

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

A Daily Current Awareness Service



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
Defence Science Library
रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केन्द्र
Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre
मेटकॉफ हाऊस, दिल्ली 110054
Metcalfe House, Delhi-110054

Wed, 15 Mar, 2017

(Online)

Anti-ballistic missile system for Indian metros soon

By Hemant Kumar Rout

Bhubaneswar: After successful trials of two homegrown interceptor missiles in a gap of 20 days at both high and low altitudes, India is now planning to deploy the anti-ballistic missile system to protect its metros from hostile aerial attacks.

A senior defence official said initially, the Government is contemplating to put the ballistic missile defence (BMD) system in place at least in New Delhi.

“The decision to implement the system will be taken likely this year after a couple of trials of the missiles in a coordinated manner,” he said.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed two-layered BMD systems to intercept targets at exo and endo-atmospheric (both outside and inside the atmosphere) regions. Both the systems have been test fired 13 times since 2006.

While Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV), capable of destroying incoming targets at high altitude, was successfully test fired for the second time on February 11, ninth test of Advanced Area Defence (AAD) interceptor missile, which can kill the enemy missile at low altitude, was a great success on March 1.

“Both the missiles have undergone a series of tests and performed as expected. Prior to PDV tests, at least two tests of Prithvi Air Defence (PAD) were conducted. These are now foolproof systems,” the official claimed.

After successful implementation in Delhi, the system will be deployed to cover all other major cities and vital installations in the country. The interceptors can destroy incoming ballistic missiles launched from more than 2,000 km away. The missiles will work in tandem to ensure a hit probability of 99.8 per cent.

The DRDO has two phases of the BMD systems. While the phase-I interceptors are now ready for deployment, the phase-II missiles, capable of thwarting threats from enemy missiles with ranges of 5,000 km, are expected to be ready in next couple of years.

Meanwhile, the DRDO is developing a laser-based BMD system. The new interceptor can travel at the speed of sound and kill incoming missiles in less than one minute. It will have the flexibility to be fired from both airborne and seaborne platforms.

“We have already test-fired exo and endo interceptors separately. Preparation is on to test the two simultaneously at different targets before their deployment. Thereafter, we will go for the test of laser-based BMD system,” the officer added.



Thu, 16 Mar, 2017

Indo-Russian Naval chiefs discuss bilateral ties

Aimed at boosting cooperation between the two navies, Admiral Vladimir Korolev, Commander-in-Chief, Russian Federation Navy, along with a four-member Russian Navy delegation today held talks with his Indian counterpart, Admiral Sunil Lanba.

Admiral Korolev's four-day visit today at the head of Russian delegation is aimed at consolidating bilateral naval relations between the two countries and to explore new avenues for naval cooperation. The Admiral is also scheduled to meet Defence Minister Arun Jaitley as also the Chief of the Air Staff, the Chief of the Army Staff and the Defence Secretary. India is the largest importer of defence equipment from Russia and majority of the armament inventory in Indian Armed Forces is of Soviet or Russian origin.

The Indian Navy cooperates with the Russian Federation Navy on many fronts, which include operational interactions, training, hydrographic cooperation, information technology and exchange of Subject Matter Experts. Besides, the two Navies have been conducting bilateral Maritime Exercise 'Indra Navy', since 2003. Eight editions have been held so far, with the last being held off Visakhapatnam in December last year.

Admiral Kolorev is also scheduled to visit Mumbai where he will hold discussions with the Commander-in-Chief, Western Naval Command as well as visit an indigenously built destroyer INS Mysore, Naval Dockyard and Mazagon Dock and Shipbuilders Limited.



Thu, 16 Mar, 2017

3 injured in Sukhoi crash at Barmer; both pilots safe

Chetak crashes in UP; no one hurt

- *Allahabad: An IAF Chetak helicopter on a routine training sortie crashed near here on Wednesday. The helicopter had taken off from the Bamrauli airbase when it developed a snag and toppled as the pilots tried to land it in a field. The pilots are safe. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered. PTI*

Three persons were injured when an Indian Air Force Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jet on a routine sortie crashed into a field at Devaniyon ki Dhani, 10 km from Barmer's Sadar police station, around 2 pm today. Two pilots on board the aircraft escaped unhurt.

The three injured villagers — Naranaram, 60, his wife Dallu, 58, and son Hanuman, 40 — were taken to the Barmer District Hospital where their condition was stated to be serious, a police officer said.

Both pilots ejected safely after the Sukhoi developed a technical snag, Defence Public Relations Officer Lt Col Manish Ojha said. The IAF has ordered a Court of Inquiry into the incident.

The aircraft had taken off from the Uttarlai airbase in Barmer. As the aircraft hit the ground, some of its flying parts hit the three villagers. The crashing jet created a crater in the sand and also damaged some thatched houses. The seventh crash of the frontline fighter jet since April 2009 has rekindled the debate of upgrading the aircraft originally purchased from Russia and subsequently licence-produced at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) facility in India.

On Russia's recommendation, 400 engines of the twin-engine aircraft have undergone modification at HAL's Sukhoi engine plant in Orissa. The Su-30 MKI is a twin-engine aircraft and can land even if one of its engines fails mid-air. But this limits the pilot's ability to attack or withdraw during conflict.



Thu, 16 Mar, 2017

'China's defence restructuring threat to India'

Rapid changes in China's war fighting doctrines and restructuring with focus on multi-dimensional offence and defence besides enhancing nuclear and conventional missile capabilities has emerged a major threat to India's strategic interest. Moreover, the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passing through Pakistan

Occupied Kashmir (POK) challenges Indian sovereignty. Flagging these concerns in its annual report for 2016-17 released on Wednesday, the Defence Ministry also noted that Pakistan continued to support terrorist and ‘jihadi’ outfits targeting its neighbours including India.

“Such outfits continued to be encouraged to infiltrate into India under the cover of massive cross-Line of Control (LOC) and cross-border firing in Jammu and Kashmir and other areas throughout the year,” the report said.

Without directly mentioning about the surgical strikes on September 29 last year in POK, 217-page document said Pakistan based terrorists attacked military bases in India “triggering an appropriate response by the Indian armed forces.”

On China’s modernisation drive, the report said the eastern neighbor initiated significant restructuring of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA), aimed at stronger control by the Party and to usher in jointness to enable mobile operations, multidimensional offence and defence, offshore waters defence and open seas protection.

Observing China’s growing maritime prowess especially in the Indian Ocean and South China Sea, the report said South China Sea is a major waterway and over dollar five trillion trade passes through the sea lanes in this region. Over 55 per cent of India’s trade passes through South China Sea and Malacca Straits and the document said India supports freedom of navigation and over flight based on the principles of international law. As regards Pakistan, the report said the western neighbor continues to “relentlessly” expand its military forces especially nuclear and missile capabilities. The country is torn by ethno-regional conflicts, with the zone of conflict expanding from the tribal areas on Pakistan-Afghan border to the hinterland.

Although the military has made efforts to improve the security situation in the country, it has avoided taking action against ‘jihadi’ and terror outfits that target Pakistan’s neighbours. Support to such groups persists despite ongoing efforts by the international community including India to list

the head of the terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad(JeM) Masood Azhar as an international terrorist, the document said.

About the internal security scenario especially in Jammu and Kashmir, the report said situation in the state was “tense but under control.” Without naming Hizbul Mujahideen militant Burhan Wani, it said after the killing of a hardcore terrorist in July last year, the separatists and terrorist ‘tanzeems (organisations)’ focused their efforts to mobilise protests and disturb public peace.



Wed, 15 Mar, 2017

(Online)

Pakistan set to declare Gilgit-Baltistan as fifth province

The move may raise concerns in India as it borders the disputed Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Islamabad: Pakistan is planning to declare the strategic Gilgit-Baltistan region as the fifth province, a move that may raise concerns in India as it borders the disputed Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan's minister for inter-provincial coordination Riaz Hussain Pirzada told Geo TV that a committee headed by Advisor of Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz had proposed giving the status of a province to Gilgit-Baltistan. "The committee recommended that Gilgit-Baltistan should be made a province of Pakistan," Pirzada said yesterday. He also said that a constitutional amendment would be made to change the status of the region, through which the USD 46 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) passes.

Gilgit-Baltistan is treated as a separate geographical entity by Pakistan. It has a regional assembly and an elected Chief Minister. Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab and Sindh are four provinces of Pakistan.

The move may raise concerns in India as the disputed region borders Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

It is believed that China's concerns about the unsettled status of Gilgit-Baltistan prompted Pakistan to change its status. According to an earlier report in Dawn newspaper, Pakistan was mulling to elevate the constitutional status of the region in a bid to provide legal cover to the CPEC.

The move could signal a historic shift in the country's position on the future of the wider Kashmir region, the paper had quoted experts as saying.



Wed, 15 Mar, 2017

(Online)

China begins new work on disputed South China Sea Island

By Greg Torode

China has started fresh construction work in the disputed South China Sea, new satellite images show, a sign that Beijing is continuing to strengthen its military reach across the vital trade waterway.

Regional military attaches and experts believe the work shows China's determination to build up its network of reefs and islets, even if it is seeking to avoid a fresh confrontation with the new administration of U.S. President Donald Trump. An image of North Island in the Paracels group taken on March 6 shows recent work including land clearing and possible preparation for a harbor to support what experts believe may be eventual military installations. Initial work was damaged in a typhoon last year.

The pictures, provided by private satellite firm Planet Labs, follow reports in January showing work undertaken on nearby Tree Island and other features in the Paracels, which are also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan. Diplomats briefed on latest Western intelligence assessments say Beijing is pursuing efforts to dominate its maritime 'backyard', even if it tweaks the timing of moves to avoid being overtly provocative.

"The Paracels are going to be vital to any future Chinese attempt to dominate the South China Sea," said Carl Thayer, a South China Sea expert at Australia's Defence Force Academy.

"We can see they are committed to militarization, whatever the official rhetoric tells us, even if they are going to do it bit by bit." The more widely disputed Spratlys archipelago to the south are higher profile but the Paracels are key to China's presence in the South China Sea,

China has in recent years temporarily based surface-to-air missile launchers and crack jet fighters at long established bases on Woody Island on the Paracels, helping protect its nuclear submarine facilities on Hainan Island. North Island is part of an arc of reefs that are expected to form a protective screen for Woody, which includes civilian facilities and a listening post.

Zhang Baohui, a mainland security expert at Hong Kong's Lingnan University, said he believed China was pursuing long-held goals of strengthening its facilities in the Paracels, and had calculated the Trump administration would not over-react given other pressing priorities. "There's also uncertainty with this young Trump administration, but this is very important work to the Chinese...the Paracels are vital to defending Hainan, which is in turn important to China's nuclear deterrent," he said.

"The calculation here is that it is really only Vietnam that will be rattled by this." The Vietnamese Foreign Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. China's Defence Ministry said it was "not familiar" with any work at North Island. "What needs to be stressed is that the Xisha Islands are China's inherent territory," it said, using the Chinese name for the Paracels. China fully occupied the Paracels in 1974 after forcing the navy of the-then South Vietnam off its holdings.

News of fresh Chinese activity comes as Rex Tillerson prepares for his first visit to the region as U.S. Secretary of State later this week. Tillerson sparked alarm in Beijing when he said in January China should not be allowed access to islands it has built in the South China Sea.

A U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, was unable to confirm new construction work on North Island but said it would not be surprising.

"It would be in line with what they have been doing, why else would they clearing land on the islands but for militarization," the official said. "There is no other reason to have a presence there."

Diplomatic sources in Beijing say China is not looking for confrontation with the United States over the South China Sea, pointing to China's low-key reaction to last month's patrol of a U.S. aircraft carrier strike group in the waters there.

China has recently sought to portray itself as being conciliatory over the disputed waterway, saying it and Southeast Asian nations are committed to a peaceful resolution.

Last week, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said a draft code of conduct for behavior in the South China Sea had now been completed and that tensions had "distinctly dropped".



Thu, 16 Mar, 2017

India hosts world's oldest algae fossil

New find in the Chitrakoot region of U.P. and M.P. may rewrite evolution timeline

Scientists in India have uncovered a pair of 1.6 billion-year-old fossils that appear to contain red algae, which may be the oldest plant-like life discovered on Earth.

Until now, the oldest known red algae was 1.2 billion years old, said the paper in the journal *PLOS Biology*.

Scientists often debate the question of when complex life began on Earth, but they generally agree that large multicellular organisms became common about 600 million years ago. This discovery could lead experts to rewrite the tree of life, said lead author Stefan Bengtson, Professor Emeritus of palaeo-zoology at the Swedish Museum of Natural History.

"The 'time of visible life' seems to have begun much earlier than we thought," he said. The material structurally resembles red algae, embedded in fossil mats of cyanobacteria inside a 1.6 billion-year-old phosphorite, a kind of rock, found in Chitrakoot region in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. "You cannot be a 100% sure about material this ancient, as there is no DNA remaining, but the characters agree quite well with the morphology and structure of red algae," said Professor Bengtson. Scientists used x-rays to observe regularly recurring platelets in each cell, which they believe are parts of chloroplasts, the organelles within plant cells where photosynthesis takes place.



Thu, 16 Mar, 2017

Centre Hikes DA from 2 To 4% from January 1

The Centre on Wednesday increased dearness allowance and dearness relief to 4 per cent from 2 per cent from January 1, 2017, benefiting 48.85 employees and 55.51 lakh pensioners.

"The Union cabinet approved release of additional instalment of DA to central govt employees and DR to pensioners from January 1, 2017," a statement said.

"The DA/DR has been increased by 2 per cent over the existing 2 per cent of the basic pay/pension to compensate for price rise and is in accordance with the accepted formula based on the recommendation of 7th pay commission," it added.