regions where visual range remains important.

The army has been seeking long range night vision devices because it recently lost a large number of soldiers on the border with Pakistan following the air strike conducted by the Indian Air Force inside Pakistan in February 2019.

<https://sputniknews.com/india/202001301078181389-india-set-to-buy-thousands-of-night-sights-for-infantry-assault-rifles-in-bid-to-reduce-casualties/>

और ताकतवर हुई भारतीय वायुसेना

नई दिल्ली, एएनआइ : सशक्त भारत के लिए देश की तीनों सशस्त्र सेनाओं का आधुनिक शस्त्रों और बेजोड़ युद्ध कौशल से सुसज्जित होना अत्यधिक आवश्यक है। लिहाजा, भारतीय वायुसेना अपनी युद्धक इकाइयों को और आक्रामक बनाने के लिए उसमें बड़ा ढांचागत बदलाव कर रही है। इससे उसके युद्धक विमानों के स्क्वाड्रन (बेड़े) में बीस फीसद की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। ऐसा करके भारतीय वायुसेना को युद्ध अभियानों के लिए तैयार किया जा रहा है।

भारतीय वायुसेना (आइएएफ) के वरिष्ठतम सूत्र के अनुसार उनके दो हजार से अधिक योद्धाओं और तकनीशियनों को पिछले कुछ महीनों में एयरफोर्स के जंगी बेड़े में शामिल किया गया है। वायुसेना के इन जांबाज अफसरों को मुख्यालय और कमांड मुख्यालयों से बुलाया गया है। दरअसल में मुख्यालयों की अपनी पिछली तैनातियों में यह अफसर

बड़ा युद्धकौशल

- फाइटर स्क्वाड्रन को मिले दो हजार से ज्यादा योद्धा और तकनीशियन
- एक साल में ही आइएएफ के जंगी बेड़ों की क्षमता 20 प्रतिशत बढ़ी

तकनीकी या युद्ध कौशल से संबंधित कार्यों को नहीं कर रहे थे। पाकिस्तान में बालाकोट पर एयर स्ट्राइक करने के बाद पिछले एक साल से वायुसेना अपनी युद्धक क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने में जुटी हुई है।

आइएएफ के वरिष्ठ सूत्र का कहना है कि फाइटर स्क्वाड्रन (युद्धक यूनिट) में योद्धाओं की उपलब्धता और बढ़ गई है। इनकी आमद से सैन्य बल में पहले से तैनात अफसरों पर काम का दबाव कुछ कम होगा। इससे उड़ान संबंधी अभियानों में सुरक्षा के मानक भी बेहतर तरीके से स्थापित होंगे। वायुसेना में ढांचागत बदलावों की निगरानी वायुसेना प्रमुख एयर चीफ

मार्शल आरकेएस भदौरिया कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने चीफ ऑफ एयरस्टाफ का पदभार पिछले साल एक अक्टूबर को संभाला था।

सहायक स्टाफ की नियुक्तियों के लिए नियम कड़े : वायुसेना मुख्यालयों में ढांचागत बदलाव करने के साथ ही प्लैंग अफसरों के सहायक स्टाफ की नियुक्तियों के लिए भी कड़े नियम लागू कर रही है। पिछले एक साल से वायुसेना अपनी युद्धक क्षमताओं को बढ़ाने में जुटी हुई है। इसके लिए हवा से हवा में मार करने वाली मिसाइलों से लेकर हवा से जमीन पर अचूक निशाना लगाने वाले शस्त्र प्रणालियों समेत कई घातक हथियार हासिल कर लिए हैं। इनमें बेहतर मारक क्षमता वाले स्पाइस 2000 बम और स्ट्रूम अटाका नाम की एंटी-गाइडेड मिसाइलें शामिल हैं। आपात शक्तियां हासिल करने के मामले में वायुसेना ने तीनों सशस्त्र सेनाओं में सबसे अधिक धन खर्च किया है।

Indian Air Force boosts fighter squadron strength by 20 per cent

The Indian Air Force has been strengthening its fighting capabilities in the last one year post-Balakot operations

New Delhi: In a major restructuring to boost its war-fighting units, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has enhanced the strength of its combat aircraft squadrons by 20 per cent to help them prepare better for operational tasks.

"More than 2,000 air warriors and technicians have been provided to the fighter squadrons in the last few months. These personnel have been drawn from air headquarters and command headquarters where they were not performing technical duties," top IAF sources told ANI.

With more number of people available in the fighter squadrons, they would help in easing the workload on the existing personnel and also help in enhancing the safety in flying operations, they said.

The restructuring in the service is being monitored by the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria.

The number of people who have been taken out from headquarters and non-operational tasks is over 2,000. Bhadauria took over as the Chief of Air Staff on October 1, last year.

Apart from restructuring in the headquarters, the Air Force has also implemented strict rules in appointment of support staff for flag officers in service.

The Indian Air Force has been strengthening its fighting capabilities in the last one year post-Balakot operations as it had acquired weapons including air to air missiles and air to ground weapon systems such as the Spice 2000 bombs with greater destruction capabilities and Strum Ataka anti-tank guided missiles.

The Air Force was also the top spender among the three services in emergency powers given for the acquisition of weapons and spares in the aftermath of the Balakot aerial strikes.

The Air Force strength also received a major boost after the induction of its Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft squadron in southern India at Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu and is likely to get further strengthened with induction of another Tejas combat aircraft squadron in Sulur.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/indian-air-force-boosts-fighter-squadron-strength-by-20-per-cent/546987>

Cochin Shipyard mulls cautious expansion, to grow ship repair business

air said India should do much more of ship repair, given the country's location and good-quality manpower

By Aditi Devekar

Mumbai: Amid the not-so-good business climate for ship building, state-owned Cochin Shipyard has prepared a cautiously sizable growth plan.

Expansion of the repair business, foray into the volume-based business of fishing boats, and eyeing Indian Navy projects and the private tourism sector are some.

“We are looking to up our ship repair turnover and have moved into profit sharing agreements with both Mumbai and Kolkata port trusts. We see an additional revenue of Rs 70-80 crore from Mumbai alone in FY20 itself. In the next two years, our revenue from the Mumbai port alone should be above Rs 200 crore,” Madhu Nair, chairman and managing director, told *Business Standard*.

Currently, about 70 per cent of the revenue comes from the ship building business and the rest from ship repair. “We are also investing Rs 80 crore at the Mumbai port for a floating dry dock and Rs 20 crore at the Kolkata port,” said Nair. An agreement is in place between each of the ports and Cochin Shipyard, creating an asset-light model for the latter.

Nair said India should do much more of ship repair, given the country’s location and good-quality manpower.

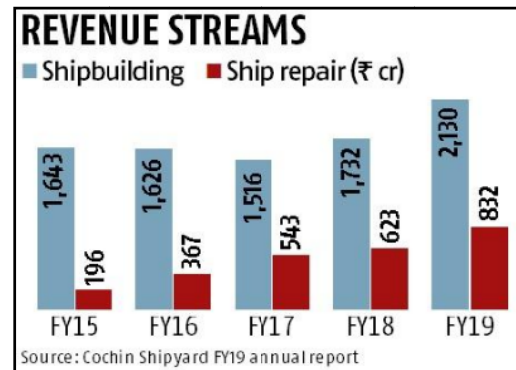
Cochin Shipyard was also in talks with the Mormugao Port Trust for their ship repair facility but could not take this ahead, due to vessel size limitations. “Between our own repair facility, along with the Mumbai and Kolkata ports, we can now handle large and mid-sized ship repairs. We were, therefore, on a lookout for a small-sized ship repair facility. Goa should have been small but it did not fit,” said Nair.

Though revenue consistently rose between 2014-15 and 2018-19, growth in the ship building business income was not as impressive as in the repair section.

According to the latest annual report, the yard built 20 defence vessels, 15 large vessels, 35 offshore support vessels and 52 small and medium vessels. These figures are unchanged from the preceding year.

The company has taken 42 acres on lease at the Cochin shipyard where it aims to shift the repair facility for smaller and mid-size vessels. The facility is expected to add revenue by 15-20 per cent in the next two years. The target is to handle 80 ships a year. It also is not affected from the current order flow vagary due to the new IMO 2020 sulphur cap regulations.

These affect merchant vessels, a space where Cochin Shipyard is not present. “We have a slightly different product mix — it is largely naval ships, which do not use heavy fuel oil,” says Nair. No Indian shipyard is in the affected segment — L&T’s in Tamil Nadu, Hindustan Shipyard at Visakhapatnam and Reliance Naval and Engineering Company, for instance.



Apart from the repair business, the company is looking at the building of fishing boats. “In this business, we will play on the volume game. One of these ships costs (only) Rs 1-1.5 crore but the volume is over 100 or more vessels (yearly) in terms of order flow,” said Nair.

It is for the same reason that the company is eyeing insolvent Temba Shipyard, subsidiary of Bharti Shipyard, which has yards in Malpe, Karnataka, and in Tamil Nadu. “We see value in Temba as it is located in an area which is a fishing boat hub and can have about 4,000 boats,” said Nair. All projects put together, Cochin Shipyard has an investment plan of Rs 3,500 crore. The majority of this money is to come from internal accrual.

With an eye on growing the ship repair business segment at Port Blair, the company is to look at operations and management of the repair facility at Netaji Subhas Dock, Kolkata. It expects this to aid its working with the navy in the Andaman region and with private tourism.

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/cochin-shipyard-prepares-cautious-expansion-strategy-120012900072_1.html



Fri, 31 Jan 2020

What the budget can and can't do for our rise as a global power

As the nation awaits the Union budget for 2020-21, there is a sense of anticipation in the air. In more ways than one, this is being viewed as a make-or-break budget for the Narendra Modi government. A decline in India's economic growth rate has energized the prophets of doom and gloom. It is certainly imperative for Indian policymakers to bring the Indian growth story back onto the front pages of newspapers, but it is equally important to ascertain the implications of this decline for Indian foreign policy. After all, India's emergence as a global power of reckoning is predicated on its sustained economic rise in the international order for decades together.

Resources are fundamental to the emergence of major powers. In international relations, power is by and large measured in terms of resources, economic wealth, and military might in particular. It is economic power that not only allows a nation to invest in building its military capabilities, but also makes it possible for it to enhance its influence abroad through economic diplomacy and soft power. The wealthier a country becomes, the more its ambitions expand, and it invests in those resources which enhance its ability to project power. If military resources allow it to target its adversaries and draw red lines, trade and investment relations allow it to attract partners. Economic success, therefore, is seen as the principal propeller of a country's rise to power. It is well known that states can easily convert economic resources into military might. As economic strength declines, countries find it difficult to balance their gun-versus-butter preferences.

It was India's economic rise that made it possible for its policymakers and their global interlocutors to envision India as a major pole in the evolving global order. If the global centre of gravity of economics and politics has been shifting from the West towards the East, then India's economic heft along with that of China's has been a large part of this dynamic. If the world has been talking about a multipolar order on the horizon, then it was India's surging rates of growth that made it possible for New Delhi to think of a role for itself. And even those who believed the global order was headed for a kind of bipolarity, this century saw India's economic might as the key variable that would shape the outcome between the US and China.

Diplomatically, it was a robust economic profile that enabled Indian policymakers to think of an expansive global footprint beyond just South Asia and the Indian Ocean region. New Delhi could

position itself as a maritime power and a continental power simultaneously in the emerging geographies of the Indo-Pacific and Eurasia, partly because it assumed it had the wherewithal to manage turbulence in these areas. India as a net security provider in the wider East and Southeast Asia looked like a realistic possibility, and Indian assurances acquired a little more credibility for its allies even as its threats gained a sharper edge for its adversaries.

Militarily, India could expand its ambitions and shape the global defence markets as one of the largest buyers of military hardware. Its defence diplomacy attained greater salience because it had more resources to devote to militarily engaging other nations. It has been acquiring land-, air- and sea-based assets and obtaining greater coercive power to shape outcomes in its favour on the back of higher rates of economic growth.

Politically too, the India model became attractive as an alternative to the Chinese model. Here was a democracy trying its best to bring millions out of poverty, not in an authoritarian setup, but in a liberal, contested political system. And this has been a rebuke to those who first talked of India as a land of the "Hindu rate of growth" and then put China on a pedestal for achieving economic prosperity.

So, it is not surprising that as the Indian economic story faces some headwinds, it will have implications for its global posture. But the Indian economy will bounce back, sooner or later. The challenge for New Delhi will be not to lose the momentum generated by its economic rise over the last three decades on the international frontier. Domestic contestations will continue and the economic situation will go back and forth. New Delhi's engagement with the world should not recede, for that will undermine Indian foreign policy achievements of the last two decades which have allowed India to emerge as a serious player in the global hierarchy. While higher rates of economic growth would allow India to continue to pursue its expansive global diplomatic engagements relatively easily, economic growth is no substitute for strategy.

Strategy matters even more when resources are in short supply. Any nation can claim to have global ambitions when its gross domestic product growth is high. It is only when the domestic and global economic situation is tight that the real value of strategy becomes palpable. So, even as the nation awaits a budget that can hopefully spur India on to a high growth trajectory, policymakers in New Delhi should be crafting a long-term response to what are likely to be challenging times in the days and months ahead.

<https://www.defencenews.in/article/What-the-budget-can-and-can%E2%80%99t-do-for-our-rise-as-a-global-power-809104>