

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## DRDO invites applications from military officer

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has invited applications from serving officers of the three services already working with it for permanent absorption as civilian officials into its Defence Research and Development Cadre (DRDS).

In a letter dated November 28, the DRDO said, "...service officers in DRDO as well as Permanently Seconded (PS) service officers are eligible for consideration for permanent absorption in civilian capacity in DRDS cadre of DRDO. The officers after absorption in DRDS, will be governed by the DRDS rules as amended from time to time and other rules as applicable to defence civilian employees of the government." The deadline for submitting applications is December 20, after which a committee would shortlist eligible officers based on their research experience to the equivalent ranks and research aptitude, among other criteria. There are two ways serving officers are sent to the DRDO — on a fixed tenure, after which they go back to their service, or as PS officers where officers are permanently deputed to DRDO.

The broad eligibility criteria are: service officers on tenure should not be above the age of 50 years as on December 20, 2018, while there is no such stipulation for PS officers.

Another important criteria is that "officers should not have been fully superseded in their parent organisations."

"There is a small percentage of vacancies among DRDS cadre designated, in which PS officers can be directly absorbed into the DRDO. This absorption is not done regularly and only from time to time, as vacancies arise," a defence official said.

Once absorbed, the officers will be treated as civilian Scientists for pay and promotion, the official added.

For officers found suitable for absorption, the Scientist grades in which they would be absorbed are: Major and equivalent below 12 years of experience as Scientist C; Major and equivalent with 12 or more years of experience as Scientist D; Lieutenant Colonel and equivalent as Scientist D; Colonel and equivalent as Scientist E; and Brigadiers and equivalent as Scientist F.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/drdo-invites-applications-from-military-officers/article25649131.ece>

## Made in India Armoured Recovery Vehicles to be procured for 'Arjun' tanks

*The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given approval for the procurement of Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs) for the Indian Army's Main Battle Tank (MBT) 'Arjun'*

*By Huma Siddiqui*

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given approval for the procurement of Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs) for the Indian Army's Main Battle Tank (MBT) 'Arjun'.

These recovery vehicles are designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and would be manufactured by state-owned Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) for the Indian Army. These ARVs ensure efficient and speedy repair and recovery operations during combat.

According to the information available on the DRDO website Armoured Recovery Vehicle (ARV) was designed adapting the basic Vijayanta chassis to replace Sherman and Centurion ARVs. It has the Lifting capacity is of more than 8 ton and pulling capacity is more than 20 ton.

The Army uses ARVs for recovery and repair of broken-down T-72 tanks and BMP-1 and -2 infantry combat vehicles.

Currently, BEML-built ARVs which are being used by the Indian Army are based on Russian-made T-72 tank hulls, armed with a 12.7mm machine gun and equipped with a crane able to lift up to 15 tons.

The WZT-3M an ARV has been produced by Polish company Bumar and BEML and is actually an upgraded variant of the WZT-3 ARV. These are operated by both the Indian and Polish armies. The WZT-3M of the Indian Army is also referred to as ARV-3.

These vehicles are expected to recover the damaged main battle tanks (MBTs), tracked armoured vehicles and heavy vehicles from the battlefield. And reportedly are fitted with equipment which can help in carrying out minor repairs in the field or can be used in earth moving projects.

After a \$ 32 m agreement was inked between Bumar of Poland and BEML in 1999 for the production of these vehicles, 44 WZT-3M were delivered by Bumar in knocked down condition and were assembled at the state owned BEML facility in 2001 before being handed over to the Indian Army.

This was followed by two follow on contracts in 2002 for \$ 80 m for 80 WZT-3 M vehicles, in 2004 for 228. Indian Army had purchased 352 WZT-3 in three previous contracts from 1999 to 2005.

However, according to media reports, an order of \$ 275 m for 204 ARV-3/WZT-3M vehicles was scrapped in 2012 between Bumar and BEML.

And now Indian Army, pushing for indigenisation, will buy the DRDO developed ARV and built by BEML.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/made-in-india-armoured-recovery-vehicles-to-be-procured-for-arjun-tanks/1400442/>



Mon, 03 Dec 2018

## Defence ministry nod to ₹3,000-cr weapon purchase

New Delhi: The Defence Acquisition Council on Saturday approved military procurement worth Rs 3,000 crore, including Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles for Navy's two stealth frigates and armoured recovery vehicles for the Army's Arjun main battle tanks, a senior official said.

India is procuring two stealth frigates at a cost of \$1 billion and both the ships will be equipped with indigenously developed BrahMos missiles.

The DAC also approved the procurement of Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs) for the Indian Army's main battle tank, Arjun. The ARVs are designed and developed by the DRDO and would be manufactured by defence public sector undertaking BEML, the official said.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is the ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement.

Recently, India and Russia inked a \$500 million contract to build two stealth frigates in Goa. The ships are expected to be delivered by 2027.

Russia's state-run arms exporter Rosoboronexport and India's Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) signed the contract in New Delhi to build the Grigorovich-class 'Project 1135.6' frigates with technology transfer from Russia, which is India's top arms supplier.

"The indigenously designed BrahMos missile is a tested and proven supersonic cruise missile and will form the primary weapon on-board these ships," said an official.

The frigate deal comes close on the heels of a Rs 39,000 crore deal with Russia for the supply of Russian S400 Triumf air defence missile systems to India. The deal was signed despite appeals from the US that the air defence systems are a "focus area" of secondary sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA), which is aimed at punishing Russia for annexing Crimea and interfering in the 2016 US elections.

The agreement was inked during Russian President Vladimir Putin's one-day visit to India early in October.

"Our relations go beyond military hardware and military exchanges. We paid attention to humanitarian response mechanisms," Putin had said, while addressing a press conference.

Both the S-400 and the frigate deal are likely to be affected by the US sanctions legislation if India is unable to secure a waiver.



Sat, 01 Dec 2018

## **BSF develops special bunker with periscope to look out for snipers**

*A senior BSF officer added that the bunker is made of thick armour and bullet-proof glass, and can be practically lifted and placed anywhere. The portability will come in handy for the force when shifting vigil posts*

Having lost several personnel to sniper attacks from Pakistan along the western border, the Border Security Force (BSF) has now developed a special bulletproof bunker that allows vigilance of the border area through a periscope.

Sources said that Pakistani snipers would earlier target BSF personnel through a small hole kept open in the wall of sandbags, which would allow personnel keeping vigil to fire his gun and to look out. However, with a periscope in place of a hole, the bunker would be packed from all sides, barring a small hole to fire the gun, thereby reducing the chances of casualties in sniper attacks.

“We are very concerned about sniper attacks. To deal with it, we have developed a bullet-proof bunker from where personnel can keep watch and retaliate to attacks without the threat of being hit by a sniper. It is at the moment being used as a pilot. We are soon going to replicate it on all borders,” BSF Director General R K Mishra said.

The bunker will also be fitted with normal and thermal imaging cameras to ensure an uninterrupted surveillance of the border, even when one is not looking through the periscope.

A senior BSF officer added that the bunker is made of thick armour and bullet-proof glass, and can be practically lifted and placed anywhere. The portability will come in handy for the force when shifting vigil posts.

Apart from this, the BSF has also made tactical changes and launched several operations in the past few months against Pakistani forces to avenge the killing of its soldiers. In January and June, the BSF launched operations Bhim I and Bhim II to specifically target Pakistan forces.

Tactical headquarters of all battalions were established at the International Border (IB) and a comprehensive retaliation plan was worked out. BSF responded in a targeted and deliberate manner so that the (Pakistan) Rangers were pinned down and confined to their posts. BSF surgically targeted Pakistan posts in retaliatory firing which resulted in heavy losses to the Pakistan Rangers,” Mishra said.

The BSF DG also expressed concern over the killing of a BSF personnel and the subsequent mutilation of his body by Pakistan’s Border Action Team (BAT) in September. Mishra said, “We have given a befitting reply to the adversary. It is, however, difficult to quantify the damage across the border,” echoing a statement by Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who recently said at a public meeting that some action had been taken against Pakistan.

On being asked if he concurred with fears about infiltration of Khalistani militants into India following the opening of Kartarpur corridor, Mishra said, “More people cross the Wagah border daily. I don’t think managing things (in the Kartarpur corridor) would be a challenge.”

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/bsf-develops-special-bunker-with-periscope-to-look-out-for-snipers-5473461/>

## **Army not yet ready to send women in combat: Gen Rawat**

*While the facilities have to be created in these arms, women will have to be prepared for the hardships...People in the Army don't come from big cities. They will continue to come from villages, where the kind of intermingling that is expected has not happened*

Women serving in the Indian Army will soon play an increasing role in areas like information, psychological warfare and other non-combat areas, but the Army was not yet ready to send women for frontline combat duties, Army Chief General Bipin Rawat said in Pune on Friday.

Rawat was speaking to the media after the Passing Out Parade of the National Defence Academy's 135th course. Responding to a question about the role that women will play in the Army in the coming years, General Rawat said, "Women are being inducted in all the three services and it is not new. We have deliberated on whether women can be given permanent commission. Along with the other two forces, Army too has identified some areas where we can see more women officers being inducted..."

He added, "Women are already present in education and law wings of the armed forces. In addition, we have identified areas such as information warfare and psychological warfare, where women can play a bigger role. In military diplomacy, we need language interpreters. There is a need to talk, engage with and understand our neighbouring countries and other nations. We are looking at recruiting more women as interpreters. So, you will see an increasing role of women in the armed forces.

"However, we haven't taken them in frontline combat as of now, because we feel that we are not yet ready for that. While the facilities have to be created in these arms, women will have to be prepared for the hardships... Let us not start comparing ourselves with the western nations. These nations are more open. We have become more open... for example, in the big cities, men and women are working together. The people in the Army don't come from these big cities. They will continue to come from villages, where the kind of intermingling that is expected has not happened." General Rawat's statement is in line with what the then Defence minister had said, in May 2015, after he had reviewed the Passing Out Parade of the National Defence Academy.

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/army-not-yet-ready-to-send-women-in-combat-gen-rawat-5473615/>



## **IAF will have largest ever induction of indigenous aircraft: Air Chief Marshal**

*The IAF chief said this in Guwahati on Thursday on the sidelines of a programme where President Ram Nath Kovind presented Standard to 118 Helicopter Unit and Colour to Air Defence College at Air Force Station, Guwahati*

Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa has said that the Indian Air Force will have the largest ever induction of indigenous aircrafts ever in the country even as he said that the first batch of Rafale jets are likely to arrive as schedule in 2019. The IAF chief said this in Guwahati on Thursday on the sidelines of a programme where President Ram Nath Kovind presented Standard to 118 Helicopter Unit and Colour to Air Defence College at Air Force Station, Guwahati.

"The process on induction of 231 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is in pipeline. We are supposed to induct a number of fighter. We have floated request for information (RFI) for 114 fighter aircraft. There was a proposal to induct LCA in big numbers and with this total number of LCA squadron will go up to 12," he said.

"There was a proposal to induct the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in big numbers, and with this the total number of LCA squadrons will go up to 12. The LCA mark 1 in IOC configuration of one squadron of 20 aircrafts, LCA mark 1 in FOC configuration one squadron 20 aircrafts, LCA mark 1A four squadron 83 aircraft, LCA mark 2 Sox squadron 108 aircrafts. So total of 12 squadron and 231 aircraft, this will be the largest induction of indigenous aircrafts ever in the country ," he said while interacting with the journalists here.

### Highlights

- The process on induction of 231 Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is in pipeline, said BS Dhanoa
- He said the government has floated a request for information (RFI) for 114 fighter aircraft
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Asked about the Rafale arrival, the IAF chief said: "There is no delay in the Rafale programme."

He said the government has floated a request for information (RFI) for 114 fighter aircraft.

Replying to queries on the Advanced Landing Ground (ALGs) in the North-East, Dhanowa said that except Vijaynagar, about seven ALGs have already been built and refurbished. "Flight service have already been started to Pasighat ALG. It is now for the operators to start operation on a commercial basis," he said, adding there is no obstruction from the IAF.

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/iaf-will-have-largest-ever-induction-of-indigenous-aircrafts-air-chief-marshall-lead-1399314-2018-11-30>



Sun, 02 Dec 2018

## Nirmala Sitharaman to chart course for India-US tri-service military exercise

*During her visit, Sitharaman will also be charting out the course for the first ever India-US tri-service military exercise in Bay of Bengal in May-June, 2019*

Days after the apex Japan-India-America (JAI) tri-lateral meeting on Indo-Pacific on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires, defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman will be visiting the US Indo-Pacific Command in Hawaii to review military-to-military relations and chart the course for the first ever India-US tri-service military exercise off in Bay of Bengal in May-June, 2019. Defence minister Sitharaman left for Washington on Saturday night.

According to Indian and US diplomats familiar with the agenda of her visit, Sitharaman will be meeting her US counterpart James Mattis on December 3 to follow-up on the tri-lateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Donald Trump and Japanese Premier Shinzo Abe and prepare grounds for sharing of information in the Indo-Pacific theatre through the secure COMCASA network. India recently signed a deal allowing it to become part of this network. With Japan, the US, Australia, and India all flying the P-8I anti-submarine surveillance aircraft, the Indo-Pacific theatre has become transparent for the QUAD grouping (of which these four countries are part) also as military information can now be exchanged through the secure network. This new network will be put to test during the tri-service amphibious exercise off the Indian seaboard next summer with all elements of Indo-Pacific command participating with their respective Indian military elements.

Senior government officials told Hindustan Times that Sitharaman will be interacting with key defence officials, thinkers and strategists on the west coast where she will be meeting a select group at Stanford university with former US National Security Advisor H R McMaster being the host. US Defence Secretary

Mattis is also part of this network. She will also be visiting the highly rated Defence Innovation Unit (DIUx) in California in a bid to link Indian defence startups with this unit which aims to explore synergies between innovative US private sector firms and the Pentagon on latest technologies.

This will be largely funded by venture capital with Indian government providing the seed money. The main idea behind visiting DIUx is to understand the potential of constant technological upgrades achieved through research by private sector.

Sitharaman will be hosted by Admiral Phillip S Davidson, the top commander of all US armed forces in Indo-Pacific at Hawaii on December 6. The Minister's visit to Hawaii is to recognize the American effort to redefine and expand the strategic region in consultation with India. Simply put, the new definition gives India bigger play in the military affairs of the region with Japan and Australia being the other ends of the strategic grouping. The minister will also review the military to military exercises planned in future and discuss the strategic environment in the region with China in the focus.

During her meeting with Secretary Mattis at Pentagon, Sitharaman will also be exploring the acquisition of high-end military technologies for India such as the Predator-B hunter killer drone and reviewing the joint working groups on aircraft carriers and aircraft engines.



Mon, 03 Dec 2018

## India, U.S. to review defence deals

*Defence Minister to also discuss sanctions waiver during six-day visit*

India and the U.S. will review the progress of their expanding defence cooperation as well as discuss the issue of sanctions waiver for the arms purchases from Russia during Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's six-day visit starting Sunday.

Ms. Sitharaman will hold talks with her counterpart, James Mattis.

### **Nod for drones**

The Ministers are expected to review the progress of several defence deals in the pipeline as well as the developments in the region.

Discussion are in an advanced stage for the purchase of 24 MH-60R multi-role helicopters for the Indian Navy through the Foreign Military Sales route and also Predator armed drones for which the U.S. has already given in-principle approval.

India would also like to get some clarity on the waiver for sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA).

India has signed or approved several big-ticket defence deals with Russia recently including a \$5.43-bn deal for S-400 long-range air-defence systems.

### **Co-production projects**

According to official sources, Ms. Sitharaman will also visit the recently renamed U.S. Indo-Pacific Command at Hawaii. Further, she will visit the Mountain View headquarters of Pentagon's U.S. Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) to take forward joint development projects.

At the inaugural 2+2 dialogue in New Delhi, a Memorandum of Intent was signed between the DIU and the Indian Defence Innovation Organisation – Innovation for Defence Excellence (DIO-iDEX) which will look into joint projects for co-production and co-development through the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

Ms. Sitharaman was earlier scheduled to visit the U.S. for the 2+2 dialogue and then proceed on a bilateral visit but that was deferred.

## **India, US air forces to begin 12-day military drill on Monday**

India, US air forces to begin 12-day military drill on Monday Air forces of India and the US will begin a 12-day military exercise in Kalaikunda and Panagarh air bases in West Bengal from Monday with an aim to enhance operational coordination, officials said.

The 'Ex Cope India-18' will be the fourth edition in the series of bilateral drills between the Indian Air Force and the US Air Force.

This is for the first time, the exercise is being held at two air force bases, the officials said.

"The aim of the exercise is to provide operational exposure and undertake mutual exchange of best practices towards enhancing operational capability," the IAF said in a statement.

The US has sent a fleet of F15 C/D and C-130 military aircraft.

The IAF is participating with the Su-30 MKI, Jaguar, Mirage 2000, C-130J and AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft.

The US and Indian air forces are enhancing their overall cooperation as part of deepening of defence and security ties between the two countries.

US President Donald Trump, in his first prime-time televised address to the nation as commander-in-chief last year, had laid out his South Asia policy saying a "critical part" of it was to further develop the USA's strategic partnership with India.

In June 2016, the US had designated India a "Major Defence Partner" intending to elevate defence trade and technology sharing with India to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners.