

समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा
A Daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 45 No. 55 18 March 2020



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय
Defence Science Library
रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केन्द्र
Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre
मैटकॉफ हाऊस, दिल्ली - 110 054
Metcalf House, Delhi - 110 054

OFB, DRDO working on futuristic Infantry combat vehicle

Kolkata: The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), in collaboration with DRDO, is developing a futuristic infantry combat vehicle (FICV) for the Army, which may see the light of day in three to five years.

The Army at present has the infantry personnel carrier with a 30 mm gun - the BMP II.

The FICV will have advanced features that were in the drawing board stage a few years back, OFB Chairman Hari Mohan told reporters at a press conference here.

Mohan said the OFB and Defence Research and Development Organisation, which were earlier working separately on the FICV, are now joining hands to develop it.

"It is an evolving product; features will keep developing for the FICV," he said.

"Depending upon interaction with Army officials... when the product comes to an acceptable stage and the Army gives its nod, production will start. It will be tentatively named Mark I," Mohan said.

While Mark I of FICV is expected in three to five years, Mark II may be visible in the horizon in five to 10 years, the OFB chairman said.

He said the biggest advantage of the FICV is almost everything is being developed within the country.

"There may be some very small sub-systems which we will be importing now...," Mohan said.

An OFB official said the new FICV will have enhanced firepower, including an auto grenade launcher with a range of 1,500 metres and anti-tank guided missile capability, which launches missiles at a range of 4,000 metres with automated command.

It will also have a gun control system integrated with a thermal imager fire control system, the official said.

Mohan said with the Union government focusing on export of defence products, the OFB is aiming at Rs 500-crore worth of exports in the next two to three years.

"Defence exports stood at Rs 15 crore-20 crore two to three years back. It rose to Rs 240 crore last year," he added.

(Disclaimer: This story has not been edited by Outlook staff and is auto-generated from news agency feeds. Source: PTI)

<https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/ofb-drdo-working-on-futuristic-infantry-combat-vehicle/1771293>



Battle-grade LCA makes first flight in Bengaluru

The first Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in the "FOC" or a level fit for battle flew for the first time here on Tuesday.

The 40-minute sortie took off at the HAL airport at 12.30 p.m. and was flown by Chief Test Pilot (fixed wing) Air Cmde K. A. Muthanna (retd).

State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which manufactures the indigenous fighters for the Indian Air Force (IAF), said, “This would pave the way for the production of the remaining 15 fighters from the FOC block which are planned to be delivered during the next financial year [that is, 2020-21.]”

The fighter received the FOC or the final operational clearance in February 2019, signifying that the Indian designer — the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) — has developed it to the level where the plane is good to be used in a combat.

FOC-standard LCAs have advanced capabilities such as air-to-air refuelling and a missile system that is beyond visual range (BVR), among others.



HAL said it achieved the feat in a record 12 months at its two LCA assembly lines in Bengaluru after receiving the drawings and protocols from the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification under the DRDO.

HAL’s Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) R. Madhavan was cited as saying, “This flight signifies exemplary team work among various stakeholders of the LCA Tejas programme such as HAL, the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance, CEMILAC, IAF and ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency).”

ADA is the DRDO’s special purpose arm, which has designed and developed the LCA as a modern generation-4 fighter for the IAF.

HAL is making the planes in two batches of 16 each — FOC standard and the previous version called the IOC (initial operational clearance). It is also due to produce eight more of the LCAs — four two-seater trainers in each version.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/battle-grade-lca-makes-first-flight-in-bengaluru/article31092986.ece>

hindustantimes

Wed, 18 March 2020

Advanced version of Tejas light combat aircraft makes its debut flight

The IAF has already inducted Tejas fighters in the initial operational clearance (IOC) standard and is now gearing up to operate fighters in the more advanced FOC configuration

New Delhi: A more advanced version of the Tejas light combat aircraft made its debut flight from a Hindustan Aeronautics Limited facility in Bengaluru on Tuesday, bringing it closer to induction in the Indian Air Force.

The first LCA in final operational clearance (FOC) standard, piloted by Air Commodore KA Muthana (retd), took to the skies for its maiden flight and was airborne for 40 minutes, a spokesperson for state-run military planemaker Hindustan Aeronautics Limited said.

The IAF has already inducted Tejas fighters in the initial operational clearance (IOC) standard and is now gearing up to operate fighters in the more advanced FOC configuration.

“This (the maiden flight) would pave the way for production of remaining 15 fighters from the FOC block which are planned to be delivered (to the IAF) during the next financial year,” the spokesperson said.

He added that the FOC aircraft were equipped with advanced capabilities such as air-to-air refueling, beyond visual range missile systems and come with several improvements over the IOC aircraft in the IAF fleet.

The IAF has so far ordered 40 LCAs that are in the IOC and FOC configurations. The IAF plans to buy another 83 LCA Mk-1A jets, taking the total number of Tejas variants ordered to 123. The LCA Mk-1A will come with additional improvements over the FOC aircraft, making it the most advanced Tejas variant.

HAL is hoping to hammer out a Rs 38,000-crore deal with the IAF for the 83 additional jets soon. The order is crucial for the HAL to prevent a complete halt of production at its facilities. HT reported on January 11 that HAL's order books are empty beyond 2021-22 and new orders from the armed forces are critical for continuity in production.

The Mk-1A variant is expected to come with digital radar warning receivers, external self-protection jammer pods, active electronically scanned array radar and significantly improved maintainability.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/advanced-version-of-lca-tejas-makes-its-debut-flight/story-eJxOpJ6hba3tCvZdNyYz4M.html>

बिज़नेस स्टैंडर्ड

Wed, 18 March 2020

एफओसी मानक एलसीए तेजस ने पहली उड़ान भरी

बेंगलुरु: पहले हल्के लड़ाकू विमान तेजस ने अंतिम संचालन मंजूरी-मानक (एसपी- 21) के तहत मंगलवार को पहली उड़ान भरी।

हिंदुस्तान एयरोनॉटिक्स लिमिटेड ने बयान में कहा कि एयर कमोडोर के ए मुथाना (सेवानिवृत्त), चीफ टेस्ट फ्लाइटिंग (फिक्सड विंग) ने विमान को एचएएल के हवाई अड्डे से करीब साढ़े 12 बजे उड़ाया।

यह करीब 40 मिनट तक हवा में रहा।

एचएएल के सीमएडी आर. माधवन ने बताया कि एलसीए तेजस के कार्यक्रमों से जुड़े विभिन्न हितधारक मसलन एचएएल, एयरोनॉटिकल क्वालिटी एश्योरेंस महानिदेशालय, सेंटर फॉर मिलिट्री एयरवर्दीनेस एंड सर्टिफिकेशन, भारतीय वायुसेना और एयरोनॉटिकल डेवलपमेंट अथॉरिटी ने सराहनीय टीम कार्य किए।

बयान में कहा गया है, “एचएएल ने 12 महीने के रिकॉर्ड समय में इस चमत्कार को हासिल किया।”

इसने कहा, “इससे शेष 15 विमानों के एफओसी (अंतिम संचालन मंजूरी) से उत्पादन का रास्ता साफ होगा जिसे अगले वित्त वर्ष के दौरान आपूर्ति किए जाने की योजना है।”

https://hindi.business-standard.com/storypage_hin.php?autono=1860780

After Army, Navy women get a shot at equality thanks to Supreme Court

The court struck down a restrictive stipulation imposed by the central government in 2008 as per which PC for SSC women officers were to be granted only prospectively from January 2009, thereby denying the benefit of PC to women officers who were already in the service
By Murali Krishnan

New Delhi: To deprive serving women officers of the opportunity to work as equals with men on a permanent commission (PC) in the Indian Navy is plain discriminatory, the Supreme Court ruled on Tuesday, saying serving short service commissioned (SSC) women officers in the navy were entitled to PC.

A bench of justices DY Chandrachud and Hemant Gupta followed up its February 17 decision in a similar case relating to the Indian Army, in which the top court had struck a blow for gender parity by holding that SSC women officers in service in the army were entitled to PC.

“To contend that women officers are ill-suited to certain avocations which involve them being aboard ships is contrary to the equal worth of the women officers who dedicate their lives to serving in the cause of the nation,” the court held on Tuesday, brushing aside the argument by the central government that sailing in the Indian Navy was not a proper career for women.

The court struck down a restrictive stipulation imposed by the central government in 2008 as per which PC for SSC women officers were to be granted only prospectively from January 2009, thereby denying the benefit of PC to women officers who were already in the service.

“The stipulation in the policy letter dated 26 September 2008 making it prospective and restricting its application to specified cadres/branches of the Indian Navy shall not be enforced,” the court said in its verdict.

The decision was delivered on two appeals, one filed by the Union government against a 2015 judgment of the Delhi high court which had ordered the grant of PC to serving women officers and another from a 2016 decision of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) which had asked the Centre to consider the claims of the women officers for PC.

A permanent commission entitles an officer to serve in the navy till he/she retires unlike short service commission (SSC), which is currently for 10 years and can be extended by four more years, or a total of 14 years.

The restriction can be traced to section 9 of the Navy Act as per which women are not eligible to join the navy unless the central government lifts such restrictions. The provision, however, conferred on the Union government the power to stipulate the departments, branches or bodies of the navy in which women can be appointed or enrolled.

The central government, in exercise of those powers under section 9, had issued two notifications, one in 1991 and another in 1998, lifting the restrictions on allowing women in the navy and had permitted their employment in stipulated branches.

On February 25, 1999, the Union government took the decision for the grant of PCs to both men and women officers in the navy.

However, the ministry of defence issued a policy letter on September 26, 2008, granting PC to SSC women officers in all the three branches of the armed forces. But this was restricted to certain categories and was to operate prospectively for the benefit of future batches inducted on SSC after January 2009.

Seventeen women officers who joined the Indian Navy as SSC officers in the logistics and air traffic controller cadres and the education branch challenged this 2008 policy. Their grievance was that despite completing 14 years of service as SSC officers, they had not been considered for the grant of PC and were discharged from service.

The high court had held that exclusion of serving women officers from permanent commission was irrational and arbitrary.

“Serving women officers in Logistics and ATC (Air Traffic Control) Branches are also equally entitled for grant of permanent commission,” the high court had ruled, directing the navy to grant PC to serving women officers.

The AFT, in a similar case had also come to the conclusion that serving women officers should be allowed PC.

However, the AFT, while directing the consideration of the claim of SSC women officers to the grant of PCs by the Indian Navy, stopped short of the direction which was issued by the Delhi high court. Appeals were filed before the Supreme Court against the Delhi high court and AFT verdicts.

The central government took a stance before the Supreme Court that sea-going duties are ill-suited to women officers. This was turned down by the top court on the grounds that it is premised on sex stereotypes that male officers are more suited for certain duties by virtue of the physiological characteristics.

In this regard, the court referred to its own judgment in the Babita Puniya case delivered on February 17 in which the apex court had held that arguments founded on the physical strengths and weaknesses of men and women to deny PC to SSC women officers in the Indian Army do not constitute a constitutionally valid basis for denying equal opportunity to women officers.

It, therefore, quashed the decision of the central government to restrict PC to prospective recruitments and held that all SSC officers in the education, law and logistics cadres who are presently in service shall be considered for the grant of PC.

“To accept the contention urged by the ASG (additional solicitor general, who represented the central government) would be to approve the socially ascribed gender roles which a commitment to equal worth and dignity of every individual belies,” the court held.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/after-army-navy-women-get-a-shot-at-equality-thanks-to-supreme-court/story-4kXHhT521gISE5qZdTDF4H.html>

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Wed, 18 March 2020

Navy will have to train women for warship postings

By Rajat Pandit

New Delhi: Many nations around the globe, including even Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, deploy women on warships. Some like the US and France allow women to serve on board the cramped confines of nuclearpowered ballistic missile submarines as well.

After the Supreme Court judgement on Tuesday, which granted permanent commission (PC) to women officers in the Navy, India too will eventually have to look to follow suit. The Navy will have to get cracking on developing the requisite facilities to train and deploy women on warships, the absence of which has been used in the past to bar them from serving on board sea-faring vessels.

This is also directly connected to granting PC to women because “sea time” is mandatory for promotion to the rank of Captain (equivalent to Colonel in Army) in the Navy, except in a few branches like naval constructors and armament inspectors.

Navy officers say the process will have to be gradual because it will pose administrative and operational challenges for the force. There will, for instance, have to be enough women volunteers who opt for the “tough life” on warships, which are usually sent on mission-based deployments for 70 to 90 days at a stretch.

At present, the around 550 women among the over 10,000 officers in the Navy -- which has 130 warships, 17 submarines and 235 planes, helicopters and drones -- are restricted to what are called “shore-based billets and aircraft” .

But the six brave women officers who circumnavigated the globe on sail boat INSV Tarini during the eight-month gruelling “Navika Sagar Parikrama” in 2017-2018 proved they are second to none in sea-going capabilities. The six, incidentally, got Nao Sena Medals for gallantry.

Necessary infrastructure will be another major pre-requisite. “Except for some newer warships like the Shivalik-class frigates and Kolkata-class destroyers, the majority of our warships – mostly of Russian-origin – do not have separate bathroom, cabins and other facilities that can be used by women,” said a senior Navy officer.

Added Captain D K Sharma (retd), “The Supreme Court’s decision is welcome but the Navy will have to look into the finer details like training, facilities and other aspects at every stage for implementation.”

The new warships being ordered by the Navy are designed to cater for women officers, with separate cabins and bunks with attached bathrooms. “US warships, for instance, have separate areas or decks earmarked for women. In most of our warships, officers take bath in open toilets,” said another officer.

“Women officers who opt to serve on warships will also have to undergo courses in anti-submarine warfare, gunnery, communications and the like. Moreover, a minimum number of women will have to be posted together on every warship. Then, women doctors will also have to be ready to go to sea. All this will take time,” he added.

The Navy has progressively increased the avenues for women from three branches in 1992 to 11 non sea-going branches in 2019 but has kept them firmly away from warships, much like the Army has excluded them from combat arms like the infantry, mechanised forces and artillery.

It was only recently the Navy began inducting women pilots in its maritime reconnaissance stream, with three women officers having got the “wings” to fly Dornier-228 aircraft as of now. “Eventually, the Navy will also have women flying the latest Poseidon-8I long-range maritime patrol aircraft, which have potent anti-submarine warfare capabilities,” said an officer.

But the fact also remains that despite being inducted into the armed forces since the early-1990s, women officers (they are not inducted in lower ranks) currently number just 1,561 in Army, 1,610 in IAF and 550 in Navy in the 65,000-strong officer cadre in the over 14-lakh armed forces.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/navy-will-have-to-train-women-for-warship-postings/articleshow/74682567.cms>



Wed, 18 March 2020

Navy to get 4 more P-8I aircraft from May

Plans on to install encrypted communication systems on the earlier 8 P-8Is

By Dinakar Peri

New Delhi: The Navy will start receiving four more P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft from Boeing from this May and the process will be completed by January 2022, according to Navy sources.

“These aircraft will also be in the same configuration as the earlier eight aircraft. Plans are on to install encrypted communication systems on the earlier ones,” a Navy source said.

These systems are available to India following the conclusion of the foundational agreement Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) with the US.



In November 2019, the Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, approved the procurement of six additional P-8I aircraft. These aircraft, for which the deal is being processed, would come fitted with the encrypted systems as and when they are delivered.

The Navy had procured eight P-8Is in a \$2.2 billion deal in 2009. The aircraft are part of the 312A Naval Air Squadron based at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu. In 2016, the Navy exercised the optional clause for four more P-8Is in a deal worth over \$1billion.

“We have operationalised COMCASA and already exchanging information,” the source stated on the status of implementing the agreement. India had created a common account of \$5 mn., from which deductions would be done for services or information sought from the U.S. under COMCASA.

In March 2019, the Indian and U.S. navies signed a loan agreement and installed two Pacific fleet provided CENTRIXS (Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System) kits at the Indian Navy headquarters and discussions are on for more systems to be installed in a variety of places. These kits enable encrypted communications between the navies, enabling Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA), a key focus area between the two countries.

The original proposal was for 10 more aircraft but it was cut down to six due to budgetary constraints and the Navy adopting some fleet rationalisation measures.

The P-8I is a long range maritime surveillance aircraft based on Boeing 737 commercial airliner and India was its first international customer.

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/navy-to-get-4-more-p-8i-aircraft-from-may/article31094543.ece>



Wed, 18 March 2020

India begins manufacturing 400 T-90S Tanks for Army: Report

India has commenced manufacturing 400 T-90S battle tanks for its army after it signed a contract with Russia to extend the build license until 2028, last year.

“India made a decision to purchase T-90S tanks, which they are already producing under a license agreement. We extended the previous license deal until 2028 last year, so India could build 400 more tanks,” Head of Russia’s Federal Service for Military and Technical Cooperation Dmitry Shugayev said during an interview with Rossiya-24 TV on Monday.

The Indian defense ministry’s acquisition body approved the purchase in November 2016.

Last April, India’s plan to procure a fresh batch of 464 T-90 tanks for \$1.93 billion (INR 13,800 crore) was doing rounds in the media. "Russia will prolong the license for production of T-90 tanks in

India. This is in connection with the Indian government's decision to purchase more tanks for its armed forces," TASS reported, quoted the federal service as saying.

Following this, a Jane's report said that the contract will be signed "in the next few months."

According to the Military Balance 2019 handbook published by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), over 1,025 T-90S tanks are operational in the Indian Army at present.

Shugayev also said that India is keen on buying MiG-29 fighters, 60 of which it already has in its inventory. "There is a high probability that we will have an additional order for MiG-29 fighter jets," he said.

<https://www.defencenews.in/article/India-Begins-Manufacturing-400-T-90S-Tanks-For-Army-Report-809773>

ThePrint

Wed, 18 March 2020

Indian Army now world's largest ground force as China halves strength on modernisation push

While the Indian Army is bearing the burden of a large personnel driven force, the Chinese are in the midst of a massive modernisation

By Snehesh Alex Philip

New Delhi: With approximately 1.4 million personnel, the Indian Army has become the world's largest ground force, pulling ahead of China, which cut down its strength by half and is instead focusing on its navy, air force and technology.

According to the Defence of Japan 2019 report, released late last year, China has the third largest ground force in the world following India and North Korea, with approximately 9,80,000 personnel.

The Peoples' Liberation Army (PLA) was always regarded as the largest army in the world with an approximate strength of two million soldiers.

India, which has been keenly watching the PLA's modernisation, is just in the initial stages of building a leaner and modern technology-enabled force as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015.

However, while China has been working on a massive modernisation of its force, India's modernisation plans for its large personnel-driven force have been stalled by a cash crunch and a constantly increasing pension.

The Indian Army has so far carried out four transformation studies and is working on trimming its force by about 1.5 lakh personnel, which could take a minimum of five years.

China's head start

Chinese president Xi Jinping had in 2015 announced the downsizing of the PLA to make the force leaner and reliant on modern warfare.

The unprecedented reform began in November that year during which the focus shifted to technology for cyber and space and futuristic weapons besides giving a greater emphasis on building up the PLA's Navy and the Air Force.

"Since 1985, China has continuously sought to modernize its military by curtailing the number of personnel and streamlining organizations and systems through reforms, including those currently being implemented, in order to improve operational capabilities ... China has rapidly modernized its missile forces in recent years," the Japanese military document said.

PLA ground forces cut by half

In January 2020, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported that China had cut the size of its land-based PLA by about 50 per cent and significantly boosted its navy and air force as part of an “unprecedented” strategic shift designed to transform its army into a comprehensive modern force.

The report indicated that the four other branches of the PLA — the navy, air force, rocket force and strategic support force, which is responsible for areas such as cyberwarfare — together make up more than half of the Chinese military, overtaking the army, which has traditionally been the dominant unit of the PLA, the South China Morning Post reported.

Shanghai-based military analyst Ni Lexiong was quoted by the newspaper as saying that the overhaul marked a significant strategic shift from having a homeland-based defensive force to one with the capacity to allow Beijing to flex its muscles beyond its national borders and to protect its interests overseas.

“He explained that modern warfare puts a greater emphasis on superiority in areas such as the air, space and cyberspace — further reducing the importance of the ground force,” the report said.

India’s military has been in the process of operationalising cyber and space commands for several years now. It also lags behind in incorporating future weapons while China and other countries such as US and Russia are way ahead.

<https://theprint.in/defence/indian-army-now-worlds-largest-ground-force-as-china-halves-strength-on-modernisation-push/382287/>



Wed, 18 March 2020

India projects USD11 billion in offset deals by 2024

The Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) has revealed new details about the scope of defence offsets being undertaken through partnerships between foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and Indian offset partners (IOPs).

In comments to India's Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, which were published in a report tabled in parliament on 13 March, the MoD said that up until October 2019 it had entered a total of 54 defence offset contracts with foreign OEMs.

Of these contracts, 32 are related to Indian Air Force (IAF) procurements, with 15 and seven defence offset deals linked to Indian Navy (IN) and Indian Army (IA) acquisitions respectively.

In terms of the value of these offset contracts, the MoD said in the report that it projects that offsets worth USD11.80 billion will be discharged through OEM-IOP partnerships during the period between 2008 and 2024.

Of this amount, approximately USD2.8 billion has been discharged of which USD1.68 billion has been verified through audits. The remaining offsets are under clarification and examination, said the MoD. It added that more than 170 local firms had been selected as IOPs by foreign OEMs.

"Offset contracts are under different stages of implementation by the foreign OEMs," said the MoD in the committee's report. "Once executed, it is estimated that the respective contracts shall cause generation of substantial business to Indian industries thus strengthening the defence industrial base."

<https://www.defencenews.in/article/India-projects-USD11-billion-in-offset-deals-by-2024-809770>

Indian Army's courses postponed amid coronavirus scare

Some of the army courses that have been postponed include the senior command course, meant for officers taking on command appointments. Officials also said that courses that are in progress will continue with precautions. The army has also cancelled non-essential training, conferences and movement in view of the pandemic

By Shaurya Karanbir Gurung

New Delhi: The army has postponed all its courses that are starting from the coming Monday, while the National Defence College under the defence ministry where senior foreign military officers study with officers from the Indian defence services has been temporarily closed, as part of precautionary measures in view of the coronavirus outbreak.

Some of the army courses that have been postponed include the senior command course, meant for officers taking on command appointments. Officials also said that courses that are in progress will continue with precautions. The army has also cancelled non-essential training, conferences and movement in view of the pandemic.

“As precautionary measures to curb the spread of coronavirus in the army, courses starting from coming Monday have been postponed. Courses in progress continue with precautions. All non-essential training, conferences and movement have been cancelled. All precautions are being taken,” an official said.

Officials also said the National Defence College (NDC) has been closed till March 31. The NDC imparts training in national and international security related fields to the selected senior defence, civil services officers and officers from friendly foreign countries.

Last week, the army had postponed all its recruitment rallies by one month. The army also restricted travel to essential duties only and instructed on instead using video conference facilities. The army had also issued an advisory to all its formations to avoid “non-essential” mass gatherings such as festivals and visits to crowded areas like movie halls and shopping malls.

The army is running quarantine facilities at Manesar and Jaisalmer for Indian citizens evacuated from places such as Wuhan, Italy and Iran. Similar quarantine facilities are also being established at Jodhpur, Jhansi, Binnaguri and Gaya.

The Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force have also setup quarantine facilities. The navy has setup isolation facilities at its premier hospital INHS Asvini at Mumbai to treat COVID-19 cases. A quarantine camp is also ready to receive evacuees at Ghatkopar Mumbai. The navy’s Command Headquarters at Kochi and Vizag have also been directed to setup similar facilities. Separate “Fever Clinics” are functioning at all naval hospitals to prevent spread of infection from undiagnosed cases. Health advisories have also been issued to naval ships moving in international waters. India on Tuesday reported its third coronavirus death, while around 130 have been infected.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-armys-courses-postponed-amid-coronavirus-scare/articleshow/74679060.cms>