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Tejas wins Rs. 111-cr. order for Navy's network

Tejas Networks, a maker of networking products, has received an Rs. 111-crore purchase order from Sterlite Technologies to implement Indian Navy's country-wide next-generation digital communications network. Tejas Networks would supply its terabit capacity DWDM systems and high-performance layer-3 multi-gigabit ethernet switches for Navy's pan-India network, according to a statement.



Tue, 23 Oct 2018

Can't fight next war like last one, says Army chief

“Let me be clear that we cannot fight the next war like we fought our last,” said General Bipin Rawat in an exclusive interview, explaining the significance of the biggest exercise in independent India's history to restructure the army and why it tops his priorities as army chief.

The mammoth drill, based on four comprehensive studies led by the army's topmost generals, will change the complexion and direction of the 1.2 million- strong force and transform it into a deadlier fighting machine fully prepared for future wars, Rawat added.

So what's on the menu?

The army chief said the implementation of the four studies in their totality would reduce troops (by about 100,000), allow the army to tap technological advances in warfare, create integrated brigades that can be mission-deployed swiftly, cut down the size of the army headquarters, improve the army's tooth-to-tail ratio and enhance career prospects. “We have to change as the nature of warfare is changing. New structures have to be created incorporating modern technology. That's the way forward. These changes, reforms, will not happen overnight, but they will happen,” said General Rawat, in his first public comments on the restructuring drive.

All four studies have reached the army chief's desk in his South Block office and the first, Reorganisation of the Army Headquarters, will be sent to the defence ministry for approval soon and the restructuring could kick off early next year. The remaining three — Reorganisation and Rightsizing of the Indian Army, Cadre Review of Officers and Review of Terms of Engagement of Rank and File — will come up for government approval by the middle of 2019, Rawat said. The studies are being validated.

The army chief said he discussed the studies comprehensively with his seniormost commanders at the recently-concluded Army Commanders' Conference and that everybody is on the same page.

He said a proposal in one of the studies to abolish the rank of brigadier to smoothen career progression did not find favour within the force; the one-star rank would stay, he added. “We are trying to figure out a formula that allows the brigadier's rank to stay and still leaves room for improved career progression,” he said.

One of the proposals being considered is to promote colonels directly to the rank of major general and those approved for the two-star rank would first be assigned to command integrated brigades as brigadiers before they go on to command divisions as major generals.

“You can call these integrated brigades lighter divisions or heavier brigades,” he said.

The army could cut over one lakh troops over the next three to five years and some of them could be assigned new roles in domains such as cyber, information and psychological warfare, said Rawat.

“It will result in saving money that can be used for upgrading capabilities. A jawan costs the army Rs 6-8 lakh a year, compared to an officer who earns Rs 20-22 lakh annually. Simply put, cutting down four or five officers will help save a crore,” Rawat said.

“And if the army is saving that money, it should come back to it for taking up modernisation projects. We have limited resources. I will call it rightsizing the army to strengthen its capabilities,” Rawat said.

The troop reduction is likely to be achieved through restructuring different parts of the army, including directorates at the army HQs, logistics units, communications establishments, repair facilities and other administrative and support wings. The restructuring of the army seeks to streamline the procurement process too.

“That’s part of the army headquarters restructuring. And it is a very important facet of the restructuring that we are talking about. We are creating structures at the top levels that will help provide the right equipment to the right troops,” Rawat said.

“For example, if the army wants to buy rocket launchers (RL). It is basically an infantry weapon. That means the infantry should get top-of-the line RLs. But if an engineers’ unit wants RLs, that’s primarily for illumination and not for direct strike. So they can also be given a good RL but the infantry deserves the best because of the job it does. The same goes for assault rifles and other weapons,” he said.

Former army chief General Deepak Kapoor (retd) said several western armies had restructured their forces keeping emerging battlefield scenarios in mind and the Indian Army should also explore if such models could prove useful.

“Modern armies are doing away with large-sized formations as future wars will be fought differently. We are talking about space-age weapons, precision targeting, battlefield transparency and other critical dimensions of warfare. So we need to examine restructuring issues in detail,” said Kapoor, who was at the army’s helm during 2007-10.

Lieutenant General AB Shivane (retd), who was heading the army’s mechanised forces directorate until last December, said the restructuring exercise was a positive and relevant development but there are some caveats.

“There has to be absolute clarity about the outcomes, which have to be discernible and benchmarked with time. It must also relate to the overall national security strategy framework. And rightsizing must have a tri-service flavour,” said Shivane, who was involved in a study on rightsizing and rebalancing of the army in 2014-15.

The army’s restructuring was kicked off on a small scale last year.

In August 2017, the government announced that 57,000 soldiers would be redeployed in combat roles to sharpen the force’s fighting edge. This was done following the recommendations made by the Shekatkar committee on enhancing the army’s combat potential and trimming its revenue expenditure.

The committee also listed out measures to bring down the budget for meeting day-to-day expenses and making more money available for weapons and equipment.

The restructuring of the army headquarters will see the role of the Director General of Military Training being given to the Shimla-based Army Training Command and Director General of Rashtriya Rifles being moved to Jammu and Kashmir under the Udhampur-based Northern Command.

India to unveil memorial to WW-I soldiers in France

A memorial commemorating the contribution of Indian armed forces in World War I is being built in France and will be inaugurated by an Indian dignitary next month, an ex-serviceman overseeing the project said Monday. Squadron Leader Rana Chhina, secretary of the United Services Institution of India's Centre for Armed Forces Research, said the memorial was being built in Villers-Guislain, a village in northern France.

It will be inaugurated on November 10, which also marks the centenary of the armistice announced during the World War I.

"This will be first battlefield memorial to be built by the Indian armed forces, which will be dedicated to the Indian soldiers who lost their lives in France during World War I," Chhina said. There is another war memorial in Nueve Chappelle, but it was built by Commonwealth War Graves Commission in honour of the Indian soldiers who died in France and Belgium.

The memorial is likely to be inaugurated either by President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu or Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said.

The location is also the place where the Battle of Cambrai took place between the German and the British forces. Land measuring 500 square metres was given for 1 Euro by Villers-Guislain to build the memorial, Chhina added. "The memorial is being built by noted sculptor Ram Sutar and has an Ashoka Chakra over it," he said. From November 9-11, there is also an elaborate programme scheduled to commemorate the centenary of the war. — PTI

Commemorative events planned

- India's involvement in WWI will be highlighted by commemorative events to mark the centenary of Armistice Day in November.
- As part of the 'India and the Great War' project, the British High Commission will present war diaries to Colonels of the Regiments of the now Indian Army.
- A digital copy of war diaries archives will be given to Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- A joint Indo-UK seminar — 'India and the Great War in research, memory and commemoration' — will be held.
- Almost 1.5m men were part of Indian Expeditionary Force that fought on the Western Front, in East Africa, Mesopotamia, Egypt and Gallipoli. Around 50,000 died. tns

Business Standard

PM Modi, Shinzo Abe summit could kick off defence logistic support pact

By Ajai Shukla

Underlining New Delhi's growing strategic stakes in the Asia-Pacific, Japan could soon be the second country after the US with which India has a logistics support agreement (LSA). In New Delhi on Monday, Japan's envoy to India Kenji Hiramatsu revealed that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's annual summit meeting next week with his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe could kick off negotiations for an LSA, which would allow Indian and Japanese military units to replenish from each other's bases, with accounts to be settled later.

“We are hoping to start a formal negotiation process that will enable us to sign an Acquisition and cross-service agreement (ACSA), a mutual logistics support agreement. It is natural that two countries, which have such a large number of exercises, should implement an LSA,” said Hiramatsu at a briefing on Modi's visit to Tokyo on October 28-29.

ACSA is the traditional term for a mutual LSA, which military partners sign to share logistics. An Indo-Japanese ACSA would allow Indian warships, operating off the coast of China, to refuel and replenish supplies from Japanese military bases. Similarly, Japanese warships in the Indian Ocean could replenish at Indian bases.

The only country with which India has a formal LSA is the US. In 2016, New Delhi and Washington signed the so-called Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement, a custom-designed US-India LSA.

Analysts said India and Singapore had an effective LSA, which had not been publicly acknowledged, but was part of a classified enhanced defence cooperation agreement the two countries signed in 2015. By replenishing from Singapore bases, the Indian Navy can operate for long durations in the South China Sea.

An ACSA/LSA would visibly boost the low-key India-Japan defence relationship. At the Shangri-la Dialogue in Singapore in June, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described relations between New Delhi and Tokyo as “a partnership of great substance and purpose that is a cornerstone of India’s Act East Policy.”

Besides initiating an ACSA/LSA, Hiramatsu said India and Japan might also sign a maritime domain awareness (MDA) agreement, which would enable the two navies to share information about their respective areas of interest. For example, if a Japanese P-1 maritime patrol aircraft detects a Chinese submarine in the Indian Ocean, it would pass on the information to the Indian Navy. An MDA agreement puts more eyes on the job of monitoring an oceanic area of interest. “We are expecting to sign an agreement between Indian and Japanese navies on MDA and maritime security, which will enable more cooperation in this domain,” he said. The spadework for these agreements was done by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman during her visit to Japan in August.

Joint training exercises, involving India’s and Japan’s militaries, has also been boosted. From November 1 to 14, a battalion from both armies (the Japanese called their military self-defence forces) will train together at the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School in Vairengte, Mizoram.

This will be the first time the two ground forces will exercise together.

In another first, Hiramatsu revealed that Japanese air force observers would attend the upcoming Cope India exercise, which the US and Indian air forces conduct annually. For the last two years, Japan has participated in the annual Malabar naval exercise, which used to be a bilateral US-India affair, but is now trilateral with the inclusion of Japan.

Recognising the Indian defence establishment's eagerness for technology partnership, Japan is also initiating the first joint military technology project with India. “In the field of defence technology cooperation, we will cooperate on building unmanned vehicles and robotics,” said Hiramatsu.

Japan is keen on selling the Indian Navy its sophisticated US-2 seaplane, but the deal has remained hanging for years. “Last year, we decided to convene a meeting to discuss this very high technology, state-of-the-art aircraft. There is no doubt about the quality of the US-2. It can be used for rescue operations, transportation (and) logistics. Discussions are on, and I hope some progress will be made in this,” said Hiramatsu.

While Japan has offered India “industrial participation” in building the US-2 in India, the navy has been unable to muster funding for this expensive aircraft. Surprisingly, Tokyo has remained passive on what could be a game-changer for the India-Japan defence relationship — a contract to co-manufacture six Japanese Soryu-class submarines for the Indian Navy.

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, which builds the Soryu class vessels, did not respond to an Indian request for information. Asked about this silence, Hiramatsu responded that the Japanese government was discussing the matter internally. However, given that Tokyo was

willing to supply the Soryu-class submarines to Australia (which instead selected the French DCNS Short Fin Barracuda), the reluctance to supply India the Soryu-class vessel is intriguing.

MAIL TODAY

Tue, 23 Oct 2018

CHINA on Monday called on the United States to think twice about its decision to ditch a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty with Russia. US President Donald Trump announced over the weekend his plan to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, which banned ground-launched nuclear missiles with ranges from 500 to 5,500 kilometres (300 to 3,500 miles).

But Trump said the Russians had been violating it for many years and that China, not a signatory, remained free to develop such weapons. Two top Republican lawmakers backed Trump's worries about China on Sunday, saying there are concerns the treaty is holding the US back while allowing China to move forward with its own developments.



"It needs to be emphasized that it is completely wrong to bring up China when talking about withdrawal from the treaty", said Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying Monday.

"The treaty has played an important role in advancing the disarmament process and maintaining a strategic balance and global stability. Unilateral withdrawal will have a multitude of negative effects," she said.

She said China hoped the relevant parties can think twice about the issue of withdrawing, in a reference to the US. **AFP**

'Think twice about leaving Cold War-era nuclear treaty'



Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China hopes that the US thinks before ditching nuclear weapons treaty with Russia.



MACRON ON TREATY'S IMPORTANCE

French President Emmanuel Macron stressed the importance of a Cold War-era nuclear weapons treaty during a phone call with Donald Trump, his office said on Monday, after the US president announced he was pulling out of the deal.

The president noted the importance of this treaty, in particular for European security and our strategic stability, Macron's office said of the call between the two leaders on Sunday.

Trump said over the weekend that the US would exit the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, known as the INF, which has been in effect with Russia since 1987. He accused Moscow of violating the agreement which curbed an arms race between the two countries, defusing a crisis over nuclear-tipped Soviet missiles targeting Western capitals. Russia in turn claims that Washington has not upheld its end of the deal. **AFP**



Tue, 23 Oct 2018

NASA names new constellations after Godzilla, Hulk and Doctor Who

NASA scientists have devised a new set of 21 modern gamma-ray constellations and named them after fictional characters such as the Hulk, Godzilla and Doctor Who.

The constellations, constructed with sources visible through its gamma-ray telescope, were devised to celebrate the completion of 10 years of operations of the Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope.

The new constellations include a few characters from modern myths. Among them are the Little Prince, the time-warping TARDIS from *Doctor Who*, *Godzilla* and his heat ray, the antimatter-powered U.S.S. Enterprise from *Star Trek: The Original Series* and the Hulk,



Godzilla, Hulk constellations mapped by Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope

the product of a gamma-ray experiment gone awry. "Developing these unofficial constellations was a fun way to highlight a decade of Fermi's accomplishments," said Julie McEnery, the Fermi project scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in the US. "One

way or another, all of the gamma-ray constellations have a tie-in to Fermi science," said McEnery.

Since July 2008, Fermi's Large Area Telescope (LAT) has been scanning the entire sky each day, mapping and measuring sources of gamma

rays, the highest-energy light in the universe.

The emission may come from pulsars, nova outbursts, the debris of supernova explosions and giant gamma-ray bubbles located in our galaxy, or supermassive black holes and gamma-ray bursts in others.

"By 2015, the number of different sources mapped by Fermi's LAT had expanded to about 3,000 — 10 times the number known before the mission," said Elizabeth Ferrara, who led the constellation project.

The 21 gamma-ray constellations include famous landmarks such as Sweden's recovered warship, *Vasa*, the Washington Monument and Mount Fuji in Japan. **—PTI**

चंद्रयान-2 के लिए तीन पेलोड विकसित

अहमदाबाद, (भाषा): अहमदाबाद की फिजिकल रिसर्च लेबोरेट्री (पीआरएल) ने भारत के दूसरे चंद्रमा मिशन चंद्रयान-2 के लिए तीन पेलोड विकसित किए हैं और चंद्रयान-1 के बरखिलाफ इस बार इसमें एक ऑरबाइटर, एक लैंडर और एक रोवर होगा। भारत का चांद के लिए पहला अभियान अक्टूबर 2008 में गया था और अब दूसरे अभियान का बेसब्री से इंतजार किया जा रहा है।

पीआरएल के निदेशक डा. अनिल भारद्वाज ने बताया, “पीआरएल ने चंद्रयान-2 के लिए तीन पेलोड विकसित किए हैं। ऑरबाइटर में पीआरएल में विकसित किया गया एक सौर एक्स मॉनिटर होगा। यह सूरज से आने वाली एक्सरे और चंद्रमा की सतह से सृजित होने वाली एक्सरे पर निगाह रखेगा।”



भारद्वाज ने यह बात पीआरएल परिसर में आयोजित एक्वेटोरियल एयरोनामी पर 15वीं अंतरराष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठी से इतर पत्रकारों से बातचीत में कही। पीआरएल अंतरिक्ष विभाग की एक इकाई है जिसकी स्थापना 1947 में की गई। उन्होंने बताया, “लैंडर पर ‘चंद्राज सरफेस थर्मोफिजिकल एक्सपेरिमेंट’ (चैस्ट) होगा। यह उपकरण है जो चांद की सतह के नीचे जा कर तापमान मापेगा। यह चांद पर लैंडर के उतरने के बाद काम करेगा।”