

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 42 No. 148 30 July 2017



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय

Defence Science Library

रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केन्द्र

Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre

मैटकॉफ हाऊस, दिल्ली 110054

Metcalfe House, Delhi- 110054

Sun, 30 July, 2017

DRDO develops India's first unmanned tank

By Ayyappan V

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an unmanned, remotely operated tank which has three variants -surveillance, mine detection and reconnaissance, for areas with nuclear and bioweapons. It is called Muntra. The Combat Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (CVRDE) in Avadi, Chennai, developed and tested the tank for the Army but paramilitary forces have also expressed interest to use it in Naxal-hit areas. That will require a few modifications.

The two remotely operated vehicles designed like an armoured tank were on display at an exhibition -Science for Soldiers -organised by DRDO as a tribute to former President APJ Abdul Kalam at CVRDE in Avadi. Muntra-S is the country's first tracked unmanned ground vehicle developed for unmanned surveillance missions while Muntra-M is for detecting mines and Muntra-N is for operation in areas where there is a nuclear radiation or bio weapon risk.'

Sun, 30 July, 2017

Make In India: - Russian helicopter to get desi touch

By Swati Shinde Gole

Rostec State Corporation is set to manufacture at least 140 helicopters in co-operation with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) at the latter's facility in Bengaluru.

This is part of the joint venture production of Russian helicopters as part of the Make in India campaign. In May this year, India and Russia had entered a joint venture, at 51:49 share, to manufacture the aircraft in the country .

Rostec is a Russian corporation set up in 2007 to facilitate development, production and export of high-tech industrial products designed for civilian and military applications. Its CEO, Sergei Chemezov, said the production of the Ka-226T helicopters in India will be implemented by fully transferring manufacturing technologies.

“Russia has transferred 100% in-depth manufacturing technologies to India, allowing Indian defence enterprises to set up full-scale production of their defence products,” he told a news conference at Zhukovskiy, nearly 40km from Moscow where the six-day International Aviation and Space Salon MAKS 2017 concluded on July 23.

India is already manufacturing Su-30 MKI aircraft and T-90S tanks and is overhauling RD-33 aircraft engines with Russian licences. As part of the joint venture between the two countries, Russia will deliver Ka-226T helicopters within two years and, in all likelihood, increase the chopper production output in India, Chemezov said.

“The project for localisation of Ka-226T helicopter production in India is currently implemented with HAL. It (HAL) has significant experience in the transfer of Russian technologies to India,” he said.

(This correspondent was in Moscow on invitation from Rostec State Corporation to cover International Aviation and Space Salon MAKS 2017)

Army to open doors for women in military police

By **Ajit K Dubey** and **Manjeet Negi**
in New Delhi

SEEKING to open more avenues for women in the force, the army is now planning to induct females as jawans in the military police. Army chief General Bipin Rawat has sought the views of all army commanders on this issue.

This would be the first time that women would be inducted in the armed forces as jawans, almost 25 years after the three services starting taking in females in the officer cadre in the 1990s.

"This would be the first time that women officers would be inducted into the forces as jawans and this is planned to start with the military police," a senior army source said.

The requirement for women in military police was felt as they are required in operations where women have to be dealt with and the male jawans cannot be employed.

For this task, the army relies on either the local police or the CRPF to send in their troops from the women battalions and sometimes this causes delays in launching the operations.

In places such as Kashmir, during combat operations against terrorists, a large number of local women gather around as protesters, and in future, the women in olive green can be used to tackle them. "Even in ceremonies and events in peace stations where invitees have to be frisked, we have to rely on other forces to check the females. With women in military police, this problem can be done away with," the source said.

The seven Army commanders, who head the operational and training commands of the force,

will give their inputs to the army chief on the issue before the plans start taking shape for implementation on ground, the sources said.

Asked if the Army had any plans of taking women in infantry battalions, the sources said the stand on this issue remains the same as it was earlier when Rawat had indicated that any direct combat role for women officers in the army would meet with logistical difficulties.

Rawat had said that it was up to the women to decide if they are willing to join men in frontline combat roles without separate and additional facilities, while mentioning that when out on tanks, the men sleep under the tank during the night with no

separate facility.

"You have to see society as whole. I have said that if we induct women into combat roles, they will have to share equal responsibility like their male counterparts because equal

Women to share same responsibilities as men

opportunity must come with equal responsibility. Which means that they will have to perform exactly the same task," he had said.

Earlier also, when the issue of inducting women in combat roles came up in 2015, the view among

the top brass in the defence ministry was that women's induction on infantry would be possible only if women-only battalions are created with females only as their commanding officers.

The armed forces are also in the process of identifying the issues that could be faced in inducting women in combat roles and opening more avenues for them. The forces are also in the process of listing the issues that can be faced and the legal framework that will be required for them to serve in the forces.

A large number of women officers have been inducted in the armed forces since 1990s, but they got into combat roles with the Air Force inducting three lady officers as fighter pilots last year.



This would be the first time they would be inducted in the armed forces as jawans.

'China hand' in desi howitzer, CBI steps in

By **Chandrakant Naidu**

Indigenous efforts aimed at making an improved version of Bofors gun suffer a setback as CBI begins investigation into 'fraud' involving a Delhi firm

The second failure of Dhanush — indigenously built howitzer, an improved version of the Bofors gun — in quick succession shows what ails India's defence preparedness. Of the six howitzers handed to the Army for test-firing, three are back with Gun Carriage Factory (GCF), Jabalpur, and the rest are on their way. The gloom in the GCF is palpable.

Dhanush failed two tests in three months, forcing the CBI to delve deeper into the matter. It stumbled upon an intricately-woven fraud where a Delhi firm sourced a key component of the gun from China and passed it as a German import. Some of the field trials, which were conducted at Itarsi (MP), Chandipur (Orissa), Ladakh and Pokhran, Danush did exceedingly well in Ladakh. The failures reportedly occurred during the test at Pokhran.

The muzzle brake damage in the user exploitation phase forced the Army to reject the gun. These components are manufactured at the Kanpur ordnance unit.

“Unknown officials of Gun Carriage Factory (GCF), Jabalpur, entered into a criminal conspiracy with M/S Sidh Sales Syndicate, M-11, 1st Floor Fawri Commercial Complex, GB Road, Delhi, for the supply of duplicate spare parts (bearings) being used for (the) manufacture of 155-mm Dhanush guns by GCF,” says the FIR.

The GCF first floated a tender enquiry for procurement of four “Wire Race Roller Bearing” as per specifications for 155-mm gun. Four firms, including Sidh Sales Syndicate, made a bid and an order was placed on Sidh Sales on December 2013 for Rs 35,38,458 for the supply of four bearings. The GCF then raised the order to six bearings and the value went up to Rs 53,07,686.50.

The FIR has recorded the modus operandi that shows the Chinese need not unduly worry about the actual battle conditions on the ground as long as they can make inroads into the defence production units of India.

“It is a shame that such a thing has happened. It is obvious to me that someone in the chain is lining his pockets. This incident is worse than sleeping with the enemy. It is tantamount to feeding the enemy!” This is not a rant by an opposition politician or a media person. These are responsible words of Lt Gen PR Shankar, former Director General of Artillery, who has played a key role in the modernisation of Indian artillery through indigenisation.

The FIR exposes the ease with which ordnance employees conspired with Sidh Sales to import spurious Chinese bearings camouflaged as a German brand. The German firm CRB Antriebstechnik named by Sidh does not manufacture the component.

The GCF public relations department officer, however, says the order was placed with the German firm (not named in his statement) which had named Sidh Sales as the authorised representative. This prompted the GCF to place the order with Sidh. The component was accepted after fitment trial, says Sanjay Shrivastava, spokesperson, Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur.

The Central investigation agency revealed how Sidh Syndicate supplied two bearings each on three different dates and submitted certificates from CRB Antriebstechnik, Germany implying that they were manufactured in Germany. The name and address of CRB Antriebstechnik on all three certificates were wrong. All particulars in the three certificates are typed at same locations and the seals and signatures are also in the same position. No date has been mentioned on any certificates. Sidh sales presented a letter to the GCF suggesting that CRB Antriebsstechnik, Germany had been writing to them on the issue. It was accepted by the GCF officials without any scrutiny.

In the alleged cover-up, the suppliers embossed “CRB — Made in Germany” on them. Sidh Sales got the six bearings manufactured in China by Sino United Industries (Luyang) Ltd., Henan. Sidh Sales was in correspondence with two other Chinese firms — Xuzhou Helin Slewing Bearings Co. Ltd. Xuzhou China and RTR Engineering Co. Ltd. China — for manufacture, inspection and expediting the production.

This, says the CBI, was enough evidence of prima facie commission of offences punishable under various sections of cheating and corruption by the GCF officials whose names have not been revealed to keep the investigations on track. GCF has undergone some hierarchical changes since the deal was finalised with Sidh.

With “deviations in dimensions” the bearings failed the quality department tests even before the gun was tested. Sidh Sales wriggled out with a promise that “in case of non-performance of the bearings due to manufacturing defect, they would replace them free of cost and take corrective action for future supply.” The GCF officials “abused their position to accept the bearings as a special case,” says the investigation agency.

The breach in the supply chain and the procurement of spurious spares are not isolated incidents and point to a chronic disorder says General Shankar. Both will have a serious implication on India's deployment of quality howitzers in a required time-frame.

IAF officers misused allowance for foreign trips, alleges CAG

We examined records pertaining to the period 2010-15 and found that in 49 cases, IAF officers availed of LTC while visiting a foreign country CAG Report

Dozens of Indian Air Force (IAF) officers violated defence travel regulations by claiming allowances after visiting foreign countries, causing a loss of more than ₹82 lakh to the exchequer, the Comptroller and Auditor General has found.

Under the regulations, military officers can claim leave travel concessions (LTC) only for visits within India when they are on leave. “We examined records pertaining to the period 2010-15 and found that in 49 cases, IAF officers availed of LTC while visiting a foreign country,” read the CAG report tabled in Parliament on Friday. The national auditor said it reflected the “systemic failure of internal control” in the IAF.

The CAG report said the leave travel claims of the officers were entertained despite the journey from origin to a foreign country not even touching any Indian station.

“Admitting such LTC claims and payments amounting to Rs 82.58 lakh was not only irregular but also in gross violation of the government policy on LTC,” the report said.

Several CAG reports have highlighted the abuse of LTC provisions by government servants.

The report said IAF officers obtained permission from the competent authorities to go on leave to foreign countries with the condition that expenditure would be borne by the officers themselves.

“Subsequently, the officers were applying for all-India LTC under travel regulations for the period of sanctioned leave,” the report said.

The bills of these officers were cleared though not admissible under travel regulations, it noted. In its reply to the audit findings, the defence ministry said in January 2017 that an internal inquiry into the matter found there was ambiguity in the interpretation of the rules – the CAG did not find the reply convincing. The ministry also said full recoveries would be made from the officers concerned along with penal interest.

MAIL TODAY

India keeps watch on China's Lanka deal

After prolonged negotiations and deliberations, Sri Lanka on Saturday signed a \$1.1 billion (₹7,057 crore) deal with China to lease its Hambantota port to India's northern neighbour. The deal was signed days after Sri Lanka assured India that the Hambantota port would not be used by China for military use and the Chinese activities would be only commercial. To allay India's concerns, Sri Lanka redrafted the agreement to have more say at the Hambantota port.

The amended deal was signed in Colombo after delay of several months and protests by various groups. Hambantota port is located on the southwestern coast of Sri Lanka overlooking the Indian Ocean and falls on the route connecting Southeast Asia with Africa and West Asia. China has been keen on acquiring this port for several years. After deal was signed between the Sri Lanka Ports Authority (SLPA) and the China Merchant Port Holdings, Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wikremesinghe said, “We are giving the country a better deal without debt.” Sri Lanka built this port with an investment of \$286 million (₹1,834 crore) worsening its debt figures. But, the port did not attract much international traffic.

The money from the deal will help Sri Lanka repay foreign loans. For China, Hambantota port forms an important link in its One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative. China calls OBOR the new Silk Route linking

important ports and cities between China and Europe. China had been keen on developing Hambantota port into one of its naval bases in the Indian Ocean. Hambantota port pact with China has come as a compulsion for Sri Lanka, which is facing a serious debt crisis.

In the aftermath of the civil war that ended in 2009 after the killing of LTTE chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, Sri Lanka borrowed billions of dollars from China for reconstruction. With the borrowed money, Sri Lanka built roads, ports including Hambantota and airports in an attempt to give a fresh boost to its economy. But, the return has come at the rate, the island nation expected and now it is facing huge difficulty in repaying debts — \$8 billion (₹ 51,324 crore) despite an IMF bailout) to China.

This struggle of Sri Lanka gave China an opportunity to replicate the template it has used in Myanmar and Pakistan. In both Myanmar and Pakistan, China is developing ports for both commercial and military purposes. Hambantota port deal has come as an extension of what is being termed as China's "debt-trap diplomacy." However, unlike Myanmar and Pakistan, Sri Lankan government has categorically said that its navy will be the sole in-charge of security at the Hambantota port.

Ever since China set its eyes on Hambantota port, India has been keeping a close watch on the developments between China and Sri Lanka. Hambantota port gives China a vantage position to keep an eye on India's maritime activities — commercial as well as strategic. Any change in the status quo in the Indian Ocean is bound to alter the security concern for India. And, if the change occurs due to Chinese presence, India cannot afford to look the other way.

Business Standard

Sun, 30 July, 2017

We can target all of US, says Kim Jong Un after North Korea tests ICBM

The ICBM test, which follows the first launch on July 4, raises tensions between major powers

By Heesu Lee & Kanga Kong

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un claimed he could strike the entire continental US after test-firing the regime's second intercontinental ballistic missile within a month.

Friday's unusual late-night launch drew condemnation from the US and its allies, with the top American general calling his South Korean counterpart to discuss a potential military response. President Donald Trump said the test was reckless and dangerous, adding in a statement the US "will take all necessary steps" to protect its territory.

"We have demonstrated our ability to fire our intercontinental ballistic rocket at any time and place and that the entire US territory is within our shooting range," the state-run Korean Central News Agency said on Saturday, citing Kim. It said the test was part of the "final verification" of the Hwasong-14 missile's technical capabilities, including its maximum range.

The ICBM test, which follows the first launch on July 4, raises tensions between major powers, with the US accusing China and Russia of providing Kim cover to pursue his nuclear ambitions. Trump has previously expressed frustration at the pace of China's efforts to rein in its neighbour and ally, which it supports with food and fuel sales.

While US lawmakers have voted to send Trump legislation that would impose new sanctions on North Korea, the United Nations Security Council has struggled to reach agreement on potentially tighter penalties.

"As the principal economic enablers of North Korea's nuclear weapon and ballistic missile development program, China and Russia bear unique and special responsibility for this growing threat to regional and global stability," US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in a statement.

