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Fri, 05 July 2019

Integrating Defence with IPR (Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti)

By Khurana & Khurana

The Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti was launched by the defence minister in 2018 the objectives it that the mission aimed at fulfilling are stated below. The event was launched with an objective to foster innovations as well as inventions in the IPR Regime. There were also showcased various inventions by the Defence sector such as by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factories (OFs) which were successfully filed as IPR applications. Numerous scientists were also facilitated by the then defence minister. Further, panel discussions were held to formulate a strategy as to how IPR and defence can function simultaneously and what would be the future strategies in this regard. The event carried the tagline of “Intellectual Property for Self Reliance in Defence”

Further, the various efforts by the Department of Defence Production and Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) were also appreciated for the effort to spread awareness about IPR which would result in further promotion of various creations, innovations and inventions in the sector of Intellectual Property. It was further highlighted by the then defence minister Smt. Sitharaman that India despite being a knowledge hub since ages, has not been able to utilise its full potential in the field of IPR because of the lack of awareness as regards the protection of Intellectual Properties.

The then Secretary, Defence Production emphasized upon the need to eliminate Transfer of Technology from foreign entities and the need to work upon self-reliance in the Defence sector. Further, the IPR sector has gone on to become a key ingredient stimulating innovation as well as ingenuity in the ecosystem. Considering the same, in April 2018, an IPR Facilitation cell was also established with the aim of training personnel of OFB as well as DSPUs (up to 10,000 personnel) so as to enable the filing of at least 1,000 applications.

As a part of these initiatives, a framework, the “Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti” was instituted which is aimed to boost the IPR culture in the sector of indigenous defence. The DGQA (Directorate General of Quality Assurance) has been conferred the power to coordinate as well as implement the programme. The events end objective is to inculcate and strengthen Intellectual Properties into defence manufacturing.

Various dignitaries including the Chairman of the DRDO, the Secretary of the Department of Defence R&D and senior officers of the three Services as well as Managing Directors of all DPSUs were present at the event.

(The content of this article is intended to provide a general guide to the subject matter. Specialist advice should be sought about your specific circumstances)

<http://www.mondaq.com/india/x/821844/Trademark/Integrating+Defence+With+IPR+Mission+Raksha+Gyan+Shakti>

Budget 2019: Making defence platforms in India should be incentivised, says expert

Budget 2019 India: Over the last few years, the Indian Army has had the largest share in the defence budget, followed by the IAF and the navy, DRDO and Ordnance Factories

By Huma Siddiqui

Union Budget 2019 India: The expectations of the Indian Armed Forces are going to be high on Friday, when the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who has been a defence minister too will be presenting the budget. Senior officials said that this so because “as a former defence minister she is aware of the challenges and requirements of the service headquarters.”

Says former Deputy Chief of Air Staff, Air Marshal Nirdosh Tyagi (retd), “Capital budget allocation should be at least 25% over the committed liabilities for the year. And remove taxes on capital acquisition till equipment deficiencies exist.”

Though tax reforms were introduced in 2017, under which all the taxes were merged barring the basic customs duty, the three services continue to pay customs duty as well GST on all defence hardware which is imported.

According to him, the old inventory is in need of urgent replacement; therefore, the allocation for the capital budget should be adequate to give momentum to modernization. “Dwindling fighter strength and old transport fleet are some examples,” Tyagi says.

Also read:

Also, the private sector participation in defence manufacturing should be encouraged and they should be provided tax relief for the next 5 to 7 years, he adds.

Another former officer pointed out that the slight hike in the defence budget in the last few years has not been enough for the various modernisation programmes of the forces as the chunk of the allocation goes into paying salaries and pensions.

Over the last few years, the Indian Army has had the largest share in the defence budget, followed by the IAF and the navy, DRDO and Ordnance Factories.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report has put India on the fourth position as the largest military spender in 2018 globally, with the United States of America, China, Saudi Arabia topping the list and France holding the fifth position.

Due to geopolitical tensions rising globally, especially between the US and Iran, conflict in the South China Sea, and India’s fight against terrorism with Pakistan make the modernisation of the armed forces more urgent.

Besides being an important strategic requirement, the capability to make the defence equipment in India is a win-win situation for the country, points out Tyagi.

In his opinion making in India will result in saving cost, employment generation and reducing the possibility of sanctions or denial by the supplier nations. However, there is an urgent requirement for structural changes in organisations including the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA).

<https://www.financialexpress.com/budget/budget-2019-making-defence-platforms-in-india-should-be-incentivised-says-expert/1628779/>

HAL seeks bids to make Choppers; industry feels it will be a white elephant

The Indian civilian helicopter market is currently dominated by European and American players but no production line has yet been set up due to the lack of a large market

By Manu Pubby

New Delhi: An attempt by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to rope in the private sector for manufacturing a civilian helicopter has till now received a lukewarm response from the industry, given its abnormally high price tag and operating costs indicated by the public sector unit.

The advanced light helicopter, currently in use by the armed forces, is being pitched by HAL as the next generation civilian chopper suited for the Indian market. The PSU has invited top Indian industries to put in their bids.

However, any bid is yet to come in. Industry experts said high licence fee, with a reserve price of Rs 126 crore, and per unit price would make it one of the most expensive helicopters in its class in the world.

Senior industry executives had met HAL and defence ministry representatives last month to sort out the matter, but sources said it would be difficult to make an economically viable pitch. At the center of the problem is HAL's own indicative cost of about \$11 million for manufacturing the chopper.

"This will further go up when it is offered to the customer as the company will load in other costs, such as setting up the production line, paying licence and training fees to HAL and the 3.5% royalty that is being demanded," a senior executive explained.

The estimated operating cost of the chopper, as described by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, is Rs 2.1 lakh per flying hour. Interestingly, European and US competitors cost almost half of it.

Also, a clause that only 90 helicopters can be built and all obligations to identify customers, setting up a production line and clearances from civilian authorities are being viewed as restrictions by the industry.

The Indian civilian helicopter market is currently dominated by European and American players but no production line has yet been set up due to the lack of a large market.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/hal-seeks-bids-to-make-choppers-industry-feels-it-will-be-a-white-elephant/articleshow/70082799.cms>



Funds shrinking, Army wants Budget 2019 to make special allowance for GST, customs duties

All three services have to currently pay customs duty as well as GST on defence imports

New Delhi: As the second Modi government prepares to present its first Budget Friday, the Army has asked the Ministry of Defence to factor in taxes on arms and equipment imports, as well as its expenses on salaries and pensions before presenting its demands to the finance ministry which will decide the outlay.

The Army has told the ministry that these expenses eat into its budget outlay, shrinking the corpus to procure arms and equipment crucial to modernisation efforts and maintaining existing assets, sources told ThePrint.

All the three services have to currently pay customs duty as well as GST on defence imports. While the landmark tax reform, introduced in July 2017, subsumed several taxes, it doesn't cover basic customs duty.

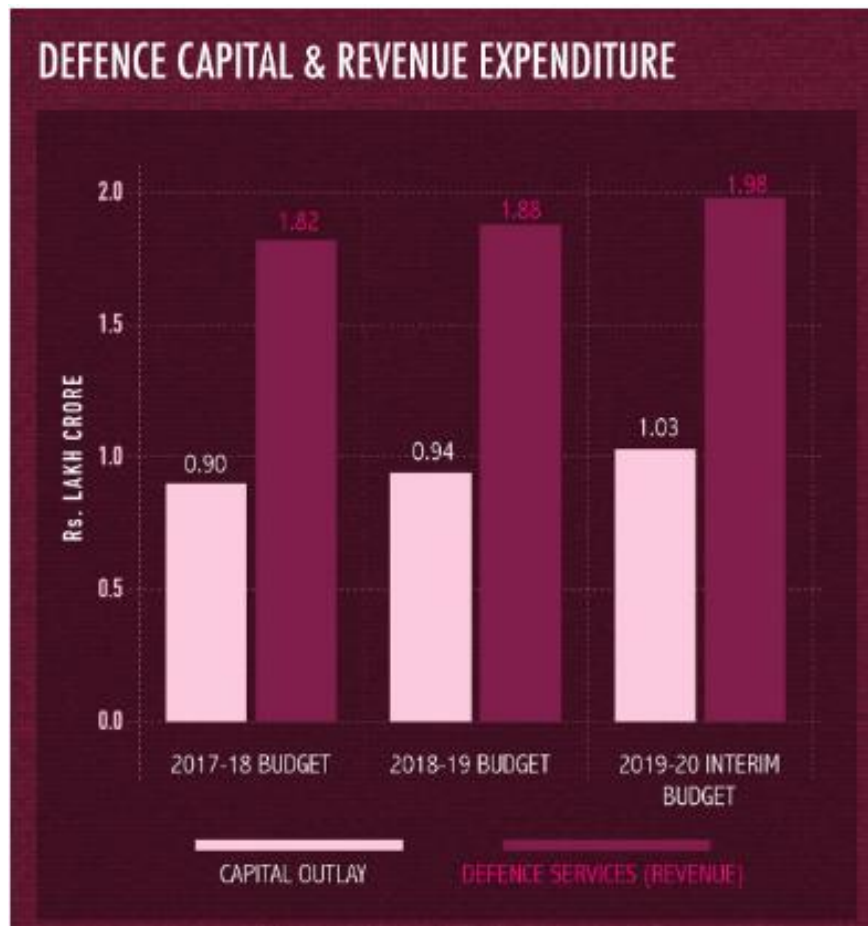
According to the sources, the Army has argued that the additional integrated GST (IGST, applicable on inter-state

purchases and imports/exports) component has further affected its procurement budgets. An Army officer told ThePrint that GST comprised about 12 per cent of the force's capital budget (for purchases), totalling around Rs 7,000 crore-8,000 crore annually.

The defence ministry, they said, had also been asked to factor in the expenses borne by the Army on initiatives such as the Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), which was launched in 2003 for all three services and is estimated to run up a tab of Rs 5,000 crore this year alone.

“The Army has sought the ministry's attention on these aspects. A lot of the defence budget for revenue and capital outlay goes into the extra taxes and in the ECHS, leaving the forces with little money for fresh acquisitions and maintenance,” a top Army official told ThePrint.

“Even the ECHS turns out to be a huge amount considering the number of officers, who also come through the short service commission,” the official added.



The defence budget is categorised under four heads — defence pensions, capital outlay (for arms and other acquisitions), revenue (for salaries and schemes like the ECHS), and miscellaneous (including administrative expenses).

Sources said that the finance ministry could either give the Army an exemption, a rate reduction or refund on the two different taxes being paid, or just put these expenses under a separate head.

‘Little for fresh acquisitions’

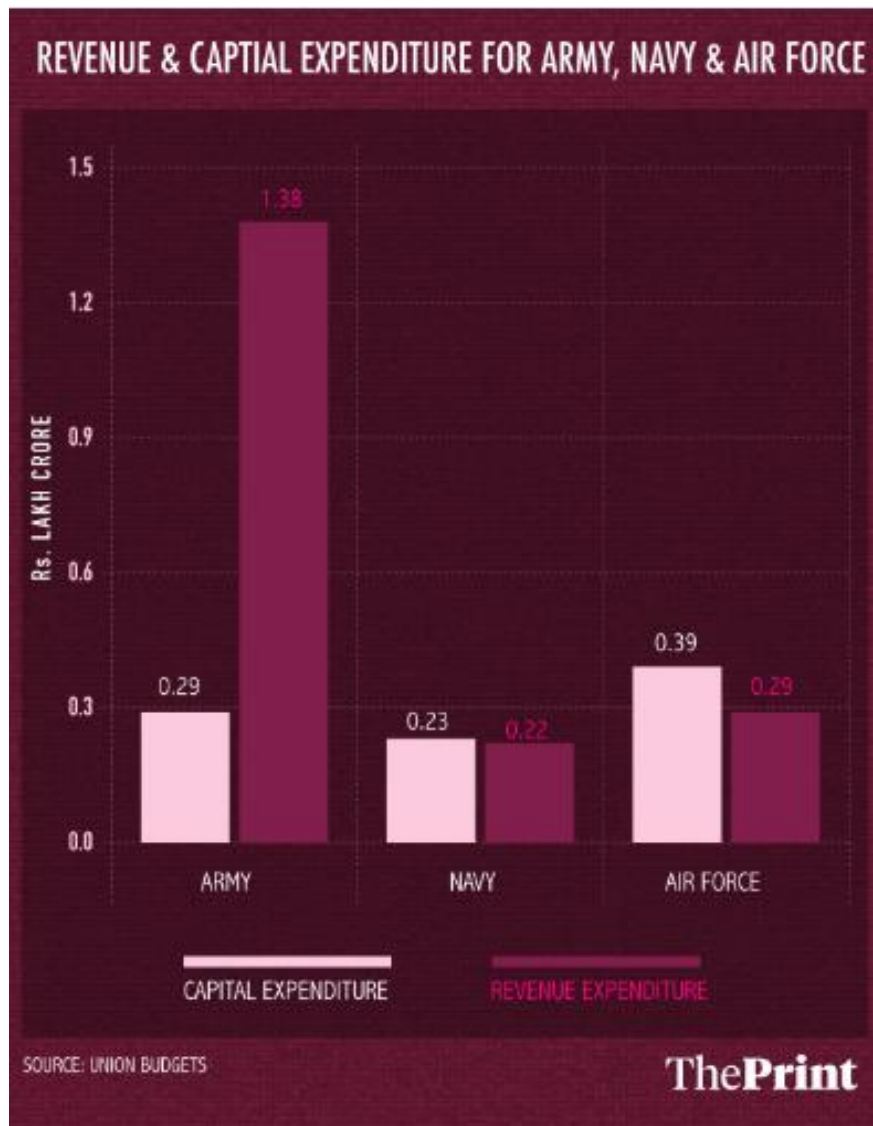
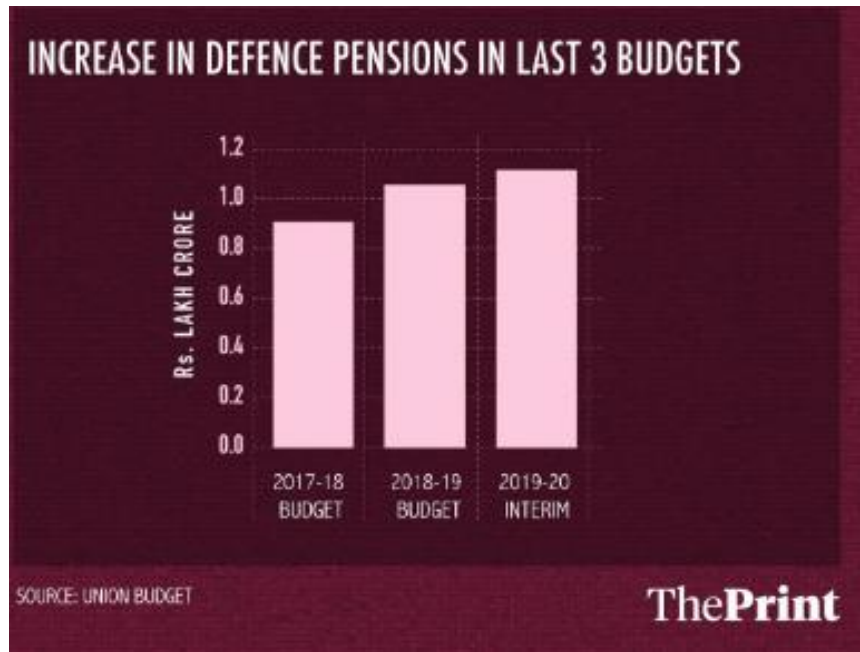
Lt Gen. Satish Dua, who handled Budget matters closely as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff before retiring in October last year, said defence equipment should be exempt from taxes as they were bought for national security.

“A few years ago, (only) customs duty was imposed on defence purchases. Then, the GST was added,” he told ThePrint. “The armed forces are not business houses or individuals, so these taxes should ideally not be levied by the government on defence equipment purchased by them,” he said.

“These taxes form a big chunk of the defence budget and hit the armed forces when it comes to fresh acquisitions or their modernisation, thus affecting the country’s preparedness,” he added.

Former defence secretary Shashikant Sharma, who retired in 2013, long before the GST kicked in, said most additional costs and duties were usually factored in when budgets were made.

“It is true that the defence



budget as percentage of the GDP has gone down,” he added. “But if the GDP has grown, the growth in (defence) budget may not (always) be commensurate.”

Another senior Army official told ThePrint that the defence outlay, which stood at 1.5 per cent of the GDP in 2018-19, should be gradually increased to 2 per cent over a period of five years.

“While an increase in the defence budget in terms of absolute numbers is a welcome move, the budget still does not satisfy the minimum requirements of a modern military,” the official said. “Inflation and rupee depreciation more than neutralise the increased allocations.”

According to the official, the lack of funds hinders the progress of proposals, keeping the Army from addressing deficiencies, maintaining its assets, and modernising.

With higher manpower, Army most affected

The interim budget for 2019-20, announced this February, allocated nearly Rs 3.02 lakh crore for defence services’ capital and revenue expenditure. This alone formed 10 per cent of the total budget outlay of Rs 27.84 lakh crore. In 2018-19, Rs 2.87 lakh crore was spent on defence revenue and capital outlay. This total excludes two components of the defence budget: Pensions, which comprise about 25 per cent of the defence budget, and miscellaneous expenses.

Army sources said they had the biggest bite taken out of their budget on account of revenue expenses since they had many more personnel than the Navy and the Air Force. While the Army has around 13 lakh personnel, the IAF has nearly 1.5 lakh and the Navy around 50,000.

interim budget, against a capital outlay of Rs 0.29 lakh crore.

The ratio of revenue and capital expenditure, meanwhile, is more proportionate for the Navy and the Air Force. The revenue outlay carved out for the Navy in the interim budget stood at Rs 0.22 lakh crore and the capital outlay at Rs 0.23 lakh crore. For the IAF, the revenue outlay was Rs 0.29 lakh crore and the capital outlay is Rs 0.39 lakh crore.

“The allocation on capital outlay for the Army thus turns out to be meagre and can barely cater to the committed liabilities as well as all planned new schemes,” the second official quoted above said, adding that a non-lapsable defence capital fund account is “the need of the hour”.

<https://theprint.in/defence/funds-shrinking-army-wants-budget-2019-to-make-special-allowance-for-gst-customs-duties/257608/>



Fri, 05 July 2019

Mother of all defence deals: Government initiates bidding process for \$15 billion contract to procure 114 Jets for IAF

As part of efforts to modernise the Indian Air Force (IAF) which needs 42 fighter squadrons in total, India has begun the process for inviting bids for the supply of 114 modern fighter jets, in a deal that is estimated to be valued at \$15 billion reports *Business Standard*.

This is currently the world’s largest defence deal and Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to boost the capability of the IAF and replace an aging combat aircraft fleet. As per government reports 44 aircraft and helicopters of the IAF have been lost in crashes since 2014 in which 46 personnel were killed. Some of the world’s leading fighter aircraft manufacturers are bidding for the deal, including the likes of Boeing, Lockheed Martin, and Sweden’s Saab; to give impetus to make it in India initiative at least 85 per cent of production must be completed domestically in India.

The Indian Air Force's current squadron strength is a dismal 34, with the effective combat squadron number even lower at only 31. The force needs to rapidly absorb a large number of combat aircraft to ensure that it can meet any challenges from both Pakistan and China.

<https://swarajyamag.com/insta/mother-of-all-defence-deals-government-initiates-bidding-process-for-15-billion-contract-to-procure-114-jets-for-iaf>



Fri, 05 July 2019

Rubber Council to re-skill Army personnel

Kochi: The Rubber Skill Development Council (RSDC) will collaborate with the Army Base Workshop in Pune to re-skill its personnel in rubber.

A letter of intent in this regard has been shared by the Army Manufacturing Group with the RSDC. The skilling drive was jointly inaugurated by IS Rathore, Commandant & MD, 512 ABW (Army Base Workshop), and Vinod Simon, Chairman, RSDC. The training of Army personnel will be a part of the Saamarth project launched by the RSDC for re-skilling/up-skilling of a million people in the rubber sector. The RSDC is engaged in skilling, up-skilling and re-skilling in rubber. It has signed up with several universities, State Skill Missions and government agencies for up-skilling in rubber, one of the fastest growing sectors in the country. This is the first time the RSDC is joining hands with the Indian Army. "We are privileged to be of assistance to the armed forces in our own modest way. The armed forces have been rendering yeoman services to the nation. Nothing could be more satisfying than helping the Indian Army increase its competitiveness by up-skilling their personnel in rubber technology," said Simon.

Army personnel at Army Base Workshop, Khadki (Pune), will be trained by the RSDC in the job role of Junior Rubber Technician. The training will be provided under recognition of prior learning (RPL) scheme of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojna (PMKVY). In the first phase of these training programme, more than 40 personnel will participate. The rubber industry has been serving the nation by supplying quality products, often customised to the special needs of the defence sector. Over 4,500 rubber SMEs manufacture over 35,000 products that find usage in vital sectors, including defence.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/markets/commodities/rubber-council-to-re-skill-army-personnel/article28286129.ece>



Fri, 05 July 2019

UAE Company continues to wait for the final word on CQBs for the Indian Army

The UAE based Company Caracal continues to wait for the decision to be taken on the close-quarter-battle carbines (CQB), worth \$ 130 million, even though it has been over a year since it was declared L1

By Huma Siddiqui

The UAE based Company Caracal continues to wait for the decision to be taken on the close-quarter-battle carbines (CQB), worth \$ 130 million, even though it has been over a year since it was declared L1. The Company has cleared all the steps after being declared L1 including the commercial

negotiating committee (CNC), Acceptance Test Procedure report, and has submitted all the documents as requested by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

Speaking on condition of anonymity a top official said that a decision was expected to be taken at the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) meeting to be headed by the new defence minister Rajnath Singh. However, a date for the DAC meeting has yet to be set.

Sources in the Ministry of Defence (MoD) have revealed that the decision on the CQB got delayed as the General Elections were announced and with the new government in office, a decision is expected soon.

The official also confirmed that the delay in the final decision will come up during talks between the Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the UAE and external affairs minister Dr S Jaishankar next week.

Accompanied by a senior-level delegation, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan will be on a three-day visit from July 7-9 and will also call on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Besides the CQBs, the two leaders are also expected to discuss further about UAE's interest in buying 'Made in India' Akash surface-to-air missile system as well as the BrahMos Missile. India and Russia have both agreed 'in principle' to export the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile, BrahMos, to UAE as there is no conflict of interest.

The government of that country is also seeking the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed Astra 70-kilometre range air-to-air missile, which can be fitted on French fighter jets the Mirage that their Air Force is operating.

Both countries have elevated their relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the visit would provide the two sides with an opportunity to explore new areas of cooperation to further strengthen their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

While the Oversight Committee in its report to the MoD urged a re-look at the requirement for the CQBs, there have been several representations from the government of the UAE as well as the Caracal Company.

The Ministry had put the procurement of the CQBs for the Indian Army on the Fast Track Procurement (FTP) process.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the UAE is India's third-largest trade partner and fourth largest energy supplier and is also the first country to participate in India's 'Strategic Petroleum Reserves' programme.

What is FTP?

Under this process, there is no general staff evaluation. Critical trials are based on operational requirements of the service headquarters. Within one year after the signing of the contract, the company has to start deliveries.

The UAE based company has already agreed to manufacture the carbines in India under the Make in India Initiative. According to the Indian Army, it has a requirement of nine lakh CQBs, and the trials for the CQBs were done in different terrains, with local ammunitions in and outside India.

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/uae-company-continues-to-wait-for-the-final-word-on-cqbs-for-the-indian-army/1628615/>

India to test advanced British missile after reality check of 27 Feb dogfight with Pakistan

IAF chose the British ASRAAM in 2013 after a contest that involved the Israeli Python, the German Diehl IRIS-T & American Raytheon AIM-9X Sidewinder

By Snehesh Alex Philip

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to test-fire the British Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM) from the Russian Su-30 MKI and the Anglo-French Jaguar aircraft by the end of this year, ThePrint has learnt.

The planned test comes as India tries to bridge the missile gap between the IAF and the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), which displayed an edge during the 27 February dogfight with better weapons that had higher standoff ranges (the distance from which a missile can be fired without entering the attack range of the other side).

Weighing 88 kg, ASRAAM is a Within-Visual-Range (WVR) dominance weapon with a range of over 25 km. It accepts target information via aircraft sensors, such as radar or helmet-mounted sight, but can also act as an autonomous infrared search and track system.

The IAF chose the ASRAAM in 2013 after a contest that involved the Israeli Python, the German Diehl IRIS-T and American Raytheon AIM-9X Sidewinder.

The IAF and state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) are also in technical discussions with the European firm MBDA, which manufactures ASRAAM, to integrate the missile on board the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas.

According to the sources, the integration of the missile with the Su-20 MKI and the Jaguar is in the “final stages”.

Western missile on Russian aircraft

The integration of the ASRAAM on the Jaguar deep-penetration strike aircraft is part of the upgrade of the ageing aircraft.

The IAF had signed a £250 million contract with MBDA UK in July 2014 for ASRAAM-armed Jaguars. In a first, the missile would be integrated over the aircraft’s wings.

Meanwhile, the integration of the missile on Su-30 MKI, which is being done on a trial basis, will mark the first time a western missile will arm a Russian fighter.

However, Russian defence sources told ThePrint that the IAF had not informed them officially about the project.

The state-run National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has been tasked with proving the stability of the ASRAAM on the Su-30 air frame.

If the integration is successful, the IAF plans to standardise the missile across the fleet, which is currently armed with the R-73 short-range air-to-air missile.

Sources in the defence establishment said MBDA was willing to shift the final assembly line of the weapon system from Bolton in the United Kingdom to the state-run Bharat Dynamics Ltd in Hyderabad.

According to the sources, this could be done under the MBDA’s offset obligations across contracts to the tune of \$1 billion signed in India. MBDA is jointly held by Airbus, BAE Systems and Leonardo.

<https://theprint.in/defence/india-to-test-advanced-british-missile-after-reality-check-of-27-feb-dogfight-with-pakistan/258683/>

Indian, French pilots cross-train on Rafale, Sukhoi fighters in exercise

Garuda-VI began at the French Air Force base at Mont-De-Marsan, France, on July 1

The Indian Air Force announced on Friday that one of its pilots flew on a Rafale fighter of the French Air Force during the sixth edition of the Garuda aerial exercises between the two nations.

Garuda-VI began at the French Air Force base at Mont-De-Marsan, France, on July 1. Four Indian Air Force Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighters are participating in Garuda-VI, while the French contingent includes the Rafale and Mirage 2000 jets. The Indian Air Force will take delivery of the first of its 36 Rafale fighters from Dassault Aviation in September and the jets are expected to reach India next year.

#ExGaruda2019 : The objective of Indo-France joint exercise is to share good practices & to enhance interoperability & cooperation between the two Air Forces.

During the exchange flying, Sqn Ldr Sourabh Ambure flew in the FAF Rafale aircraft. @Armee_de_lair @FranceinIndia pic.twitter.com/BNglAzWPPj

— Indian Air Force (@IAF_MCC) July 5, 2019

Tweeting from its official handle on Friday, the Indian Air Force informed, “The objective of Indo-France joint exercise is to share good practices & to enhance interoperability & cooperation between the two Air Forces. During the exchange flying, Sqn Ldr Sourabh Ambure flew in the FAF Rafale aircraft.”

#ExGaruda2019: Indo-France joint exercise gives us a great opportunity to interact, exchange views, experiences & knowledge.

A French Air Force Pilot got an opportunity to fly in the Su-30MKI aircraft, during the integration flying training week. pic.twitter.com/RJstvtqKZAm

— Indian Air Force (@IAF_MCC) July 4, 2019

On Thursday, the Indian Air Force had announced that a French Air Force pilot had flown on an Su-30MKI. It tweeted, “Indo-France joint exercise gives us a great opportunity to interact, exchange views, experiences & knowledge. A French Air Force Pilot got an opportunity to fly in the Su-30MKI aircraft, during the integration flying training week.”

The Su-30MKI, which was designed in Russia, has previously conducted exercises with the French Air Force. The Sukhoi is a larger and older jet compared with the Rafale. Exercises with the Indian Air Force are expected to help French Air Force personnel familiarise themselves with the flight characteristics of the Sukhoi jet. The Russian Air Force operates a number of fighter jets similar in design to the Su-30MKI.

The first edition of Garuda was held in Gwalior in 2003 and second in Istres Air Force Base in France in 2005. The second edition of Garuda was the first occasion the Indian Air Force participated in an exercise in Europe. The third (2007) and fifth editions of Garuda (2014) were held in Kalaikunda and Jodhpur airbases, respectively. In the fourth edition of Garuda, held at Istres in 2010, Indian and French aircraft refuelled from each other's tankers, highlighting increased inter-operational synergy.

<https://www.theweek.in/news/india/2019/07/05/indian-french-pilots-cross-train-on-rafale-sukhoi-fighters-in-exercise.html>