

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 43 No. 150 12 July 2018



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
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Thu, 12 July 2018

L&T opens new production line for TLC for BrahMos

L&T Defence, one of the leading industry partners of BrahMos Aerospace, opened a new production line for Transport Launch Canister (TLC) on July 7 at Ranoli, near Vododra, to cater to the serial production requirements of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system. Inaugurated by Dr. Sudhir K Mishra, Director General (BrahMos) and CEO & MD, BrahMos Aerospace, the production line will manufacture the indigenous canisters which are used for storage, transportation and launch of the BrahMos Weapon System. The canister for the missile serves the dual purpose of a container and that of a launching tube.

Speaking on the occasion, Mishra said that the highly successful BrahMos missile programme has taken a remarkable lead under the flagship 'Make In India' initiative of the Government. "Today, BrahMos has created a robust ecosystem of indigenous defence manufacturing and integration, thus reinforcing and realising the long-cherished dream of self-reliance in this critical sector. And the immense contribution of each of our defence industry partner in this direction is highly commendable," he further said.

Jayant Patil, Director and Sr. Executive Vice-President, Defence Business, L&T said, "We have been associated with the development of BrahMos missile programme for close to two decades. Our journey started under the guidance of DRDO to develop indigenous capabilities and facilities for realization of composite airframes, canisters and allied sub-systems for BrahMos missile. Our products have successfully passed applicable qualification tests, and L&T has already started delivering these articles under serial production mode." The versatile, multi-role, multi-platform BrahMos has been integrated with L&T-manufactured Composite Airframes and two different versions of Transport Launch Canister (TLC). L&T Defence has successfully completed the realisation of Composite Airframes for the tactical missile.

L&T Defence's Advanced Composites Manufacturing Facility at Ranoli, Vadodara, will now take up the serial production of BrahMos TLC. The unit has the accreditation of National Aerospace and Defence Contractors Accreditation Program (NADCAP) towards manufacturing of Aerospace Products. The Advanced Composites Laboratory at Ranoli, in its efforts towards quality compliance for the ongoing BrahMos programme, has received the Accreditation Certification from National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL). As a leading Industry partner of BrahMos Aerospace, L&T Defence is augmenting the infrastructure at its Precision Manufacturing & Systems Complex, Coimbatore by adding a Composites Facility which will also cater to the serial production requirements.

L&T Defence has also been closely involved in the design, development and production of Launchers and Fire Control Systems (FCS) for the formidable BrahMos missiles for naval platforms.

Thu, 12 July 2018

Top army officer to lead team to china

In another sign that the coldness in Indo-China ties, in the aftermath of the 73-day Doklam standoff, is actually warming, the Northern Army's commander chief Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh will lead a high-level Army team to China sometime in August-end. This is the

first high-level visit by Indian military officials to China after the 73-day long Doklam standoff between New Delhi and Beijing ended in August last year.

Significantly, before being posted as the Northern Army chief, Lt. Gen. Singh manned the sensitive post of the Director General of Military Operations. "These top military exchanges were routine but the Doklam incident put an end to it. Now they are back again," an official source familiar with the development told this newspaper. The official tour is in reciprocation to the high-level Chinese Peoples Liberation Army (PLA) delegation's visit in the first week of July that was led by Lt. Gen. Liu Xiaowu, the number two in the Western Theatre Command.

The two countries will be working to have more military exchanges at the theatre level, enhance border management and control and promote border defence cooperation. India and China share a about 3,500 km long largely un-demarcated border.



Thu, 12 July 2018

Intel chiefs of Russia, china, Iran and Pakistan discuss is threat

Intelligence chiefs of Russia, China, Iran and Pakistan gathered in Islamabad on Tuesday to discuss measures against the threat of aggregation of the Islamic State militants in Afghanistan, Russian news agency TASS has reported. The official confirmation of the meeting came from Sergei Ivanovo, chief of the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service's press bureau. The Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service, Sergei Naryshkin, represented Russia. "The discussions focused on the dangers arising from a build-up of the Islamic State on the Afghan territory," Ivanovo said. "The conference reached understanding of the importance of coordinated steps to prevent the trickling of IS terrorists from Syria and Iraq to Afghanistan from where they would pose risks for neighbouring countries," he said.

Sources in Delhi told The Indian Express that India has bilateral engagements with all the relevant agencies in Russia, China and Iran, especially on intelligence-sharing and counter-terrorism.

While New Delhi and Islamabad have not had bilateral engagement with each other on counter-terrorism cooperation, sources said they have cooperated under the rubric of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in the past six months.

In January-February this year, New Delhi hosted a SCO meeting of counter-terrorism specialists, and Islamabad sent a top four-member team of counter-terrorism and intelligence specialists to attend the meeting.

Interestingly, all four countries which met in Islamabad on Tuesday are members of SCO, but sources said the meeting was not under the rubric of SCO. Counter-terrorism meetings under SCO are organised under the aegis of Regional Anti-terrorism Structure (RATS), which is based in Tashkent in Uzbekistan.



Thu, 12 July 2018

Rocket lab's 2nd launch pad will be in US

Wellington: Rocket Lab, a Silicon Valley-funded space launch company, planned to open a second launch site in the United States to complement its remote New Zealand pad, the firm said on Wednesday. Rocket Lab said it was considering four sites on both the East and West coasts and would make a final decision in August.

Founder and Chief Executive Peter Beck said in an emailed statement that launching from the United States “adds an extra layer of flexibility for our government and commercial customers”. The Auckland and Los Angeles-headquartered firm has designed a battery powered, partly 3-D printed rocket and has touted its service as a way for companies to get satellites into orbit regularly. Its successful launch of a rocket that deployed satellites in January after years of preparation was an important step in the global commercial race to bring down financial and logistical barriers to space.

Rocket Lab counts the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) as well as earth imaging firm Planet and global data and analytics company Spire among its customers. American sites being considered were Cape Canaveral in Florida, Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia, Pacific Spaceport Complex in Alaska and Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, it said. The firm expected its first launch from the United States would take place in the second quarter of 2019. Rocket Lab operates the world’s only private orbital launch pad on Mahia Peninsula in New Zealand.