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DRDO's hi-tech gizmos to protect wildlife

Pilibhit: Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and forest department officials have joined hands to apply advanced technology in forest regions of UP for effective monitoring of wildlife and vigil against poachers.

The officials on Tuesday began an exercise to test the applicability of hi-tech gizmos manufactured by DRDO in tightening vigil in the forests.

Earlier on Monday, a DRDO team of two directors and scientists had discussion with state's two principal chief conservators of forest and field directors of Dudhwa and Pilibhit Tiger Reserves about the salient features of three advanced devices manufactured by DRDO and their utility in the forests. The DRDO scientists also demonstrated how the three devices work.

Talking with TOI, DRDO's director Manish Bhardwaj said, "One of the three devices is a laser fence system. Each unit is equipped with a transmission pillar and a receiver pillar. This unit forms an invisible laser wall within a 500-meter stretch between the two pillars." This fence system is capable in recording any intrusion through the laser wall be it day or night and transfer the video to a computer system installed within a 10-km radius of the device."

The laser fence also has an integrated wireless hooter that instantly warns staff concerned of any intrusion. "The laser fence system runs on battery, including solar power. It can produce excellent results with recorded evidence in cases of intrusion of wildlife criminals and details of wildlife straying out of the forest," Bharadwaj explained.

On the cost of one unit, the DRDO official said it could be a couple of lakhs. Forest officials responded by saying the laser fence would be quite affordable in comparison to chain link fencing around a forest range.

The other two devices that were presented before the forest officials were an optical target locator (OTL) and explosive identifier. "The OTL is a laser-based sophisticated surveillance device that is used for VIP security, border surveillance, active monitoring and sniper detection," said Hari Babu Shrivastav, another scientist.

The OTL has an effective range up to 1,500 meters and it can provide precise target coordinates specifying the exact location of detected threat. It can play a crucial role in detecting poachers in forests, he added.

The explosive identifier, he explained, functions on Raman spectroscopy. "We have fed signatures of 50 explosive substances to the memory of device. The device is capable of detecting the type of explosive within a few seconds," he explained.

In the forests, the device can be used to identify the type of toxic substance used by poachers for poisoning of wildlife like tigers and leopards, he said.

According to principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife) of UP, Sunil Pandey and the directors of DTR and PTR, Ramesh Pandey and H Rajamohan respectively, the devices could bring fundamental change in safety and security system of forests and wildlife specially amid the overall crunch of field forest force.

Pandey said. "We will launch a pilot project with these devices to find out whether they need and further modifications in terms of the specific needs of forest conservation and wildlife protection."

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/drdo-hi-tech-gizmos-to-protect-wildlife/articleshow/68488359.cms>

Government clears procurement of 10 lakh hand grenades for Indian Army through Make in India programme

In a significant decision, the Ministry of Defence under Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman cleared the proposal to procure 10 lakh grenades for Indian army under government's flagship Make in India scheme

New Delhi: In a significant decision, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has cleared the proposal to procure 10 lakh hand grenades for the Indian Army under its Make in India programme. A high-level meeting chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman cleared the proposal on Wednesday afternoon.

The Rs 500 crore proposal comes shortly after the Defence Ministry cleared the acquisition of assault rifles and signed a joint venture with Russia to manufacture AK-203 rifles for the infantry units of the Indian Army. The newly manufactured hand grenades will replace the existing HE-36 grenades that have been manufactured by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).

The latest addition to personal weapons of the Indian Army, these grenades have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The grenades form a crucial weapon of the Army soldiers at the time of war as they can inflict heavy casualties to enemies by destroying enemy positions and bunkers.

Recently, the government also signed a contract worth Rs 700 crore for procurement of 70,000 Sig Sauer assault rifles with a US manufacturer. A JV has also been formed with Russia to manufacture AK-203 assault rifles. Modernisation of the armed forces is an ongoing process and assumes importance on the backdrop of the recent tensions between India and Pakistan in the aftermath of the February 14 Pulwama attack.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/hand-grenades-indian-army-make-in-india-programme-ministry-of-defence-drdo-ofb-nirmala-sitharaman/386092>

Missile man of Switzerland, too!

Switzerland celebrates May 26 as 'Science Day' in honour of APJ Abdul Kalam

May 26 was declared as the 'National Science Day' in Switzerland to honour the former Indian President, late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The Swiss government, considering Abdul Kalam's vast expertise in science and technology, announced this following his arrival in Geneva in 2006.

This is a source of inspiration for many Indian and Swiss scientists as Kalam was a science enthusiast and was even considered as the Father of Indian Missile Programme. Kalam was the first Indian head of State visiting Switzerland after a gap of more than 30 years. Former President late VV Giri's was the last high-profile visit to the country.

Kalam first visited the CERN's facilities situated in Switzerland and, then, crossed the border post to see the laboratory in France, where Indian scientists are doing research in Large Hadron Collider (LHC). CERN, the world's largest physics laboratory, is jointly owned by France and Switzerland.

Kalam is well-known for his major part playing in the existence of Indian Missile Mission including 'Agni'. He also served as the Chief Project Co-ordinator for the testing of Nuclear weapon — 'Pokhran-II'.

<https://telanganatoday.com/missile-man-of-switzerland-too>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Thu, 21 Mar 2019

Recruit 100 women a year in Corps of Military Police: MoD

By Shaurya Karanbir Gurung

New Delhi: The defence ministry has issued instructions to the army specifying the procedure to recruit 100 women per year in 'other ranks' or ranks below officer-level in the Corps of Military Police, officials said.

The government sanction letter (GSL) issued by the ministry also lays down the tests the probable women recruits would be required to undergo. Around 1,700 women are to be recruited in CMP.

The army will now start advertising for the vacancies. Details for the induction are being worked out by the army's Recruitment Directorate, these officials said.

Opening up Opportunities

Those recruited will undergo training at the CMP Centre in Bengaluru

The training is likely to start by September or October this year

There will be two women per CMP section, which comprises five members

THREE WOMEN OFFICERS are currently posted with the CMP

Women CMP personnel will be performing the same duties as their male counterparts

This is the first time that women are being inducted into army in other ranks

“Hundred women military police will be inducted (in the CMP) every year for over 17 years. The terms and conditions for employment of women MP are same as the male MP. Their physical standards are same as women officers,” said one official.

Those recruited will undergo training, which is likely to start around October, at the CMP Centre in Bengaluru.

Officials said infrastructure, including residential accommodation, for women has already been set up there.

There will be two women per CMP section, which comprises five members.

Three women officers are currently posted with the CMP and more are expected to be posted soon.

Officials said the women CMP personnel will be performing the same duties as their male counterparts.

These include maintaining discipline and vigilance, controlling military traffic movement, ceremonial duties and conducting preliminary inquiries into offences. The army had earlier said that a necessity was felt to induct women into the CMP to meet the needs to investigate gender specific allegations and crime.

Following the issue of GSL on February 19, the Special Army Instructions and gazette notification are under publication. They will give out more details on the induction of women in the CMP. The proposal for inducting women into the combat-support arm was approved by the defence ministry on January 21.

This is the first time that women are being inducted into army in other ranks. The move, which comes ahead of the general elections in April-May, highlights the government providing more opportunities to women in the defence services. This includes opening more arms in the army for permanent commission to women officers. However, women getting into combat arms, such as the infantry, can still be long away.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/recruit-100-women-a-year-in-corps-of-military-police-mod/printarticle/68506699.cms>



Thu, 21 Mar 2019

Army to get over one million hand grenades

Tenders worth Rs 25,000 crore are likely to be awarded to different yards in the next one to two years, an official said

New Delhi: The defence ministry has cleared an army proposal for buying over 1 million hand grenades that will be made in India, two officials said on the condition of anonymity.

The project was given the green light by the defence acquisition council on Wednesday to boost the capabilities of the infantry.

Projects that have been recently cleared under the fast-track procedure include those for buying assault rifles and light machine guns.

One of the officials cited above said the ministry has also given its go-ahead to new policy guidelines for the selection of domestic shipyards to undertake major naval programmes.

Tenders worth Rs 25,000 crore are likely to be awarded to different yards in the next one to two years, he said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Air Force will induct four US-built Boeing CH-47F (I) Chinook heavy-lift helicopters at a ceremony in Chandigarh on March 25, an Indian Air Force spokesperson said on Wednesday.

Boeing's Chinook edged out Russian firm Rostvertol's Mi-26 helicopters to win the \$1.18 billion deal for 15 choppers. India placed the order in September 2015.

The US-built Boeing Chinooks will fill a crucial gap in the Indian Air Force's heavy-lift capabilities as it currently operates a solitary Soviet-origin Mi-26 chopper to deliver payloads to high altitudes, officials said.

The Chinook's main roles include transporting troops, artillery and battlefield resupply.

Boeing CH-47F (I) Chinook can carry 55 troops or 10 tonnes of freight.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/army-to-get-over-one-million-hand-grenades/story- XBh8y3USNdiO7nuz3sXCaM.html>