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Thu, 31 Oct 2019

Boost for DRDO's air independent propulsion system as land-based prototype successfully operated

The DRDO programme to build a fuel cell-based AIP system for Indian Naval Submarines has crossed several milestones in technology maturity, added MoD

By Mayank Singh

New Delhi: DRDO's AIP (Air Independent Propulsion) system got a boost with the operation of the land-based prototype on Wednesday. The operation of the Fuel cell-based AIP was conducted at the Naval Materials Research Laboratory in Ambarnath, Maharashtra in the presence of Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh.

"AIP has a force multiplier effect on lethality of a diesel-electric submarine as it enhances the submerged endurance of the boat, several folds," Ministry of Defence (MoD) in its communique said.

Chief of the Naval Staff appreciated the breakthrough accomplishments achieved in this programme and said, "The programme is of great value to the nation and Indian Navy in particular." Chief urged DRDO and Indian Navy to continue the partnership to meet the timelines set for short and long-term goals.

Fuel cell-based AIP has merits in performance compared to other technologies. The DRDO programme to build a fuel cell-based AIP system for Indian Naval Submarines has crossed several milestones in technology maturity, added MoD

Also, present during the operation of the land-based prototype engineered to the form-and-fit of a submarine was Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G. Satheesh Reddy.

The DRDO Chairman assured that all efforts will be made to meet the performance standards and timelines of the programme so that induction of DRDO AIP into operational Submarines could be achieved as per Indian Navy schedule.

Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (West), Chief of Material Indian Navy, Director General (Naval Systems & Materials), Director General (Armament & Combat Engineering Systems), Director (Naval Materials Research Laboratory) and Directors of participating laboratories were present on the occasion.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/oct/30/boost-for-drdos-air-independent-propulsion-system-as-land-based-prototype-successfully-operated-2054852.html>



Navy Chief, DRDO Chairman witness operation of landbased prototype of AIP submarines

New Delhi: Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh and DRDO chairman G Satheesh Reddy on Wednesday witnessed operation of a land-based prototype of the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) submarines, a statement said.

AIP has a force multiplier effect on lethality of a diesel electric submarine as it enhances the submerged endurance of the boat several folds. Fuel cell-based AIP has merits in performance compared to other technologies.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation's (DRDO) programme to build a fuel cell-based AIP system for Indian Naval submarines has crossed several milestones in technology maturity, the statement said.

"Operation of the land-based prototype engineered to the form-and-fit of a submarine was witnessed by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh in the presence of Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy at the Naval Materials Research Laboratory in Ambernath, Maharashtra," the statement added.

In his remarks, the Chief of the Naval Staff appreciated the breakthrough accomplishments achieved in this programme and said that it is of great value to the nation and Indian Navy in particular.

He urged DRDO and Indian Navy to continue the partnership to meet the timelines set for short and long-term goals.

The DRDO chairman assured that all efforts will be made to meet the performance standards and timelines of the programme so that induction of DRDO AIP into operational submarines could be achieved as per the schedule of the Indian Navy.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/navy-chief-drdo-chairman-witness-operation-of-land-based-prototype-of-aip-submarines/articleshow/71825970.cms>

Building India's Defence capability - What is the need of the hour? Army Chief Bipin Rawat on war and peace

“Future war will not be a war of aggression” - Bipin Rawat on what India needs to do to be prepared for future wars. And his view on the role of the CDS

By Akrita Reyar

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- *Army Chief Bipin Rawat felt indigenisation is the need of the hour*
- *He highlighted the need to strengthen R&D*
- *Bipin Rawat felt the decision to set up the post of CDS was a step in the right direction*
- *The Army Chief felt that direct aggression as a method of war was now passé*
- *Artificial Intelligence and Cyber War were becoming instrumental in deciding war strategy for the purpose of data*

Lauding the Indian government's recent efforts in forging alliances with various countries in the fields of diplomacy, strategy, economics, energy and security, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said that emerging partnerships would play a crucial role in making the future world peaceful. He felt that security undercurrents are replete with strategic unpredictability and multi-spectrum warfare challenges. War, he admitted, is a very complex phenomenon with ever-evolving dynamics.

The Indian Defence spectrum

As part of the valedictory remarks of the 23rd Colonel Pyara Lal Memorial Lecture 2019 organised by the United Service Institution of India on the topic “Building Military Capability, Developing New Partnerships and Protecting National Interests in an Uncertain World Order”, the Army Chief delineated the following points related with securing India militarily:

Indigenisation: “Indian armed forces need to be prepared for a wide range of offences with a variant level of intensity. Therefore, building military capability is undeniably the sine qua non. Keeping the long term perspective in mind, developing indigenous military capability -- whether it is weapon systems, ammunition or equipment -- self-reliance, was, therefore, the answer and private industry would need to be involved.”

Challenges:

1. Research and Development

“The basic problem is of investment in research and development. Is the industry today capable or willing to invest in R&D without assured orders? How do we then give assured orders to the industry when you have to bank on a three-tier system of looking at who is the lowest bidder as well as seeing who has better technology. Do we give preference to technology or to cost?”

2. Capacity to absorb technologies

“The issue is, do we have the capacity to absorb technologies. There are countries around the world which are willing to transfer their technology to us. But where is the base to imbibe this technology? Therefore, the industry has to focus to a greater extent on research and development. Can they do it? The answer is both ‘yes’ and ‘no’. Not every industry has the capacity to develop the kind of resources that are required in developing technologies.”

3. Extent of government intervention

“Is there a need for the government to step in? Yes, partially. Some kind of infusion of funds in the industry for research and development other than the DRDO alone is the need of the hour. A lot of effort is being put towards this through the Make 1 and Make 2 procedures. Make 1 procedure that the government has now adopted is some kind of sharing of cost in the industry. Make 2 procedures are those where the industry is willing to go on its own to develop technology and give us the equipment. I just wish to highlight that you know the weapon systems have been developed. It is not that the private industry doesn't have the capacity to develop small arms in our country, but the issue is again of technology. Why do we have AK 203 (rifles) coming from Russia? Because they have superior metrology, and through metrology comes accuracy.”

“The same thing is applicable to tanks. We are trying to develop armoured fighting vehicles when we are yet to develop an engine. Can the industry go ahead and develop a 1,500 horsepower engine which can propel this 50-ton monster in the kind of the terrain we are expected to operate... Today we are importing all these engines from abroad. Along with these come the other structures. Everything that is being done in the country, it is being done either by DPSUs (Defence Public Sector Undertakings) or ordnance factories. Around DPSUs there can be a lot of small and medium enterprises who can associate. Even ISRO, which sent Chandrayaan 2 into space, has about 2000 small and medium enterprises which helped them develop the Chandrayaan.”

4. Green Shoots of Progress - The Current Scenario

“We have recently floated a requirement of developing our own ammunition for our tanks with the private industry. The APFS (armour-piercing fin-stabilized) ammunition which we are importing from Russia will now be manufactured by the private industry. A contract of 85,000 rounds of this ammunition has already been given to the industry, out of which an additional 10,000 rounds will also be developed by the DRDO. To make things concurrently, it is actually challenging the DRDO to come out with good product because they know the industry is also going to give them the challenge to produce better stuff.”

5. Military structures and CDS

“I think to develop military capability two issues need to be looked at. One is developing structures, which I think is already happening by the way of CDS (Chief of Defence Staff). What will be role and charter for the CDS? I think there is a body which is now looking at it and working out the overall responsibility of the CDS. Let them do their work and see what comes out. The ultimate decision will be taken by the government. I don't think we should rely on social media on what is coming out. It is not (the true picture).”

6. Capacities and capabilities

“I think the future war will not be a war of aggression. We have to be prepared to fight the war in the cyber domain. There will be cartographic equations, there will be legal warfare. We have to be concerned about the information war web and artificial intelligence. And to top it all, we will need capabilities from space for providing us with much-needed intelligence surveillance and records and requirements. I think artificial intelligence will not only help us in winning wars, but it will also always remain a force multiplier.”

“In the case of the armed forces, operational logistics function will mainly be supported by artificial intelligence. It will not serve as a tool for warfighting and giving you a plan on how to fight wars. For that, you still need military minds and you need leadership which is to be trained in making decisions. We need to understand that artificial intelligence, information warfare, cyber warfare, etc. can only be support systems for modern warfighting. War will still need to be fought by the men on the ground, soldiers, airmen, sailors and the machines that are made available to them.”

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/building-india-s-defence-capability-what-is-the-need-of-the-hour/509563>

Modernisation of the Indian Army

Infantry: A long way to go

The Indian Army (IA) celebrated its 73rd Infantry Day on 27th October 2019 as India celebrated the Festival of Lights and for some, it's the Indian New Year

By Lt Col Manoj K Channan (Retd)

The Indian Army (IA) celebrated its 73rd Infantry Day on 27th October 2019 as India celebrated the Festival of Lights and for some, it's the Indian New Year. Did the Indian Infantry have much to celebrate?

In 1962 the American Time magazine put it aptly; "The Indian Army needs almost everything except Courage." We need to introspect has anything changed since then. The answer is No.

Infantry soldier is a soldier of immense courage and tenacity, drawn from across all castes, colour and creed. The training is which makes them the best amongst many armies across the world.

The Indian Army has multiple tasks from external threats, internal threats as well as strives due to the wide Diaspora of India's population and its aspirations. The aid to civil authorities remains a major task though the Central Armed Police Forces have modernised but remain lacking in Combat Leadership.

The Indian Army leadership is "Infantry Centric"; remains a turf war for obvious reasons. The thought process of numbers vis-à-vis automation is an exercise in futility given the mind-set.

What does a modern infantry soldier need in the complex environment he is expected to operate?

Training is the bedrock of any Army. The IA training regimen is focused on building the physical and mental toughness as well as imparting basic military skills; more professional skills are honed on joining units. The intake level of the soldier needs to be reviewed as the modern-day soldier needs to be technology savvy, have multiple skills, from carrying out tasks of directing artillery fire or vectoring in close air support, have basic sapper skills to the skills of a nursing assistant, in short, be able to multi-task.

Combat

The infantry soldier has fought with the weapon given to him. The first revelations of this requirement came up during Operation Pawan in 1987; pitched against the LTTE with AK 47's the heavy Self- Loading Rifle had stopping power, lacked the desired rate of fire in built-up areas as well as in the jungles.

The harsh lessons of Sri Lanka prepared the Infantry to fight the Punjab Insurgency as well as the decades-old J&K insurgency. The capability needs to be built up in terms of Assault Rifles, Close Quarter Battle Rifles, Sniper Rifles, Light Anti-Armour Weapon, shot detection systems, Anti-Tank Guided Missiles, Shoulder Fired Air Defense Missiles, Anti-personnel mines, Anti-Tank Mines, Day and Night scopes and Sniper and counter-sniper capabilities.

Network-centric Communications

This is most neglected as basic communication is done by hand signals/voice command. The infantry soldier must have encrypted communication, hand-held device which provides him situational awareness – location of his team, GPS as well as means of communications. These devices should not be prone to enemy jamming of communications. Surprisingly the Army Headquarters scrapped the Battlefield Management Systems pursuit, due to possible budgetary constraints.

Logistics

This is an area which needs a major overhaul. Infantry needs modern clothing which can breathe, remain clean. Nanotechnology clothing is well developed and needs to go into commercial production. Personnel protection in terms of a Bullet Resistant Helmet, jackets, gloves, elbow, and knee guards, as well as eye protection, remain distant. Boots need anti-skid impregnable soles. IA personnel wear “a common Olive Green” the shades differ, and the uniformity is just a misnomer. The field service marching order needs to make it more users friendly. Meals ready to eat is yet to become a reality. Medical bandages have undergone major developments which seal the wound without suturing the wound need to part of individual kitting.

Make in India

This is a good initiative started by the Government. An impetus was given by announcing Strategic Partners for major platforms and under `Make I` and for the others `Make II` clauses of the revised Defence Procurement Procedures (DPP). The deficiencies and the modernisation can be undertaken; provided the Government gives assured orders. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) needs, a long way to go to Fast Track programs to enable the Infantry to be equipped for the current challenges and not for the last war fought. A large number of officers have completed their M Tech from the prestigious IITs. These officers need to form the core of the Army Design Bureau and should be integrated with the industry to go from design to commercial production without much delay. Successful pursuits should be suitably rewarded. The current trend of Technology Transfer and huge costs paid as development charges could thus be avoided.

All efforts of modernisation are brought to nought as there remains a huge mistrust between the end-users and the Proverbial Babu of the Ministry of Defence (MoD). There is a need for the government to have desk officers from Arms and Services in the MoD, to monitor the inventory and its shelf life to ensure timely procurements. This is certainly not a major challenge as commercially available off the shelf software is available. The service officer must have his say with his counterparts and a degree of equality must be ensured by providing a level playing field for all. Until real defence reforms occur, infantry modernisation will remain a debate at various forums.

(The author is a veteran of the Indian Army. Views expressed are personal.)

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/modernisation-of-the-indian-army-infantry-a-long-way-to-go/1749971/>

All the reasons why India hates the aircraft carrier it bought from Russia

Russia's Admiral Gorshkov had a lot of problems but it was the only option on the market for New Delhi

By Kyle Mizokami

Like a lot of countries, India wants the best weapons it can afford. But ideological and financial concerns mean there are a lot of things it won't buy from the United States or Europe. That pretty much leaves, well, Russia.

India has been a big buyer of Russian weapons for 50 years. Those haven't been easy years for New Delhi. India's defense contracts with Russia have consistently suffered delays and cost overruns. And the resulting hardware doesn't always work.

Of all India's Russian procurement woes, none speak more to the dysfunctional relationship between the two countries than the saga of INS *Vikramaditya*. In the early 2000s, India went shopping for a new aircraft carrier. What followed was a military-industrial nightmare.

Wanted—one new(ish) carrier

In 1988, the Soviet Union commissioned the aircraft carrier *Baku*. She and her four sisters of the *Kiev* class represented a unique Soviet design. The front third resembled a heavy cruiser, with 12 giant SS-N-12 anti-ship missiles, up to 192 surface-to-air missiles and two 100-millimeter deck guns. The remaining two-thirds of the ship was basically an aircraft carrier, with an angled flight deck and a hangar.

Baku briefly served in the Soviet navy until the USSR dissolved in 1991. Russia inherited the vessel, renamed her *Admiral Gorshkov* and kept her on the rolls of the new Russian navy until 1996. After a boiler room explosion, likely due to a lack of maintenance, *Admiral Gorshkov* went into mothballs.

In the early 2000s, India faced a dilemma. The Indian navy's only carrier INS *Viraat* was set to retire in 2007. Carriers help India assert influence over the Indian Ocean—not to mention, they're status symbols. New Delhi needed to replace *Viraat*, and fast.

India's options were limited. The only countries building carriers at the time—the United States, France and Italy—were building ships too big for India's checkbook. In 2004, India and Russia struck a deal in which India would receive *Admiral Gorshkov*. The ship herself would be free, but India would pay \$974 million dollars to Russia to upgrade her.

It was an ambitious project. At 44,500 tons, *Admiral Gorshkov* was a huge ship. Already more than a decade old, she had spent eight years languishing in mothballs. Indifference and Russia's harsh winters are unkind to idle ships.

Russia would transform the vessel from a helicopter carrier with a partial flight deck to an aircraft carrier with a launch ramp and a flight deck just over 900 feet long. She would be capable of supporting 24 MiG-29K fighters and up to 10 Kamov helicopters.

She would have new radars, new boilers for propulsion, new arrester wires for catching landing aircraft and new deck elevators. All 2,700 rooms and compartments—spread out over 22 decks—would be refurbished and new wiring would be laid throughout the ship. The “new” carrier would be named *Vikramaditya*, after an ancient Indian king.

A real aircraft carrier for less than a billion dollars sounds almost too good to be true. And it was.

Shakedown

In 2007, just a year before delivery, it became clear that Russia's Sevmasb shipyard couldn't meet the ambitious deadline. Even worse, the yard demanded more than twice as much money—\$2.9 billion in total—to complete the job.

The cost of sea trials alone, originally \$27 million, ballooned to a fantastic \$550 million.

A year later, with the project still in disarray, Sevmasb estimated the carrier to be only 49-percent complete. Even more galling, one Sevmasb executive suggested that India should pay an additional \$2 billion, citing a “market price” of a brand-new carrier at “between \$3 billion and \$4 billion.”

Sevmasb specialized in submarine construction and had never worked on an aircraft carrier before. The ship had been originally built at the Nikolayev Shipyards, which after the breakup of the Soviet Union became part of the Ukraine. The tooling and specialized equipment used to build *Admiral Gorshkov* was thousands of miles away and now in a foreign country.

Like many contractors, defense or otherwise, Sevmasb had its unhappy employer over a barrel. With the job halfway done, and having already dropped \$974 million, India could not afford to walk away from the deal. Russia knew it, and was blunt about India's options. “If India does not pay up, we will keep the aircraft carrier,” one defense ministry official told RIA-Novosti.

‘There will be grave consequences’

By 2009, the project was deadlocked and word was starting to get around the defense industry. Russian arms exports for 2009 totaled \$8 billion, and Sevmasb's delays and extortionary tactics weren't good for the Russian defense industry as a whole.

In July 2009, Russia's then-president Dmitri Medvedev made a high-profile visit to the Sevmasb shipyard. Indian news reported that the carrier was still half-done, meaning that the yard had done virtually no work on the ship for two years as it held out for more money.

Medvedev publicly scolded Sevmasb officials. “You need to complete [*Vikramaditya*] and hand it over our partners,” the visibly irritated president told Sevmasb general director Nikolai Kalistratov.

In 2010, the Indian government agreed to more than double the budget for the carrier to \$2.2 billion. This was less than the \$2.9 billion Sevmasb demanded, and *much* less than Sevmasb's suggested “market price” of \$4 billion.

Suddenly, Sevmasb magically started working harder—actually, twice as hard—and finished the other half of the upgrades in only three years. *Vikramaditya* finally entered sea trials in August 2012 and commissioned into the Indian navy in November 2013.

At the commissioning ceremony, Indian Defense Minister AK Anthony expressed relief that the ordeal was over, telling the press that there was a time “when we thought we would never get her.”

Enduring woes

Now that *Vikramaditya* is finally in service, India's problems are over, right? Not by a long shot. Incredibly, India has chosen Sevmasb to do out-of-warranty work on the ship for the next 20 years.

Keeping *Vikramaditya* supplied with spare parts will be a major task in itself. Ten Indian contractors helped to build the carrier, but so did more than 200 other contractors in Russia, Croatia, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Japan, Finland, France, Norway, Poland, Sweden and the U.K. Some countries, particularly Japan, were likely unaware they were exporting parts for a foreign weapons system.

The ship's boilers, which provide *Vikramaditya* with power and propulsion, are a long-term concern. All eight boilers are new. But yard workers discovered defects in them. During her trip from Russia to India, the flattop suffered a boiler breakdown, which Sevmasb chalked up to poor-quality Chinese firebricks.

China denied ever exporting the firebricks.

Finally, *Vikramaditya* lacks active air defenses. The ship has chaff and flare systems to lure away anti-ship missiles, but she doesn't have any close-in weapons systems like the American Phalanx.

India could install local versions of the Russian AK-630 gun system, but missiles will have to wait until the ship is in drydock again—and that could be up to three years from now. In the meantime, *Vikramaditya* will have to rely on the new Indian air-defense destroyer INS Kolkata for protection from aircraft and missiles.

As for *Sevmash*? After the *Vikramaditya* fiasco, the yard is strangely upbeat about building more carriers ... and has identified Brazil as a possible buyer. “*Sevmash* wants to build aircraft carriers,” said Sergey Novoselov, the yard's deputy general director.

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/buzz/all-reasons-why-india-hates-aircraft-carrier-it-bought-russia-92076>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 31 Oct 2019

50 India Inc representatives to accompany Rajnath Singh to Russia to explore JVs

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be in Moscow from November 5-7 for the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) meeting

By Manu Pubby

New Delhi: Defence minister Rajnath Singh will be accompanied by one of the largest industry delegations during his visit to Moscow next week, with Indian companies seeking to form joint ventures with Russian equipment suppliers to set up manufacturing facilities here.

The minister, who will be in Moscow from November 5-7 for the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-MTC) meeting, is set to review all major ongoing projects with Russia, including progress on the construction of two frigates for the Indian Navy and the supply of S 400 air defence systems.

Sources said that besides senior bureaucrats including the defence secretary and the DRDO Chief, over 50 representatives from the Indian defence industry will also be in Moscow for a meeting with Russian companies. A big item on the agenda is identifying potential partnerships that will enable manufacturing of Russian military parts and components in India.

The industry delegation includes representatives from L&T Defence, Adani Defence, Alpha Design Technologies, SMPP Private Ltd and Zen Technologies. Senior officials from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited are also likely to attend the meeting, with a review of the ongoing project to manufacture Kamov Ka 226T light helicopters in India for the army and air force set to be conducted. While technical details of the helicopter project have been worked out, the next step of awarding the contract to a HAL-Kamov combine is yet to take place. The visit will also include officials from the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), which has been nominated by the government to construct two of the Project 11356 class frigates.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/50-india-inc-representatives-to-accompany-rajnath-singh-to-russia-to-explore-jvs/articleshow/71829433.cms>



Lieutenant General Arvind Dutta

Lt Gen Arvind Dutta appointed Adjutant General of Indian Army

ANI | Updated: [Oct 30, 2019 22:42 IST](#)

New Delhi [India], Oct 30 (ANI): Lieutenant General Arvind Dutta has been appointed the next Adjutant General of the Indian Army.

The officer, who is presently commanding the Vajra Corps in Jalandhar, would succeed Lieutenant Gen Ashwini Kumar, who will superannuate on October 31.

An adjutant general is a military chief administrative officer.

Earlier this month, Dutta had inaugurated the Vajra Museum showcasing the saga of valour, glorious battles and victories of Vajra Corps. (ANI)

Air Force recommends gallantry awards for 6 killed in J&K chopper crash

The helicopter Mi-17 V5, which was hit by an Indian missile, was being flown by squadron leader Siddharth Vashisht with other pilot squadron leader Ninad Mandvgane

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recommended gallantry medals for its six personnel who were killed in a chopper crash due to friendly fire over Srinagar on February 27, a day after the force hit a terrorist training camp in Pakistan.

The helicopter Mi-17 V5, which was hit by an Indian missile, was being flown by squadron leader Siddharth Vashisht with other pilot squadron leader Ninad Mandvgane along with other crew including Kumar Pandey, sergeant Vikrant Sehrawat, corporals Deepak Pandey and Pankaj Kumar.

"The two pilots have been recommended to be awarded the Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry while the other four crew of the chopper have been recommended for the Mention in Despatches," IAF sources told ANI.

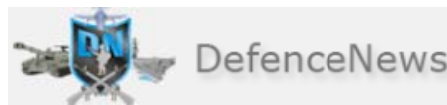
All the six personnel have been recommended for wartime gallantry medals as they were flying during operations to carry out an operational task assigned to them, they said.

The six personnel on board the chopper were killed after being hit by the SPYDER air defence missile system in Budgam near Srinagar. In addition to the six IAF personnel, a civilian was killed on the ground.

Soon after taking over, the newly appointed IAF chief had stated that the Mi-17 chopper crash was a "big mistake" on part of the air force. "Court of Inquiry has completed and it was our mistake as our missile had hit our own chopper," Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria had said.

The helicopter was shot down when Indian air defences were on high alert following the February 26 airstrikes in which a terrorist camp was targeted in Pakistan.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/air-force-recommends-gallantry-awards-for-6-killed-in-jammu-and-kashmir-chopper-crash-2124876>



IPS Anup Kumar Singh takes charge as new NSG Chief

Senior IPS officer of Gujarat cadre Anup Kumar Singh has taken over the charge of Director General of the elite National Security Guard (NSG), the force said on Tuesday.

Singh took over the command of NSG on Monday, 10 days after the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved his appointment as the Director General of the 'Black Cats commando' force. The ACC had approved Singh's appointment to the post on October 18.

"The Black Cats welcome their new DG and look to move forward for achieving greater heights under his command," National Security Guard tweeted.

The 1985-batch IPS officer took charge as NSG chief from Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General S.S. Deswal, who was holding additional charge of the post since the superannuation of Sudeep Lakhtakia on July 31. Singh will hold the post till September 30, 2020 from the date of joining or till further orders, whichever is earlier.

The NSG is a federal contingency "zero error" force to deal with anti-terrorist activities in all its manifestations. The force was raised as the federal contingency force to counter terrorists and hijack-like incidents in 1984. Specially equipped and trained to deal with specific situations, it is meant to be used only in exceptional circumstances to thwart serious acts of terrorism.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/IPS-Anup-Kumar-Singh-takes-charge-as-new-NSG-chief-747718>



Thu, 31 Oct 2019

After Sweden's SAAB, now another foreign firm likely to exit Navy's submarine project

In what could be yet another setback to the ambitious strategic partnership (SP) initiative for building six conventional submarines, a second foreign firm is considering the possibility of pulling out of Project 75 India (P-75I) after Swedish firm SAAB.

While the company had responded to the defence ministry's Expression of Interest (EOI) earlier, sources in the firm have told ThePrint that it has found the project "completely complicated".

"We will have to wait and see how things evolve. It has been going on for 10 years," a top executive, who did not want to be named, said.

When asked if the firm has decided to exit the project, the executive only reiterated: "At this stage, we are waiting to see how it will evolve".

Sources also said German Chancellor Angela Merkel is expected to push the submarine project and flag concerns during her visit to the country Friday.

Under the P75I initiative, the six conventional submarines will be equipped with Air Independent Propulsion Systems (AIP). South Korean firm Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering, Naval Group (France), TKMS (Germany), Rosoboronexport (Russia) and Navantia (Spain) have also been extended invitations to place technical bids for the contract.

All foreign firms have flagged concerns ::

Defence major SAAB withdrew from the project last month, saying there has to be a rethinking on the government's policy.

"It is a decision we have made due to the customers' requirements regarding the time schedule and requirements related to the SP policy with its unbalance between our possibilities to have control and our obligations and liabilities," Ola Rignell, chairman and managing director of SAAB India, had said in an interview to ThePrint.



Defence sources further said all foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) have flagged concerns about the strategic partnership. Under the SP policy, an Indian vendor will hold 51 per cent stake in the project, thus taking away control of the special purpose vehicle (SPV) that is to be formed with the foreign OEM.

The OEMs have argued that the policy makes them liable for any malfunction. They cannot guarantee quality products and also abide by the timelines as sought by the government.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/After-Sweden%e2%80%99s-SAAB,-now-another-foreign-firm-likely-to-exit-Navy%e2%80%99s-submarine-project-747713>



Thu, 31 Oct 2019

Breaking news : cyber attack on Kudankulam nuclear power plant

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) on Wednesday issued a press statement admitting that the claims of a cyber attack on Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) in Tamil Nadu is true. The admission of a cyber attack is a significant development because the NPCIL had on Tuesday rejected reports about cyber attack stressing that any attack on the Nuclear Power Plant Control System is impossible.

The denial was issued by NPCIL on Tuesday (October 29) despite reports of strong evidence of a malware attack on the IT systems of the KKNPP in September 2019.

A.K Nema, associate director of NPCIL, on Wednesday released a statement admitting that Kudankulam cyber attack indeed happened. "Identification of malware in NPCIL system is correct. The matter was conveyed by CERT-In when it was noticed by them on September 4, 2019," NPCIL said in a statement.

"The matter was immediately investigated by DAE specialists. The investigation revealed that the infected PC belonged to a user who was connected in the internet-connected network used for administrative purposes. This is isolated from the critical internal network. The networks are being continuously monitored," added the statement. The NPCIL officer, however, stressed that the plant systems are not affected.

On Tuesday (October 29), R Ramdoss, training superintendent and information officer at KKNPP, had said in a statement, "This is to clarify Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP) and other Indian Nuclear Power Plants' control systems are standalone and not connected to outside cyber network and Internet. Any cyber attack on the Nuclear Power Plant Control System is not possible. Presently, KKNPP's Unit-1 and 2 are operating at 1000 MWe and 600MWe respectively, without any operational or safety concerns."

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/BREAKING-NEWS--Cyber-Attack-on-Kudankulam-Nuclear-Power-Plant-747714>

Thu, 31 Oct 2019

Indian Army participates in border personnel meeting organized by PLA

Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) between the Indian Army and People's Liberation Army was conducted by the People's Liberation Army on 30 October 2019 on the Chinese side at Bum La.

The Border Personnel Meeting was marked by unfurling of both the National Flags followed by a formal address by the delegation leaders and discussion on various issues to enhance the existing mutual trust and bonhomie between World's two largest armies.

The mutual desire to enhance cooperation and cordial relations was evident from the conducive environment that prevailed during the proceedings.

The BPM on 30th Oct every year is in vogue since the signing of Border Peace and Tranquility agreement between both the Nations on 07 Sep 1993. In the last 26 years, the BPM mechanism has evolved into a vital platform for resolving local issues and fostering mutual confidence amongst the Border Guarding Troops of both the countries.

<http://www.defencenews.in/article/Indian-Army-participates-in-Border-Personnel-Meeting-organized-by-PLA-747717>

 THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 31 Oct 2019

China to commission second aircraft carrier soon: Report

Experts told as the ship first set out on its eighth sea trial, the voyage would likely serve as an examination of the warship's readiness for final delivery, and that they expected the ship to be commissioned into the Chinese navy this year

Beijing: China's second aircraft carrier, the first domestically-built, appears to be ready for commissioning soon as the ship has completed its eighth sea trial, official media here reported on Wednesday.

Troops in white naval uniforms lined the warship's flight deck on October 24 and practised an inspection ceremony, Global Times reported.

A barge loaded with a crane approached the bow of the ship as workers on the crane painted a huge "1" on the ship's hull though it was erased later, it said.

"Painting a hull number is usually a sign that a warship is about to join the military service," the report quoted a military expert as saying.

China's first aircraft carrier Liaoning, a refit of the Soviet era ship, commissioned in 2012 in Dalian after years of refitting and sea trials. It is being largely used for training, especially to test the newly-developed carrier fighter jet J-15.

The Liaoning has the hull number 16, and many military observers expect the yet-to-be-named second carrier will bear the number 17, the report said.

The second aircraft carrier is moored at the Dalian shipyard in the northeast Liaoning province after it returned from its eighth sea trial held from October 15.

Military experts told the daily as the ship first set out on its eighth sea trial, the voyage would likely serve as an examination of the warship's readiness for final delivery, and that they expected the ship to be commissioned into the Chinese navy this year.

In a major rejig of its military doctrine, China since 2013 stepped up the development of the navy which included building several aircraft carriers besides submarines, frigates and assault ships as part of its efforts to expand its global influence.

While the second aircraft carrier is undergoing trials, the third one is being built at a feverish pace.

Recent media reports, displaying satellite photos, said China has established a huge aircraft carrier factory in Shanghai to produce several huge ships.

China plans to acquire about five to six aircraft carriers in the coming years, according to reports in the official media.

In May this year, the Chinese navy had commissioned two more guided missile destroyers, taking the total number of such ships to 20 with more in the pipeline.

China now has 20 Type 052Ds either in active service or being fitted out for service soon.

As part of the new military doctrine advocated by President Xi Jinping, the 2.3 million-strong Chinese military, the world's largest, has been downsized to two million in the last few years while it expanded the navy and air force manifold to enhance the country's global influence.

The Chinese navy for the first time in its history has logistics bases in Djibouti in the Indian Ocean and is developing Pakistan's strategic Gwadar port in the Arabian Sea. China also has acquired Sri Lanka's Hambantota port as a debt swap for 99 years.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-to-commission-second-aircraft-carrier-soon-report/articleshow/71824385.cms>