

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 42 No. 185 06 September 2017



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
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Indian Navy receives LRSAM

India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) have delivered the first Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) manufactured in India to the Indian Ministry of Defence, IAI announced on 31 August.

The missiles are to be installed on the Indian Navy's operational missile ships.

LRSAM is an advanced air and missile defence system designed to protect against a variety of aerial, naval and airborne threats. The system includes a multifunction surveillance, track and guidance radar, command and control system, launchers and missiles with advanced RF seekers.

LRSAM has been jointly developed by IAI and DRDO in collaboration with IAI subsidiary ELTA, RAFAEL and Indian industry. It is currently operational with the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy and Israel Defense Forces and is expected to enter operation with the Indian Army shortly.



Wed, 06 Sep, 2017

India closer to getting game-changer missile

By Ajit K Dubey



ENHANCED FIRING RANGE

- The S-400 Triumph long-range air defence missile system has the capability to destroy incoming hostile aircraft, cruise missiles and even drones at ranges of up to 400 km.
- The S-400 can also be used to destroy enemy AWACS and reconnaissance aircraft at 400 kms
- It is capable of firing three types of missiles, creating a layered defence, and simultaneously engaging 36 targets.
- The S-400 is Russia's latest and one of the most advanced missile defence systems in the world at present.
- China also has S-400 systems but Pakistan has no such missile defence system to match the firepower of the Russian systems .

600km
the tracking range of S-400 that is enough to cover Pak airbases

36
number of targets that the missile system can mark simultaneously

Moving a step closer towards acquiring the formidable Russian S- 400 Triumph air defence system, the Indian Air Force has completed the trials of the missiles which can shoot down fighter and surveillance aircraft, cruise missiles and drones at the range of 400 kms over enemy airspace itself. “The field evaluation trials of the Russian air defence system have been completed by the Indian Air Force in Russia and they have been quite successful. The trials were conducted on two separate occasions and it performed to the satisfaction of the users,” government sources told Mail Today.

After the completion of trials, the defence ministry will now start the process of initiating the contractual negotiations with Rosoboronexport, the Russian agency which handles defence deals with foreign countries, including the fixation of price, the sources said. Despite the high price tag attached with the five S-400 systems India is planning to acquire, the Indian Air Force is extremely happy to get the weapon system as it will give them an edge over Pakistan and bring them on par with the Chinese who have already installed this system, the sources said. The missiles system manufactured by Russia's Almaz Antey consists of a set of radars, missile launchers and command posts and the radar of each system can track between 100 and 300 targets simultaneously. With a tracking range of 600 km, the missile system can engage up to 36 targets simultaneously within a range of 400 km. The missile system gives India the capability to track all Pakistani air bases while bring the Chinese assets in Tibet in its striking range.

An intergovernmental agreement on the sale of S-400 was signed in October 2016 at the 17th India-Russia summit between President Vladimir Putin and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which was earlier speculated to be pegged at Rs 54,000 crore.

After the top level negotiations, the deal is likely to cost less than `40,000 crore and may go down even further in the Russian Triumph to give India edge over China tough negotiations on price with the Russians. The Russian missile system would be used by the IAF, along with the other new air defence systems coming up in the country including the India-Israel joint venture Medium range-Surface to Air Missile system and the SPYDER systems that India recently acquired from Israel.

India has also developed its own air short range air defence systems including the Akash air defence missiles while the Missile complex of DRDO has also successfully tested the new Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile system. Air defence missile systems which can strike incoming targets at different ranges are deployed in tandem all over the world so that if one misses, there is a backup system to take down the enemy at the other level.



Wed, 06 Sep, 2017

Army to brief its former chiefs on surgical strikes, Doklam row

The restructuring of the army and its modernisation would be another topic of discussion

New Delhi: The army will brief its former chiefs on significant developments during the last two years — including the border standoff with China, the 2016 surgical strikes and ongoing military reforms — at an upcoming conclave, sources said on Tuesday.

Army chief General Bipin Rawat will host the three-day brainstorming session beginning September 7 in Delhi, with around 10 of his predecessors expected at the biennial event.

“We will be given detailed briefings by important appointment holders, including the heads of military operations and military intelligence wings,” former army chief General JJ Singh told Hindustan Times.

Known as the Army Chiefs’ Conclave, the platform provides an opportunity to the force to draw on the collective experience of its former leaders and seek their inputs on key issues.

The meeting comes a week after India and China ended a 73-day border face-off in Doklam plateau near Sikkim and almost a year after the army carried out surgical strikes against militant launch pads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in response to a strike on its camp in Jammu and Kashmir’s Uri that left 19 soldiers dead in September 2016.

From border standoffs, surgical strikes to modernisation, all national security aspects would be discussed, Gen Singh said.

If the army had not confronted the Chinese troops in Doklam, the neighbour would have built the road and “presented it to India as a fait accompli”, he said.

China had accused India of trespass and preventing its troops from building a road in the Himalayan plateau, claimed by both Beijing and Bhutan. The standoff ended with withdrawal of troops and China removing construction equipment.

Army’s restructuring and modernisation will be another point of discussion, officers said. On August 30, India announced an extensive restructuring exercise that will see 57,000 soldiers being redeployed in combat roles.

The revamp is aimed at improving the army’s tooth-to-tail ratio — the number of personnel (tail) required to support a combat soldier (tooth).

The changes align with the recommendations of an 11-member expert panel, headed by lieutenant general DB Shekatkar (retired), on enhancing the military’s combat capability and endurance.



Wed, 06 Sep, 2017

Dhruv crashes in Ladakh, close shave for two Generals

Two Army generals and two other officers had a narrow escape when their Dhruv advanced light helicopter crashed almost immediately after take-off in eastern Ladakh on Tuesday around 2pm.

Lt General SK Upadhya, general officer commanding of Leh-based 14 Corps, and Major General Savneet Singh, GoC of the 3 Infantry Division at Karu, and the others sustained minor injuries when the helicopter crashed at the high-altitude Tsogstalu helipad. “The chopper crashed barely two minutes after it took off from the helipad located at around 16,000-feet,” said an officer.

A court of inquiry will probe the crash. Sources said pilots reported “loss of the right rudder (controlling the tail rotor)”. Since 2011, the Services have lost over 50 aircraft and 22 copters in crashes, killing at least 85 people. On Monday, HAL inked another contract for 40 Dhruvs for the Army and one for the Navy for Rs 6,100 crore.



Wed, 06 Sep, 2017

China shoots down missiles in military drill

CHINESE MEDIA on Tuesday reported that the People’s Liberation Army Tuesday shot down “incoming missiles” in the early hours of Tuesday morning during a military exercise held over the wa-

ters that separate it from the Korean peninsula.

Tuesday’s drill, according to a report in the *South China Morning Post*, came just two days after North Korea conducted its latest nuclear test.

Under the test, according to the report, a ground unit under China’s air force was tasked to shoot down “simulated low flying missiles” in the gulf of the Yellow Sea between China and North Korea.

Japan wants to develop missiles

By Kallol Bhattacharjee

Threat from N. Korea, China: Abes adviser

Japan faces an unprecedented threat to its existence after North Korea tested a hydrogen bomb three days ago, said an advisor of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Speaking at an event organised by a think tank, Katsuyuki Kawai sent out a strong message indicating that Japan is considering acquiring long-range missiles, revising its post-war pacific stance.

"Our national security environment has been drastically changed since the crisis in the Korean peninsula escalated. Under the present conditions, Japan may consider acquiring Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles [ICBM] and cruise missiles to deal with the threat that we are facing," said Mr. Kawai.

Call from rollback

Mr. Kawai indicated that North Korean actions have shaken the security arrangement in East Asia which came up following World War II, and emphasised that Tokyo is considering all options to deter North Korea's missile and thermo-nuclear capabilities.

"I am sure Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is also thinking daily about how to ensure security of Japanese lives and property," he said. "The situation is so serious that we will not be secure if North Korea gives up its ICBM programme. We can become secure only if the nuclear facilities of North Korea are shut down."

The upcoming visit of Mr. Abe to India is significant in view of the tension in the India-China border. Mr. Kawai welcomed the end of the stand-off at Doklam and said, "Military disengagement at Doklam is a positive move and China has indicated its willingness to be engaged in peaceful negotiation of issues."

Japanese media reports have indicated that Mr. Abe will visit India between September 12-14 where he will hold bilateral discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attend a ceremony to start a high-speed railway project. A Japanese advance team had already visited India last week laying the ground for Abe-Modi talks on railways and infrastructure.

Talks with Modi

The Abe-Modi talks will provide the first major opportunity for Japan to share its concerns on the North Korean developments with India which has deplored the recent hydrogen-bomb test by North Korea. "We hope our national security environment, which began after the World War II, will continue but we are also thinking what we can do ourselves to counter the security threats," he said.

Seoul seeks bigger warheads, conducts Navy drills

"Unlimited warhead payload will be useful in responding to North Korea's threats".

South Korean warships conducted live-fire exercises at sea on Tuesday as Seoul continued its displays of military capability following U.S. warnings of a "massive military response" after North Korea detonated its largest-ever nuclear test explosion.

South Korea's presidential office also said Washington and Seoul have agreed to remove bilaterally agreed warhead restrictions on South Korean missiles, which would allow the South to develop more powerful weapons that would boost its pre-emptive strike capabilities against the North.

The South's military exercises on Monday involved F-15 fighter jets and land-based ballistic missiles simulating an attack on North Korea's nuclear test site to "strongly warn" Pyongyang over the recent detonation.

The heated words from the United States and the military manoeuvres in South Korea are becoming familiar responses to North Korea's rapid, as-yet unchecked pursuit of a viable arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles that can strike the United States. The most recent, and perhaps most dramatic, advance came on Sunday in an underground test of what leader Kim Jong Un's government claimed was a hydrogen bomb, the North's sixth nuclear test since 2006.

The U.N. Security Council held its second emergency meeting about North Korea in a week on Monday, with U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley saying the North's actions show that Mr. Kim is "begging for war," and the time has come for the Security Council to adopt the strongest diplomatic measures.

"Enough is enough. War is never something the United States wants. We don't want it now. But our country's patience is not unlimited," Ms. Haley said.

South Korea has been seeking to obtain more powerful missiles while it pursues a so-called "kill chain" pre-emptive strike capability to cope with North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threat.

Since the late 1970s, South Korean missile developments have been limited by a bilateral "guideline" between the U.S. and South, and it was updated in 2012 to allow the South to increase the range of its weapons from 500 km (310 miles) to 800 km (497 miles).

The agreement revealed on Tuesday removes the 500-kg (1,100 pound) warhead limit on South Korea's maximum-range missiles, which would free the South to develop more powerful weapons potentially targeting the North's underground facilities and shelters.

In addition to expanding its missile arsenal, South Korea is also strengthening its missile defense, which includes the high-tech Terminal High Altitude Area Defense battery currently deployed in the southeastern county of Seongju.

On Tuesday, a 2,500-ton frigate, a 1000-ton patrol ship and 400-ton guided-missile vessels participated in drills off the eastern coast aimed at retaliating against potential North Korean provocations, the Defense Ministry said. The Ministry said more naval drills are planned from Wednesday to Saturday in the country's southern seas.

The Ministry said on Monday that North Korea appeared to be planning a future missile launch, possibly of an ICBM, to show off its claimed ability to target the United States with nuclear weapons, though it was unclear when such a launch might happen. Ministry official Chang Kyung-soo told lawmakers that it was seeing preparations in the North for an ICBM test but didn't provide details about how officials had reached that assessment. Mr. Chang also said the yield from the latest nuclear detonation appeared to be about 50 kilotons, which would mark a "significant increase" from North Korea's past nuclear tests.

Each new North Korean missile and nuclear test gives the country's scientists invaluable information that allows big jumps in capability. North Korea is thought to have a growing arsenal of nuclear bombs and has spent decades trying to perfect a multistage, long-range missile to eventually carry smaller versions of those bombs.

Both diplomacy and severe sanctions have failed to check the North's decades-long march to nuclear mastery.

President Donald Trump, asked in Washington if he would attack North Korea, said, "We'll see." No U.S. military action appeared imminent, and the immediate focus appeared to be on ratcheting up economic penalties, which have had little effect thus far.

Mr. Trump in tweets earlier had threatened to halt all trade with countries doing business with North Korea, a clear warning to its patron and closest ally, China. Such a move would be radical since the U.S. imports about \$40 billion in goods a month from China. Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said China regarded as “unacceptable a situation in which on the one hand we work to resolve this issue peacefully but on the other hand our own interests are subject to sanctions and jeopardized. This is neither objective nor fair.”

In brief remarks after a White House meeting with Mr. Trump and other national security officials, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told reporters that America does not seek the “total annihilation” of North Korea, but then added somberly, “We have many options to do so.”

Mattis also said the international community is unified in demanding the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and that Kim should know Washington’s commitment to Japan and South Korea is unshakeable.

Sunday’s detonation builds on recent North Korean advances that include test launches in July of two ICBMs. The North says its missile development is part of a defensive effort to build a viable nuclear deterrent that can target U.S. cities.

North Korea has made a stunning jump in progress in its nuclear and missile programs since Mr. Kim rose to power following his father’s death in late 2011. The North followed its two tests of Hwasong-14 ICBMs, which, when perfected, could target large parts of the United States, by threatening to launch a salvo of Hwasong-12 intermediate range missiles toward the U.S. Pacific island territory of Guam in August.

It flew a Hwasong-12 over northern Japan last week, the first such overflight by a missile potentially capable of carrying nuclear weapons, in a launch Mr. Kim described as a “meaningful prelude” to containing Guam, the home of major U.S. military facilities, and vowed to launch more ballistic missile tests targeting the Pacific.

Beyond the science of the blast, North Korea’s accelerating push to field a nuclear weapon that can target all of the United States is creating political complications for the U.S. as it seeks to balance resolve with reassurance to allies that Washington will uphold its decades-long commitment to deter nuclear attack on South Korea and Japan.

That is why some questioned Mr. Trump’s jab at South Korea when he tweeted that Seoul is finding that its “talk of appeasement” will not work. The North Koreans, he added, “only understand one thing,” implying military force might be required. The U.S. has about 28,000 troops stationed in South Korea and is obliged by treaty to defend it in the event of war.

Business Standard

Wed, 06 Sep, 2017

North Korea warns of 'more gift packages' for US

By Stephanie Nebhay

Nikki Haley accused North Korean leader Kim Jong Un of 'begging for war'

A top North Korean diplomat warned on Tuesday that his country is ready to send "more gift packages" to the United States as world powers struggled for a response to Pyongyang's latest nuclear weapons test.

Han Tae Song, ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva, confirmed that North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), had successfully conducted its sixth and largest nuclear bomb test on Sunday.

"The recent self-defence measures by my country, DPRK, are a gift package addressed to none other than the US," Han told a disarmament conference.

"The US will receive more 'gift packages' from my country as long as it relies on reckless provocations and futile attempts to put pressure on the DPRK," he added without elaborating. US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki

Haley on Monday accused North Korean leader Kim Jong Un of "begging for war" with a series of nuclear bomb and missile tests. She urged the 15-member Security Council to impose the "strongest possible" sanctions to deter him and shut down his trading partners. But Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said on Tuesday that a US bid for the Security Council to vote on September 11 on new sanctions is "a little premature. Russia is a permanent member of the Security Council and has veto power."

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier on Tuesday described more sanctions as a "road to nowhere." Wall Street stocks fell on Tuesday as US trading reopened for the first time since the North Korean nuclear bomb test, and the US dollar and Treasury yields fell. "It's a more risk-averse picture," said Vassili Serebriakov, FX strategist at Credit Agricole in New York. "North Korea accounts for most of it."



Wed, 06 Sep, 2017

Threats will lead to catastrophe: Putin

Xiamen: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that imposing tougher sanctions on North Korea over its nuclear missile programme would be counter-productive and said threats of military action could trigger "a global catastrophe".

Putin, speaking after a BRICs summit in China, criticised US diplomacy in the crisis and renewed his call for talks, saying Pyongyang would not halt its missile testing programme until it felt secure.

"Russia condemns North Korea's exercises, we consider that they are a provocation ... (But) ramping up military hysteria will lead to nothing good. It could lead to a global catastrophe," he told reporters.

"There's no other path apart from a peaceful one."

Russia, which shares a border with North Korea, has repeatedly joined China in calling for negotiations with Pyongyang, suggesting that the US and South Korea halt all major war games in exchange for North Korea halting its testing programme.

While describing additional sanctions as "the road to nowhere", Putin said Russia was prepared to discuss "some details" around the issue, without elaborating.

The Russian leader also lashed out at the United States, saying it was preposterous for Washington to ask for Moscow's help with North Korea after sanctioning Russian companies whom U.S officials accused of violating North Korea sanctions. "It's ridiculous to put us on the same (sanctions) list as North Korea and then ask for our help in imposing sanctions".



Wed, 06 Sep, 2017

Failed satellite may re-enter Earth

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which is tracking the IRNSS-1H navigation satellite floating in space, is anticipating it to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere, but fall safely into the sea.

Sources said the satellite, trapped inside the heat shield, is 'space debris' currently in the outer space losing its altitude slowly. "It is expected to tumble further and be sucked by the Earth's gravity. But most of it is likely to be burnt by the time it enters our atmosphere and no impact is anticipated," a source said.

The IRNSS-1H mission was declared unsuccessful after the heat shield in PSLV failed to separate despite having received a command to do the same. An expert committee is probing into the failure.

The heat shield failure added additional mass to the rocket preventing it from reaching the desired height. ISRO said the extra weight did not cause the failure per se. The satellite (still wrapped in the heat shield), however, would not have re-entered the earth had it reached the desired altitude.