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ब्रह्मोस क्रूज मिसाइल को लेकर भारत के इस कदम से जरूर चीन को आएगा गुस्सा

भारत ने मिसाइल बिक्री पर अभी तक कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की है और इसका विवरण भी अब तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो सका है कि वियतनाम को बेची गई मिसाइल का कितना मूल्य है या कितनी मिसाइल प्रणाली सौदे में शामिल है।

भारत-चीन के बीच डोकलाम सीमा विवाद और करीब एक दशक से चली आ रही तनातनी के बीच वियतनाम ने कथित तौर पर भारतीय ब्रह्मोस सुपरसोनिक एंटी शिप क्रूज मिसाइल का अधिग्रहण किया है। भारत द्वारा वियतनाम को ब्रह्मोस दिए जाने से चीन को और गुस्सा आ सकता है क्योंकि ब्रह्मोस दुनिया के सबसे उन्नत मिसाइलों में से एक माना जाता है और माना जा रहा है कि वियतनाम इस मिसाइल को चीन के खिलाफ समंदर में तैनात कर सकता है। बता दें कि चीन और वियतनाम के बीच भी दशकों से तनातनी बरकरार है। दक्षिणी चीन सागर विवाद पर वियतनाम और चीन में हमेशा ठनती रही है।

हालांकि, भारत ने मिसाइल बिक्री पर अभी तक कोई टिप्पणी नहीं की है और इसका विवरण भी अब तक उपलब्ध नहीं हो सका है कि वियतनाम को बेची गई मिसाइल का कितना मूल्य है या कितनी मिसाइल प्रणाली सौदे में शामिल है। चीन के खिलाफ भारत हमेशा से वियतनाम को मदद करता रहा है। इसके अलावा भारत वियतनाम को आकाश मिसाइल देने पर भी विचार कर रहा है, वहीं सुखोई 30 एमकेआई लड़ाकू विमानों भी प्रशिक्षण देगा।

शुक्रवार को आयोजित एक संवाददाता सम्मेलन में मिसाइल पर एक सवाल का जवाब देते हुए वियतनामी विदेश मंत्रालय के प्रवक्ता ले थी गुरु हांग ने कहा कि वियतनाम द्वारा रक्षा उपकरणों की खरीद शांति और आत्मरक्षा की नीति के अनुरूप है और यह राष्ट्रीय रक्षा में सामान्य अभ्यास है। उन्होंने कहा कि वियतनाम और भारत आपसी व्यापक सामरिक रणनीति और भागीदारी के तहत क्षेत्र में शांति, स्थिरता, सहयोग और विकास में व्यावहारिक योगदान दे रहे हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि दोनों देशों के बीच रक्षा में सहयोग भी शामिल है।

बता दें कि प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने साल 2016 में वियतनाम का दौरा किया था। उस समय दोनों देशों के बीच कई मुद्दों पर समझौते हुए थे। इसमें रक्षा सौदा भी शामिल था। इस मल्टी मिशन मिसाइल की मारक क्षमता 290 किलोमीटर की है और इसकी गति 2.8 मैक है। यह भूमि, समुद्र, उप समुद्र और वायु से समुद्र और भूमि लक्ष्यों के खिलाफ प्रक्षेपित किए जाने में सक्षम है।

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
WWW.ECONOMICTIMES.COM

Apaches to Enable Army to Make Daring Assaults

By Shaurya Gurung

Choppers can be flown in to destroy large number of enemy tanks before land troops move in, fire hellfire missiles from a standoff distance

Apache attack helicopters fired the first shots during Operation Desert Storm, the US-led military campaign against Iraq following the latter's invasion of Kuwait in 1990. The Apaches which had taken off from their

base in Saudi Arabia destroyed early warning radar installations in western Iraq, clearing the way for US fighter jets to cross undetected and carry out bombing runs.

The Indian Army will soon be equipped with these flying tanks, providing it with the same abilities to carry out such daring assaults. To the Indian Army, these air assets, primary attack helicopters of the US, will be a major component in tank battles along the western front. With their ability to easily slip around mountains for cover, they can also be a primary weapon against Chinese forces in case of a conflict. Keeping all this in mind, the choppers will be instrumental in tipping the balance of power and ensuring victory in battle with their quick and destructive air assaults.

Boosting the army's capabilities In 1963, then army chief General JN Chaudhary had stressed on the requirement of an air wing for the Army, which included attack helicopters. He had emphasized that to increase firepower and mobility of the Army, an integral air wing comprising light, medium, heavy and even attack helicopters were needed.

Although the Army Aviation Corps was created, attack helicopters didn't come easily to the Army. A bitter and long drawn tussle ensued with the Indian Air Force over control of the Apache attack helicopters, which are to replace the ageing Mi-35s of the IAF. In September 2015, the Cabinet Committee on Security approved the purchase of Boeing's 22 Apaches for the IAF. The Centre then had said that the Army will also acquire these helicopters under a follow on order, but the procurement was being delayed. Finally, on Thursday, the Defence Acquisition Council cleared the Rs 4,168 crore procurement deal for six Apaches for the Army.

The latest acquisition increases the opportunities the Army can utilise in land battles. The helicopters will first enhance mechanised operations comprising tanks and infantry combat vehicles in deserts and semi-desert regions. During such battles, Apaches can be flown in to destroy large number of enemy tanks, before Indian tanks are sent in.

With their quick mobility, they can fire from high above the ground, even higher than the turret of enemy tanks. The Apaches can also fire their famous Hellfire Missiles from a 'standoff distance', meaning from a point which is out of the range of tank fire. The missile's payload is a high explosive which is powerful enough to burn through the heaviest tank armour.

"The damage that this helicopter can cause to an enemy tank is greater than what can be caused in tank to tank battles," explained an expert on the subject. So besides providing protection to friendly mechanised columns, the Apaches will also ensure their deep penetration into enemy territory.

A secondary task for these helicopters could be to bust bunkers in the mountains. Although their primary utilisation will be along the western front, they can also be used in Ladakh and Sikkim for bunker busting operations. But the capabilities of the helicopters reduces with the rise in altitude.

The Apaches will be a part of the Army Aviation. The Army Aviation achieves leverage in the battlefield through a mix of reconnaissance, mobility and intense fire power. The attack helicopters contribution in this regard is the opportunity it gives to the ground commander to apply decisive firepower at critical moments anywhere in the battlefield.



Sat, 19 Aug, 2017

No objection to Army getting Apaches: IAF

Reacting to an article head Army wins tug-of-lined war with IAF to get 6 Apache copters worth Rs4,000cr', which was published on August 18, the Indian Air Force has clarified that it has never opposed or objected to the procurement of any platform by the Army.

“The IAF is in the process of replacing its Mi-2535 attack helicopters with 22 AH-64E Apache helicopters. The follow on clause has been exercised by GoI in this deal with 6 helicopters for the Army ...The IAF has no objection to any internal restructuring-re-equipping by the Army as long as it doesn't presuppose transfer of assets of IAF or impinge upon its enunciated role,” IAF said on Friday.

Sat, 19 Aug, 2017

MoD junks machine guns order for foot soldiers

By Rajat Pandit

Infantry Needs Ignored Thrice In 2 Years for Big Weapons

DESPERATE REQUIREMENT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Over 3.53 lakh new bullet-proof jackets (50,000 ordered in 2016-17)➤ Over 2 lakh new 7.62x51mm Assault Rifles➤ Over 1.6 lakh close-quarter battle carbines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Over 44,000 7.62mm light machine guns➤ Over 3,500 specialised 7.62mm sniper rifles➤ Mini-UAVs, third-generation anti-tank guided missiles etc



In yet another major blow to the Army's modernisation plans, the procurement plan for over 44,000 light machine guns (LMGs) for its humble foot soldiers in the infantry has been scrapped by the defence ministry.

This is the third such project, after the cases for new assault rifles and close-quarter battle carbines, to be junked over the last two years.

This once again shows that often in the race to acquire big weapon systems like tanks and howitzers, the desperate need to equip soldiers with basic infantry weapons, bullet-proof jackets, webbing and ballistic helmets often fall by the wayside. Sources said the defence ministry had “retracted” the tender or RFP (request for proposal) for the 7.62mm calibre LMGs on the ground that it had become a “single-vendor situation” with only the Israeli Weapon Industries (IWI) left in the fray after protracted field trials from December 2015 to February 2017.

The mega “Buy and Make” procurement plan involved an initial direct purchase of around 4,400 LMGs from a foreign armament company, followed by a tie-up with the Ordnance factory Board with transfer of technology for large-scale indigenous production. The entire project would have cost an estimated Rs 13,000 crore.

The dumping of the project comes after the MoD late last year also scrapped the tender issued in 2010 for 44,618 close-quarter battle carbines, in which too the IWI had emerged as the “resultant single vendor” over Italian firm Beretta, amid allegations of irregularities and political intrigue.

Earlier, in September last year, the Army was also forced to re-launch its global hunt for around two lakh new-generation 7.62mm x 51mm assault rifles after similar bids over the last decade were scrapped due to corruption scandals, unrealistic technical requirements and change in calibre of the desired guns, as was first reported by TOI.

The last RFP for the assault rifles was scrapped in May 2015 because of the Army's overambitious experiment to induct rifles with interchangeable barrels, with a 5.56x45mm primary barrel for conventional warfare and a 7.62x39mm secondary one for counter-terrorism. “The three cases spell big trouble for the Infantry, which has been grappling with outdated basic weapons and lack of proper bullet-proof jackets for long. Given the long-winded defence procurement procedure, it will years for the new guns to be inducted,” said a source.

‘Japan shares India’s concerns over China’s One Belt, One Road project’

KENJI HIRAMATSU, Japanese ambassador to India

'Japan shares India's concerns over China's One Belt, One Road project'

Jayanth Jacob

■ letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: Japan shares India's concerns about Chinese President Xi Jinping's One Belt, One Road (OBOR) project though Tokyo attended a meet on it for bilateral reasons. In an interview, Japanese ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu said he understands why India is involved in Doklam and backed external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj's statement on finding a diplomatic solution. Excerpts:

Unlike India that boycotted the One Belt, One Road conference, Japan took part in it. Is the project a topic of continuing discussion between India and Japan?

We attended the conference because it was on infrastructure. Also, we factored in the bilateral ties between the two countries. But we believe these projects should have viable funding that doesn't leave behind debt traps, protects environment and



respects local regulations.

So, barring concerns of sovereignty, you have similar concerns like India?

That's right. India and Japan are strategic partners. We continue to discuss OBOR.

Your view on the Doklam stand-off between India and China?

Doklam is a dispute between Bhutan and China... The two countries are engaged in border talks... We understand India has a treaty understanding with Bhutan; that's why its troops got involved. We believe no country should change status of Doklam by unilateral use of force.

Japan has territorial disputes with China in East China Sea.

You think incidents like Doklam are a sign of Beijing getting assertive about sovereignty?

We support the statement of external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj that India is engaged with China in finding a diplomatic solution to the standoff. It is not easy to make such assumptions, and some instances could be seen as they are.

Do you think India-Japan-US trilateral Malabar exercises should be expanded to include countries such as Australia?

The trilateral exercise is expanding into newer areas. We welcome participation of a country like Australia. But our attempt is to first consolidate trilateral cooperation.

India has remained the largest recipient of overseas development assistance project of Japan. Are you going to have a relook at it in any manner?

Not really... but we are looking at including projects in environment and to develop sewerage, an area where we have advanced technology.

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

China rebukes Japan for comment on Doklam

Annoyed by Japan's support for the Indian position that China had unilaterally sought to alter the status quo in Doklam, Beijing asked Tokyo "not to make random comments before clarifying relevant facts".

Japan's ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu had said on Thursday that the region under scrutiny was disputed, and supported the view that no unilateral steps should be taken to change the ground situation.

This was in sync with India's argument that the road building activity attempted by China in Doklam was unilateral, violative of Bhutanese sovereignty, and adversely affected India's security concerns. It also violated the agreement reached between Indian and Chinese special representatives.

“I have seen the Japanese ambassador in India really wants to support India. I want to remind him not to randomly make comments before clarifying relevant facts,” China's foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, according to an IANS report. She sought to counter Hiramatsu. “In the Donglang (Doklam) area, there is no territorial dispute. And the boundary has been delimited and recognised by the two sides,” Hua said, reiterating China's standard position since the standoff came to light.

“The attempt to change the status quo by trespass in the boundary is by India, not China,” the spokesperson added. China's relationship with Japan has been rocky, perhaps even more so than with India. Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese PM Shinzo Abe's meetings have been marked by icy awkwardness and their uncomfortable handshake at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in 2014 made headlines the world over. The ties dipped sharply after a collision between a Chinese fishing trawler and two Japanese coast guard patrols near the disputed islands of Senkaku. For a while, the dispute led to strong speculation on whether the two nations will go to war over the patch in the seas.

The deterioration in ties was swift despite the strong economic relations, and Japan's car makers actually had to curtail plans to manufacture and sell in China. This surprised observers as it had been believed that the enmeshed economies and the booming tourist trade would limit the extent of hostilities.



Sat, 19 Aug, 2017

China withholds data on rivers

New Delhi: India has not received hydrological data from China this year despite a bilateral agreement, the external affairs ministry (MEA) said on Friday, but maintained that it was “premature” to link it with recent floods in some parts of the country. The development comes in the backdrop of the ongoing standoff between the troops of both countries in Doklam.

MEA spokesperson Raveesh Kumar also did not confirm if Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to China next month to attend the BRICS summit, saying he does not have any information about it. Asked about the current status of the standoff, he said, “It is a sensitive issue... We will continue to engage with China to find a mutually acceptable solution. Peace and tranquillity in border areas are important prerequisites for smooth development of bilateral relations.”

However, when asked by when the standoff will be resolved, he said, “I am not an astrologer, so I cannot predict.”

Asked if China has shared hydrological data with India in the backdrop of floods in Assam, Kumar said there was an existing expert-level mechanism, established in 2006, and there were two MoUs under which China was expected to share hydrological data on rivers Sutlej and Brahmaputra with India between May and October every year.

“This year we have not received hydrological data from the Chinese side,” he said, adding that there could be “technical reasons” behind China not sharing the information.



Sat, 19 Aug, 2017

Will act swiftly if N Korea launches missile: Tillerson

The US has warned North Korea that it was prepared to meet any eventuality and will take “immediate specific actions” if Pyongyang launches a missile attack against it or its allies.

The US' strong assertion comes days after President Donald Trump pledged to answer further aggression from North Korea with “fire and fury”.

Speaking at a news conference jointly addressed by US Defence Secretary James Mattis, Japanese Foreign minister Taro Kono and Defence minister Itsunori Onodera, Tillerson said the country was prepared to meet any eventuality from the North Koreans, and sought to make it clear that use of the force was not the “preferred pathway” of the US.

“We are prepared, we are prepared militarily, we are prepared with our allies to respond, if that is necessary. That (military) is not our preferred pathway. That’s been made clear as well,” he said.

Defence Secretary Mattis said that the US would take immediate specific actions in the event of a missile launch towards US or its allies.

“In the event of a missile launch towards the territory of Japan, Guam, the United States, Korea (South Korea), we would take immediate specific actions to take it down,” Mattis said.

Responding to a question after the ‘two-plus-two’ US- Japan talks, Japanese Defence minister Onodera said that in the event there is an attack on Japan, they will use assets available to them for the missile defence.

“But should different circumstances occur, then we will solidify the relation that we have with the US with close communication. We will defend the country, and that is what we discussed today,” he said.

Tillerson said the North Korean regime should engage in diplomatic talks to bring better results, unlike in the past.

“So, our effort is to cause them (North Korean regime) to want to engage in talks, but engage in talks with an understanding that these talks will lead to a different conclusion than talks of the past.

We will continue that effort diplomatically, first and foremost,” he said.

THE ASIAN AGE

Sat, 19 Aug, 2017

Marking 40 years of voyaging

Cape Canaveral, Florida: Forty years after blasting off, Earth’s most distant ambassadors — the twin Voyager spacecraft — are carrying sounds and music of our planet ever deeper into the cosmos. Think of them as messages in bottles meant for anyone — or anything — out there. This Sunday marks the 40th anniversary of NASA’s launch of Voyager 2, now almost 11 billion miles distant. It departed from Cape Canaveral on Aug. 20, 1977 to explore Jupiter and Saturn. Voyager 1 followed a few weeks later and is ahead of Voyager 2. It’s humanity’s farthest spacecraft at 13 billion miles away and is the world’s only craft to reach interstellar space, the vast mostly emptiness between star systems. Voyager 2 is expected to cross that boundary during the next few years.

Each carries a 12-inch, gold-plated copper phonograph record containing messages from Earth: Beethoven’s Fifth, chirping crickets, a baby’s cry, a kiss, wind and rain, a thunderous moon rocket launch, African pygmy songs, Solomon Island panpipes, a Peruvian wedding song and greetings in dozens of languages. There are also more than 100 electronic images on each record showing 20th-century life, traffic jams and all. NASA is marking the anniversary of its back-to-back Voyager launches with tweets, reminisces and still captivating photos of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune taken by the Voyagers from 1979 through the 1980s.

Public television is also paying tribute with a documentary, “The Farthest Voyager in Space,” at 9 p.m.

The two-hour documentary describes the dramatic behind-the-scenes effort that culminated in the wildly successful missions to our solar system’s outer planets and beyond. More than 20 team members are interviewed, many of them long retired. There’s original TV footage throughout, including a look back at the late astronomer Carl Sagan of the 1980 PBS series Cosmos. It also includes an interview with Sagan’s son, Nick, who at 6 years old provided the English message: “Hello from the children of Planet Earth.”

Planetary scientist Carolyn Porco — who joined Voyager’s imaging team in 1980 — puts the mission up there with man’s first moon landing. “I consider Voyager to be the Apollo 11 of the planetary exploration program.

It has that kind of iconic stature,” Porco, a visiting scholar at the University of California, Berkeley, said on Thursday.

It was Sagan who, in large part, got a record aboard each Voyager. NASA was reluctant and did not want the records eclipsing the scientific goals. Sagan finally prevailed, but he and his fellow record promoters had less than two months to rustle everything up.

पंजाब केसरी

Sat, 19 Aug, 2017

एक सितंबर को पृथ्वी के पास से होकर गुजरेगा बड़ा क्षुद्रग्रह

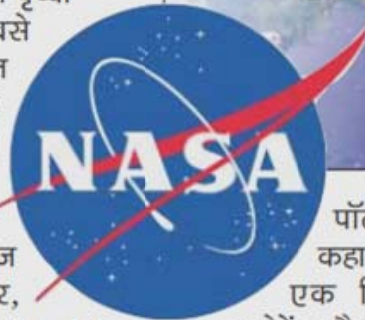
नासा ने दी जानकारी

- 70 लाख किमी होगी पृथ्वी से दूरी

वाशिंगटन, (भाषा): एक बड़ा क्षुद्रग्रह एक सितंबर को हमारे ग्रह के पास से सुरक्षित रूप से गुजरेगा। इसकी पृथ्वी से दूरी 70 लाख किलोमीटर या पृथ्वी एवं चांद के बीच की 18 गुनी दूरी के बराबर होगी। यह जानकारी नासा ने दी है।

एस्टेरॉइड फ्लोरेंस पृथ्वी के करीब के उन सबसे बड़े क्षुद्रग्रहों में शामिल है, जिनका आकार कई मील का है। नासा के स्पिटजर स्पेस टेलीस्कोप और नियोवाइज मिशन के अनुसार, इसका आकार लगभग 4.4 किलोमीटर का है।

नासा के सेंटर फॉर नियर-अर्थ ऑब्जेक्ट स्टडीज के प्रबंधक



पॉल चूडस ने कहा, कई क्षुद्रग्रह एक सितंबर को फ्लोरेंस और पृथ्वी के बीच रहने वाली दूरी से कहीं कम दूरी पर गुजर चुके हैं। उन सब क्षुद्रग्रहों का आकार कम था। उन्होंने कहा,

जब से नासा का पृथ्वी के पास के क्षुद्रग्रहों की पहचान और उनके मार्ग पर नजर रखने का कार्यक्रम शुरू हुआ है, तब से अब तक फ्लोरेंस ऐसा सबसे बड़ा क्षुद्रग्रह है, जो पृथ्वी के इतने करीब से होकर गुजरेगा।