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STOP PRESS

Rejuvenating Indo-US relations

The US Secretary of State, John Kerry calling on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on August 1, 2014. A detailed report on this will appear in the next issue.



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Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha takes over as new COSC

Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha took over as the Chairman, Chief of Staff Committee (COSC) on July 30, 2014. He received the baton of Chairman, COSC from outgoing Chief of Army Staff, General Bikram Singh at a brief ceremony in the South Block. Chief of Naval Staff and other senior Principal Staff Officers of all three Services and Integrated Defence Staff were present on the occasion.

Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha graduated from the National Defence Academy, Pune with the President's Gold Medal in 1973 and was commissioned in the flying Branch of Indian Air Force in December 1974. He is an experienced fighter pilot, a qualified Flying Instructor and a Fight Combat Leader with nearly 3,400 hours of flying experience to his credit, primarily on fighter aircraft.

He has held many coveted operational assignments such as Commanding Officer of MiG-29



Squadron, Station Commander of Air Force Station, Bhatinda in Punjab during 'Op Parakram', Air Officer Commanding Air Force Station Adampur and Advance Headquarters Western Air Command, Chandimandir. He has also served as the Deputy Commandant Air Force Academy, Hyderabad and Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters Western Air Command. The Air Chief Marshal has the rare distinction of being the Air Officer Commanding in Chief of two Operational Air Commands i.e. Central Air Command and the Western Air Command.

The Air Chief Marshal is an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College and the National Defence College, Delhi. For his distinguished service, he has been awarded Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vayu Sena Medal. He was appointed as Honorary Aide De Camp (Air) to the President of India with effect from December 1, 2012. **SP**



Cover:

The US Secretary of State, John Kerry calling on the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on August 1, 2014. A detailed report on this will appear in the next issue.

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Remembering Kargil and strengthening national security

It is 15 years since the Kargil war was fought wherein our brave soldiers evicted Pakistani intrusions. While we salute the brave soldiers for their utmost sacrifices in the cause of national security, the country's leadership has to seriously introspect on how it has espoused the cause of the brave soldier, not just fighting in extreme climates, but also assisting in major relief works. The soldier has been responding to the call of duty without flinching a bit, but the powers that be are going slow on modernisation of the armed forces.

We pay tribute to the Indian soldier. The former Army Chief, General V.P. Malik who was leading the Indian Army then had stated 'We will fight with whatever we have.' The General recalls how the war, codenamed 'Operation Vijay' was fought and what the lessons from Kargil remain. India needs a holistic national security review as well as re-thinking on the nature of conflict in the new strategic environment and conduct of wars.

General (Retd) Malik and Lt General (Retd) P.C. Katoch in separate articles have indicated that the Kargil War was not the first time when Pakistan initiated a war. And we must not assume that it would be the last time. India will remain vulnerable to such threats along its disputed borders unless it builds a credible will and capability to deter and dissuade its adversaries. An enduring lesson of Kargil War is that for national security, sound defence enables sound foreign policies. The nation and its armed forces can hope for the best; but they must remain prepared for the worst.

We are proud that recently China invited SP Guide Publications to be part of the Indian media delegation to China on a familiarisation trip. Lt General (Retd) Katoch was part of the delegation representing SP Guide Publications. The delegation held wide-ranging discussions on India-China relationship, border disputes, trade, etc. Though at the interactions, Chinese delegates said they were keen on peace in the region and that China will not attack, unless attacked, these are statements which can be argued.

India now has a new Army Chief. In this issue, we have an article on the agenda for General Dalbir Singh, the new Army Chief

wherein the author mentions how all the three chiefs of the armed forces who now have a monthly meeting with the Prime Minister need to be forthright in their views, including the need to integrate military in all decision making.

Also, we have highlighted the three nation 'Malabar Exercise' involving the navies of India, USA and Japan. In another article, we have an expert analysis on the downing of Malaysian Airlines flight MH-17 and what might have caused it.

At the time of going to the press, the US Secretary of State, John Kerry is visiting India and has held discussions with the Prime Minister and other ministers, indicative of how the relationship is going to be strengthened with the impending visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US and other such exchanges. We will be carrying a detailed report on the developments that have taken place during Kerry's visit.

All this along with a slew of regular columns... Happy reading!

Jayant Baranwal
 Publisher & Editor-in-Chief



GENERAL (RETD)
VP. MALIK

Lessons from Kargil War

A strong, competent and committed political leadership is required to bring about improvements in the security policies, Higher Defence Control Organisation and its systems, including its rules of business.

On July 16, 2014, India celebrated the 15th anniversary of its victory in the Kargil war, which was forced upon it by Pakistan. A strategically conscious nation commemorates such historical national security events for three reasons: to remember and pay homage to those who sacrificed their lives for the nation's future, to recall lessons that emerged from that event and to pledge for a safer and better future.

The Kargil war will always be remembered for (a) its strategic and tactical surprise (b) the self-imposed national strategy of restraint keeping the war limited to the Kargil-Siachen sector (c) military strategy and planning in keeping with the political mandate and (d) the dedication, determination, and daring junior leadership at the tactical level. In fiercely fought combat actions, on the most difficult terrain that gave immense advantage to the enemy holding mountaintops, we were able to evict Pakistani troops from most of their surreptitiously occupied positions. The Pakistani leadership was then forced to sue for ceasefire and withdrawal of its troops from the remaining areas.

Operation Vijay (codename for the war) was a blend of determined political, military and diplomatic actions, which enabled us to transform an adverse situation into an emphatic military and diplomatic victory. As two Prime Ministers of Pakistan later acknowledged, "Kargil war was Pakistan's biggest blunder and disaster."

The war highlighted, once again, two basic assumptions for war planning: (a) despite whatever effort there may be to prevent it, there may be a war and (b) we cannot predict with certainty the pattern of war for which we prepare ourselves. On the strategic front, two major lessons that stood out were (a) although possession of nuclear weapons has made an all-out war less likely, so long as we have border and territorial disputes (like with Pakistan and China), Kargil type military conflicts could not be ruled out, and (b) an irregular or proxy war could easily escalate into a limited conventional war.

The war also emphasised that loss of territory, however remote or small, is just not acceptable to the public at large or to the political authority in India. Every Indian feels that every inch of territory has to be defended. The strategic impact of such a notion at the national level is that the armed forces cannot trade space (losing some here but trying to capture somewhere else where there is greater strategic advantage!)

for major offensive manoeuvres elsewhere. This is a peculiar strategic problem and a handicap faced by the Indian military, which intensifies in a limited war scenario. This implies that much greater attention has to be paid to intelligence, surveillance, and close defence of the borders or lines of control.

The absence of a pro-active politico-military strategy in India had resulted in a persistent belief among Pakistan's military leaders that India can be pushed for political and military advantages. Since Kargil war, such an impression has been further strengthened in the Indo-Pak military standoff in 2001-02 and 26/11 mayhem in Mumbai. This has seriously eroded India's military deterrence. Many defence analysts now feel that an activist retaliation policy against Pakistan has become a political imperative for India.

At another level, we have to seriously consider the conventional and sub-conventional conflicts proceeding at multiple levels below a nuclear threshold. These factors have made the Indian armed forces work on a limited war doctrine and to consider how small or big is the space between a proxy war and a conventional war?

The Kargil war involved a much greater level of integration of politics and military planning and execution. At military strategic level, inter-services planning were excellent, primarily because all three Service Chiefs had known each other since their National Defence Academy days and also worked together as Vice Chiefs. They had ready access to the Cabinet Committee on Security and the Prime Minister. The National Security Adviser, late Brajesh Mishra, was an ideal trouble shooter. In the unpredictable strategic and conflict environment that exist presently, it has become essential to maintain close and inter-active relations amongst military and political leaderships all the time.

Another aspect related to the nuclearised strategic environment was that even after the diplomacy has run its course and a decision to employ the military is made; the political leadership seldom allows autonomous conduct of the war to the military. In practice, therefore, we are seeing a continuing erosion of the dividing lines between war and politics.

Some other important lessons of the Kargil war were:

- Successful outcome of a border war depends upon our ability to react rapidly. The new strategic environment calls for faster decision making, versatile combat organizations, rapid deployment

and synergy amongst all elements involved in the war effort, particularly the three services.

- A conventional war may remain limited because of credible deterrence and escalation dominance. Such deterrence may prevent a war; it will also give more room for manoeuvre in diplomacy and in conflict.
- Information operations are important due to much greater transparency of the battlefield. The political requirement of a military operation and to retain moral high ground (and deny that to the adversary) needs a comprehensive media and information strategy.

All-weather Surveillance

The Kargil war had highlighted gross inadequacies in all-weather surveillance capabilities. Since then, this capability has been made up with indigenous satellites and aerial imagery with synthetic aperture radar. We have also acquired effective unmanned aerial vehicles, and most importantly, acquired and deployed hand-held thermal imagers, surveillance radars and ground sensors along the lines of control. Individual service and joint services doctrines have been revised. Some Special Forces units have been added to the strength of each service.

National Security Review and Higher Defense Management

After the war, it was felt that India required a holistic national security review as well as re-thinking on the nature of conflict in the new strategic environment and conduct of wars. This was done under a Group of Ministers. The National Security Review-2002 recommended several meaningful reforms to improve the Higher Defence Control Organisation, its systems and processes. Unfortunately, these were either not implemented, or implemented only cosmetically.

India now has a National Security Council. But there is no official document outlining its broad national security (including defence) policy and strategy. The government has hesitated in spelling it out due to lack of political consensus on its policies and the inability to address the crucial issues of coordination to formulate and address national security. There is no policy document or a white paper on broad national security policy and strategy for the near or long term. The absence of a coherent policy tends to make our responses ad hoc and less convincing.

The National Security Review-2002 had recommended creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff to provide single point military advice to the government and to resolve substantive inter-service doctrinal, planning, policy and operational issues. This is necessary because in India, turf wars, inter service rivalries, bureaucratic delays and political vacillation in decision making become major hurdles in defense planning which is tardy, competitive and thus uneconomical. Due to lack of political will and inter-service differences, this important recommendation was not implemented. Selective and cosmetic implementation of recommendations, without changing rules of business, ensured a status quo in the Higher Defense Control, its decision making processes and poor civil-military relations.

In June 2012, the UPA Government appointed the Naresh Chandra Committee to carry out yet another national security review. However, till date, its recommendations have neither been de-classified nor implemented. A strong, competent and committed political leadership is required to bring about improvements in the security

policies, Higher Defence Control Organisation and its systems, including its rules of business.

This realisation has made the government order yet another review under the Naresh Chandra Committee. If the recommendations of this Committee—now under study in the government—are processed and implemented in the same old manner, India may lose yet another opportunity to make its national security more effective.

Deficiencies in Weapons/Equipment and Modernisation

When Kargil war broke out, our holdings and reserves of weapons, ammunition and equipment were in a depleted state due to continuous lack of budgetary support, tedious procurement system, and raising of Rashtrya Rifles units without sanctions for their weapons and equipment. To the media, I had to state, “We will fight with whatever we have”.

It is evident from the letter written by the former Chief of Army Staff (now a Minister of State in the NDA Government) to the Prime Minister on 12 March 2012 that deficiencies in our war wastage reserves continue. He complained that the army's air defense weapon systems were obsolete, the infantry was deficient of crew served weapons and lacked night fighting capabilities, and its tank fleet was devoid of critical ammunition, and alleged that there was ‘hollowness in the procedures and processing time for procurements as well as legal impediments by vendors’.

The government has yet to rectify this chronic problem which has dogged the nation for decades. As a result modernisation of Indian armed forces continues to lag behind due to inadequate self reliance, fear of scams and reluctance to procure essential equipment from abroad. Despite a large net work of Defense Research and Development Organisation laboratories, ordnance factories and defense public sector undertakings, we continue to import 70 per cent of our weapons and equipment.

The government desires that private sector invests in defense industry and obtains higher technology from abroad. But due to vested interest of the defense public sector and its bureaucratic control, it has failed to provide a level playing field to Indian and foreign private sectors. The Defense Acquisition Council and Procurement Board, established after the Kargil war, have not succeeded in speeding up processes for development, acquisition and procurement.

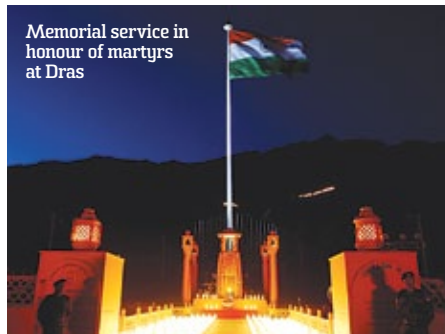
There is no point talking about revolution in military affairs, information systems and net centric warfare if we cannot induct relevant weapons and equipment in time. Efforts towards modernisation of the armed forces have not borne fruit, primarily due to the absence of holistic and long-term defence planning.

Conclusion

The Kargil war was not the first time when Pakistan initiated a war. And we must not assume that it would be the last time. India will remain vulnerable to such threats along its disputed borders unless it builds a credible will and capability to deter and dissuade its adversaries. An enduring lesson of Kargil war, indeed most wars, is that for national security, sound defense enables sound foreign policies.

The ongoing dialogue between India and its two territorial-hostile neighbours may result in peaceful, stable relations. The nation and its armed forces can hope for the best; but they must remain prepared for the worst. SP

The writer was the Chief of Army Staff during Kargil War.



Memorial service in honour of martyrs at Dras



LT GENERAL (RETD)
P.C. KATOCH

Lessons from Kargil conflict

Unless we have serving military professional inducted at senior and below levels in MoD, unless we have serving military professional at various levels including control and management in the DRDO, concerned DPSUs and OF, we are likely to continue in the same state – devoid of strategic culture and an erratic defence-industrial complex despite the hike in FDI in defence.

The enormity of the Kargil intrusions surprised the world but more significantly the Indian security establishment. There is little doubt that once discovered, response of the Indian war machine got going. The grit and determination of the Indian Army on display and the world watched with admiration as hill after hill, barren, devoid of cover and occupied by well fortified Pakistani regular army soldiers were assaulted and recaptured. Of course, the barrage of a hundred Bofors guns helped pulverise enemy defences to considerable extent. There are many ifs and buts in conflict situations and same was the case in this conflict. For example, if the Pakistani Army had maintained surprise till the time the snows shut off both the road axis leading to Ladakh, eviction of the enemy would have been that much more difficult, especially since Pakistan's next phase of operations was to wrest the Siachen area. What happened eventually is an open book; an emphatic military and diplomatic victory for India, greater glory to Indian Military and a blow to Pakistan as it stood shamed. Not without reason two Pakistani Prime Ministers later acknowledged that "Kargil war was Pakistan's biggest blunder and disaster." The grit and determination of the junior leaders surprised the enemy completely, throwing them in disarray. Victory over the enemy is celebrated every July 16 as Op Vijay Diwas by paying homage to the martyrs who sacrificed themselves in evicting the intruders, many earning gallantry awards in the process. What is significant and vital is not only to deduce the correct lessons but follow up on them, which perhaps has not happened in the required measures to date. Some of these are described in succeeding paragraphs.

The scale and extent of the intrusions that the enemy could undertake unquestionably indicated massive intelligence failures both at the strategic and tactical levels. Considering the number of NLI battalions supported by SSG that Pakistan was able to surreptitiously deploy, all movement beyond Skardu should have been brought to the notice of the Cabinet Committee of Security by the Joint Intelligence Committee. R&AW's claim that they had sent a note to the military about possible intrusions is an absolute joke. Just looking at Tololing with reference to Dras indicates that the ground level tactical intel-

ligence gathering too was nix. Have we learnt the lesson and improved? Judge for yourself that years later it is due to a report in the *New York Times* that India became aware of presence of some 11,000 Chinese in POK and Pakistan.

We need to have incognito boots on ground in all areas of Strategic importance to us; a culture that is grossly missing in our political and bureaucratic establishment, discounting the military that is deliberately kept away from strategic decision making. This practice of not throwing our eyes beyond borders and the thinking that technical intelligence by itself can make up such strategic void is outright stupid, doesn't recognise nuances of 21st century conflict situations and liable to cause us dearly in future as well, unless rectified. Special Forces play a crucial role in today's asymmetric warfare environment in providing continuous strategic intelligence. We fail to acknowledge this and exult in rapidly expanding the numbers of our Special Forces without making any effort to optimise their potential. Even during the Kargil conflict, Special Forces were hardly used for the type of tasks they are supposed to be tasked, even used in direct assaults for which they are not organised, resulting in needless casualties. The main support base of the enemy, the Gultari artillery position, could have been rendered ineffective by Special Forces, as would have their numerous helipads but they were not tasked for these because of the stipulation imposed of not crossing the line of control.

The appreciation that the area of the intrusions, especially Mushkoh area could not be subjected to enemy ingress during winter months was grossly wrong, considering that we ourselves were holding much higher and glaciated heights since 1984 at the Saltoro Range overshadowing the Siachen Glacier area. As it happened the enemy did ingress, that too at massive scale, during the winter months. These were Pakistani Army personnel but even were they to be terrorist infiltrators, as Pakistan wanted to portray, mass infiltration was very much possible. In the thick of winter of 1990, 7 Assam Rifles had ambushed and gunned down no less than 97 Pakistani infiltrators who had come through the glaciated Eagles Pass immediate south of Tangdhar in Northern Kashmir. These infiltrators wore ski clothing, bum-pads to slide down the snowy slopes and were carrying additional weapons in kitbags. In Kargil, vacation

of some posts during winter further facilitated the intrusions. In the case with a radical and deceitful enemy like Pakistan who had been indulging in cross-border firing in Jammu and Kashmir without reason, the concept of leaving wide gaps was suicidal. Today, while the Division in Ladakh in Kargil region has nine battalions upfront eye ball to eyeball with the enemy, we should have found the manpower to do so ab-initio, which would have prevented the Kargil intrusions. Regrettably not even one third of these nine battalions still have metal roads linking up the forward defended localities. We are in the same state along the line of actual control (LAC), both in terms of gaps and roads particularly in Eastern Ladakh where some 642 sq km of territory has been lost over the years because of these reasons, discounting erstwhile Defence Minister Antony's political statement in Parliament of not having lost even an inch.

One of the major reasons for our success in the Kargil conflict was the concentrated fire by some 100 Bofors guns that plastered enemy positions on the hilltops and ridges. Though India had

possess. It is only towards the end of the conflict that some improvisation was resorted to and enemy logistic support echelons and one support base could be targeted. There had been apparent lack of imagination, forethought and prioritisation on this count knowing full well that conflict along the LoC and LAC will primarily require targeting such positions. If the Air Force had the laser guided bombs during the Kargil conflict then coupled with Bofors fire, enemy positions particularly on Tiger Hill and Tololing could have been pulverised thoroughly and saved precious lives of troops assaulting uphill without cover. Hopefully, this requirement of laser guided bombs is being met in sync with operational plans of the Army albeit inter-Service synergy continues to be an illusion sans a CDS no matter the pretenses.

As regards technical surveillance and night fighting capabilities, yes few UAVs have been inducted and deployed and yes we have few indigenous satellites up, but we are nowhere close to 24x7 satellite cover in all areas like China has along the LAC. Every soldier does not have night fighting sights. Hand held surveillance devices are limited, bulk of which cannot look through in conditions of fog, mist, snow. The imported unattended ground sensors are ineffective in snow and DRDO has not been able to develop suitable replacement. Induction of MAVs to frontline troops is inordinately delayed. Radars have been deployed in limited numbers but the Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS), to optimise all intelligence, under development has been bogged down in red-tape of the service bureaucracy itself. There is even acute shortage of GPS at the army's cutting edge.

Finally are the vital voids of a national security strategy and a comprehensive defence review, both of which are contributed towards why the Kargil intrusions happened in the first place. Unfortunately, virtually no progress has been made on these counts. Even the recommendations of various committees have not been implanted despite the



Lt General Hooda paying homage at Kargil War memorial in Dras on July 26, 2014

imported 400 Bofors guns, further import of even spares had been stopped because of the Bofors scandal and no effort had been made over the decades to produce an indigenous version of these guns. Mercifully, it was possible to cannibalise these 400 guns to get the 100 Bofors operational. The artillery continues to be starved of new artillery guns. The proposal to import Howitzer guns from BAE Systems, USA appears to have been shelved despite successful trials because of development of the indigenous 'Dhanush'. But the question is how many years will it take to fill up existing artillery voids? Procurement of additional 130mm guns is no substitute where howitzers need to be tasked.

The Kargil intrusions were deep into our territory and the Air Force could have literally knocked out enemy positions on the hilltops provided they had laser guided weaponry, which they did not

fact that these studies were only peripheral to and never examined these vital issues in holistic fashion. The military continues to be kept away from strategic decision making. The MoD continues to be run by generalist bureaucrats who are not even accountable. There are no signs of the DRDO, DPSUs and OF being reorganised. Unless we have serving military professional inducted at senior and below levels in MoD, unless we have serving military professional at various levels including control and management in the DRDO, concerned DPSUs and OF, we are likely to continue in the same state - devoid of strategic culture and an erratic defence-industrial complex despite the hike in foreign direct investment in defence. If this is not rectified we can continue to celebrate Op Vijay Diwas annually and salute the Kargil martyrs without actually saluting them. SP

Reenergising Malabar

Ships assigned to Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Indian Navy, and US Navy steam alongside Ticonderoga-class guided-missile destroyer USS Shiloh (CG 67) during Malabar 2014



[By Ranjeet Kumar]

After an interregnum of five years India's most advanced and powerful warships engaged in war games with the nuclear powered warships of the US Navy along with the Japanese naval destroyers on the coast of Japan in the Western Pacific from July 24 to 30. The decision to invite Japan in the bilateral Indo-US Malabar annual exercises was taken by the previous UPA government in the last days of its administration and the present NDA government found it convenient to carry on with this move of reviving the trilateral maritime engagement, which is in fact in accordance with the Modi governments priority to deepen relations with Japan and US.

Describing the Malabar exercise as complex high end operational one that has grown in scope and complexity over the years, Captain D.K. Sharma, Spokesman of the Indian Navy said that the "exercises were conducted to enhance multinational maritime security relationships and mutual security issues. The Indian, Japanese and the US Navies have a common understanding and knowledge of a shared working environment at sea. This would further help advance the level of understanding of the navies."

If we decipher the very meaningful quote of the Navy Spokesman, it would become very apparent that the three countries exercised together to advance together mutual security interests, which are very obvious. India has a stake in the maintenance of the right to

freedom of navigation in the high seas of South and East China Sea, where China is trying to establish de-jure sovereignty, for which the Chinese military has already taken steps to control the skies over the area, by establishing the Air Defence Identification Zone. Japan also cannot leave the field unchallenged, whereas the Americans cannot let the Chinese dominate the Pacific sea. Hence the security interests of the three participating navies under the banner of Malabar converge in the Pacific sea. The invitation to Japan also shows that India wants to collectively protect its maritime interests in the area which is far away from its shores.

Apprehensive of Chinese reaction the US Pentagon officials tried to assuage their concerns, "It has absolutely no relations anything to do with China. If anything it is strengthening the US naval presence in the Pacific Ocean region...and maritime partnership with our allies. It is totally a routine exercise." However one Canadian naval official Rear Admiral Gilles Couturier commented, "It's good for Asian countries to take a greater role protecting security in the region. It's a good thing if Japanese rise up and try to deal with some of those situations."

Responding to the possible view in China the maritime security expert Captain Alok Bansal said, "China had earlier objected to the multilateral Malabar exercise. It has symbolism. They will feel that countries are ganging up against China. To assuage their feelings India may also engage in same bilateral naval exercise with China."

The Chinese did not refrain from officially reacting and advised

the three naval powers, "We hope defence cooperation among relevant countries can be conducive to peace and stability in the region. China actively promotes the Asian Security Concept that is based on common, comprehensive and sustainable security. A harmonious and stable Asia-Pacific region built on the basis of mutual trust among all countries is in line with the common interests of all countries in this region." The Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei further advised, "But at the same time it also requires all sides to put in an effort. We have noticed the relevant moves and hope that the actions by the relevant countries could follow this direction and should help in building mutual trust among the countries of the region and regional peace and stability."

The exercise featured both ashore and at-sea training, whilst ashore at Japanese Port Sasebo, from July 24 to 26. During this phase the naval officials of the three navies interacted on issues relating to carrier group operations, maritime patrol and reconnaissance operations, anti piracy operations and visit, board, search and seizure (VBSS) operations.

The sea phase of the exercise was from July 27 to 30 and was conducted in western pacific ocean. During this phase the three navies indulged in rescue exercises, helicopter cross-deck landings, underway replenishments, gunnery and anti-submarine warfare exercises, VBSS and Liason officer exchange and embarkation. According to the Indian navy spokesman, these are designed to enhance maritime cooperation among the navies of the participating nations, these exercises further hone individual capacity to conduct operations in a multi-national environment.

More than 7,000 US naval personnel on board the nuclear powered carrier USS George Washington, Ticonderoga class destroyer USS Shiloh. Arleigh Burke class destroyer John S McCain and nuclear powered submarine USS Columbus along with the P-3 Orion aircraft and MH-60R helicopters participated in this exercise. Indian navy was represented by three of its most advanced warships

the INS Ranvijay and Shivalik aided by fleet supporter ship INS Shakti. Interestingly these very ships participated in a joint Indo-Russian naval exercise Indra only a week ago. Japanese were represented by two of its leading destroyers.

The Indian and US navies had staged a short of maritime coup in 1992 when for the first time they initiated the Malabar joint naval exercises, immediately after the end of the dissolution of Soviet Union and the end of Cold War. Since then the two naval powers has engaged in maritime engagement 17 times and it reached its peak in 2007 when the scope of Malabar was expanded to five nations and in September, India and US invited three other nations Australia, Singapore and Japan for a massive get together of "like minded" navies. A year later four nations India, Australia, Japan and US naval officials met in Tokyo where the idea of a quadrilateral alliance was proposed but India developed a cold feet after a strong demarche from China. However, when the Malabar was organised again in the Western Pacific sea and Japan was invited to join, China once again reacted strongly and India finally decided to limit the exercise at the original bilateral level. But China's continuing assertiveness and aggressiveness in the South China Sea has raised alarm bells in South Block, forcing the strategic planners to engage in deeper trilateral engagement with US and Japan to protect its national maritime interests. India, whose 55 per cent of the world trade is conducted via South China Sea and the country's major military traffic also passes through this maritime area cannot let the international maritime area under the full control of Chinese navy. The three nation strategic engagement has perhaps cautioned China. Hence, immediately after the commencement of this year's edition of three nation Malabar exercise, China has limited its reaction only to advising the three powers to focus on developing mutual confidence. Probably, China has realised the limits of its assertiveness. SP



A boat dispatched from the Japanese ship Ashigara, carrying a Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force visit, board, search and seizure team makes its approach to USS John S. McCain (DDG 56), for a compliant boarding exercise

Getting familiar

The Embassy of China, New Delhi, recently organised a visit of an Indian media delegation to China for interactions at Beijing with the 4th Army Aviation Regiment, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), All-China Journalists Association (ACJA), Tencent (qq.com), Ministry of National Defense (MND), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), China Daily and Shanghai Naval Garrison. Reporting from Beijing and Shanghai is Lt General (Retd) P.C. Katoch who was part of this delegation representing SP Guide Publications.



The writer (on the extreme right) during the visit at Great Wall of China

97 per cent of India's trade is by sea and hence the safety of SLOCs is as important to India as China. India is aware of Chinese submarine activity in Indian Ocean region and India believes that India Ocean belongs to all.

PHOTOGRAPH: Chinese Embassy

The Embassy of China, New Delhi, recently organised visit of an Indian Press Delegation to China for interactions at Beijing with the 4th Army Aviation Regiment, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), All-China Journalists Association (ACJA), Tencent (qq.com), Ministry of National Defense (MND), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), China Daily, and Shanghai Naval Garrison.

The familiarisation visit gave an overview of what is happening in China. The stops included the 4th Army Aviation Regiment. The delegation was met and briefed by Senior Colonel Zhang Jilin, Commander of the Regiment. Their equipment includes attack helicopters, medium lift helicopters (Mi-17 equivalent) and fixed wing aircraft (C-130 equivalent). The tasks include attack, air support and tasks like rescue missions and locating space capsules returning to earth. Tasks are all land based, as naval aviation units cover operations at sea. The regiment is maintained at high state of readiness.

Pilots undergo a four year course from basic level to combat level.

China Institute of Strategic Studies (CIIS)

CIIS is the primary think tank of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) and it also trains Chinese diplomats. The briefing was done by Jia Xiudong, Senior Research Fellow, mainly hinging on the overwhelming desire for peace by China, maintaining friendly relations with all neighbours and bright prospects of India-China relations. Lan Jianxue, Associate Research Fellow who has visited India many times spoke at length about India-China relations, highlighting Prime Minister Modi's achievements.

The discussions centred around:

- China's concern about the situation in Iraq-Syria and about possible fallout in Af-Pak region.
- China wants peace in Afghanistan and looks to Afghanistan's economic upliftment
- In its relationship with India, Panchsheel is being forged as the mainstay.

Changing India-China relations – will they go all the way?

[By Lt General (Retd) P.C. Katoch]

The trip to China from June 29 to July 5, 2014, included visit and interactions at Beijing with 4th Army Aviation Regiment, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS), ACJA, Tencent (qq.com), Ministry of National Defense (MND), China Daily, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), China Daily, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and at Shanghai with Shanghai Naval Garrison and ACJA Shanghai Branch, besides sight-seeing at both cities. Discussions were in a spirit of camaraderie and on wide ranging issues including geopolitics, international relations, prevailing situations in the Middle East, Af-Pak region, Asia-Pacific and IOR, plus the scourge of terrorism and prospects of future India-China relations.

The issue of settlement of the India-China border did figure prominently, as did the BDCA, additional Chinese demand of a 'Code of Conduct' to supplement the BDCA, and need for continuation and enlargement of CBMs. China has a strong economy and its military potential is growing at enormous pace with requisite government focus on RMA and research and development.

Defence needs including weapon platforms like fixed wing aircrafts and helicopters are largely met indigenously, some produced through joint ventures with foreign firms. China has made good progress in the space, cyberspace and electromagnetic domains as well. Early this year, China successfully tested a hypersonic platform that will boost delivery of ordnance considerably.

In the cyber field, China has its own hardware, soft ware and operating systems. Tencent is and Internet company placed at number four out of 100 companies globally by Forbes. It offers the equivalent of Skype, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon, microchat, Wizard, Google, Gaming etc and claims on improvement over Twitter. They also offer V-chat which is the equivalent of Whatsapp.

All journalists in China must be member of ACJA, which has a laid down 'Code of Ethics' for journalists, punishment for default ranging from fiscal fine to being jailed. All media, therefore, is government controlled. Strict party control at all levels not only in media but in all spheres has its own fallouts, with youth awareness and craving for no curbs. Recent protests in Hong Kong are just one example.

Though China cites capability and intentions in portraying threats from the US, Japan, South Korea, etc, the actual threat to China is from within. Therefore, great effort goes towards imbuing nationalism. Despite the economic progress, China is also battling poverty. Then is the problem of the Uighur insurgency in Xinjiang that appears to be on the rise with considerable quantities of illegal weapons recovered within China. Then is the question of the ETIM terrorists inside Pakistan supporting Uighurs, which China axiomatically would be concerned no matter the outward bonhomie shown towards Pakistan. Then there have been media reports of problem between Chinese personnel on various development projects both in Myanmar and Gilgit-Baltistan.

On the issue of India-China relations, some plain speaking


between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping can perhaps address the complex border settlement issue. It is but natural that with three Generals in the powerful Politburo, the urge to be aggressive is natural.

Just as the Indian media delegation commenced its China trip, two months of high drama of confrontation around the Chinese oil rig in Vietnamese waters has just ended, at one stage some 70 Chinese ships intimidating the Chinese Coast Guard vessels.

With regard to the prolonged Chinese intrusion in Eastern Ladakh during April 2013 (ostensibly 19 km deep into Indian territory in Raki Nala area of Dopsang plains), the explanation given was that the local Chinese commander wanted to go pitch tents in a sunny area due to severe cold at his own post. But that hardly is plausible because then you don't carry a 30 feet banner reading "this is Chinese territory" and display it to the whole world. The hard fact is that despite years of border talks, China has not exchanged maps for the western sector (Ladakh) and Eastern Sector (erstwhile NEFA) and her territorial claims in these sectors have been progressively been increasing over the years.

The claim to entire state of Arunachal Pradesh was made as recent as 2005. India too fully understands that China gives scant respect to economic cooperation in regard to territorial claims, Taiwan being the top example. It is also clear that with increasing CNP, China does not care much about international arbitration and wants to resolve issues on bilateral basis – EEZ disputes with Philippines and Vietnam being examples. Then is the question of sharing of river waters keeping international norms of sharing on the basis of size of the river basin. But is China prepared to discuss this with India? In this aspect, visit of the Indian Vice President to China has not achieved beyond China agreeing to share hydrological data during the flooding season.

In the present scenario with Prime Minister Narendra Modi heading a majority government in India and his equation with the Chinese hierarchy, the scope for enhancing the India-China relationship to the next level is almost boundless. But economic cooperation apart, taking the relationship all the way to usher a new Asian century is only possible if the vexed border issue is resolved speedily accommodating Indian strategic interests.

In matters of international cooperation, nations must first learn to respect each other on equal footing. This does not appear to be the case today. While China is doing several development projects in Pakistan occupied Kashmir (with reports of tunnels being dug for deployment of missiles), she objects to India's assistance to Vietnam in oil exploration. This sort of attitude has to change. It is no secret that China has been trying very hard to get access to the warm waters of the Indian Ocean through Myanmar and Pakistan. Resolving the border with India should actually be a massive geopolitical gain to China by getting access to Indian ports via Nepal, though that axes may well be figuring in a Chinese offensive plan against India – cashing on the most unexpected. The leadership in both India and China are surely weighing these issues but a strong and meaningful India-China relationship can actually change the geopolitics of Asia and the world. 



Indian media delegation visits Chinese naval ship Ji'an in Shanghai

- China has resolved its borders with all neighbours less India and Bhutan but China will never use force to do so unless attacked.
- The situation in Asia-Pacific is fluid but China does not have any desire for use of force.
- China and US have over 90 bilateral dialogues covering every conceivable issue and the economic interdependence is intense. Logically, this should deter conflict.
- To explore scope of India-China cooperation for evacuation of respective nationals from trouble spots like Iraq, government to government dialogue is required.
- Pakistan herself is a victim of terror though China has always advised Pakistan to be careful about radicalisation and terrorism.

Tencent (qq.com)

Established in 1998, Tencent is a top level internet company of China. It offers the equivalent of Skype, Facebook, Twitter, Amazon, Microchat, Wizard, Google, Gaming etc and claims on improvement over Twitter. They also have V-chat which is the equivalent of Whatsapp, being used in 200 countries. Tencent has been listed at number 4 out of the 100 top level internet companies by Forbes. The company has 24,000 employees and also has offices in Delhi and Mumbai. 50 per cent of money is earned through the gaming application. Edgarchen, Manager Government Affairs. Tencent claimed that Tencent has nothing to do with the Chinese Government and owes no obligations to the latter. However, when the US NSA has been snooping globally using Google and Microsoft Windows, logically China would be using Tencent similarly.

Foreign Affairs Office of MND

The Senior Colonel Yang Yujun, Spokesperson and Deputy Director-General, Information Office of MND briefed about the organisational structure of Chinese army and China's National Defense policy. It was emphasised that China will never attack but will definitely counter-attack, when attacked. The Defense Policy includes "Crackdown on separatist forces for "East Turkistan and Tibet Independence".

The discussions revolved around:

- **April 2013 Intrusion in Depsang.** Explanation given was that since the nearest Chinese location was very cold, the local commander decided to pitch some tents in the sunny area of Depsang but when India asked them to vacate the location, a hawkish stance was adopted by China. China had no intention of making any intrusion. This appeared faced because then there was no reason for them to display a 30 feet banner stating that they were in Chinese territory.

- **Threat:** On being questioned what possible threat China faces and who can attack China, response was that this must be related to capability and not intent, as the latter could change overnight. The US has very potent capabilities and countries like Japan and South Korea have considerable military prowess as well.
- **Code of Conduct along Border:** It was pointed out that immediately after signing of the BDCA, now China was proposing yet another agreement about 'Code of Conduct' along the border. Response was that this is to eliminate chances of any possible clash.
- **Boundary Settlement:** Indian side pointed out that Chinese claims in the Western and Eastern Sectors have been expanded over the years along the LAC. It was conveyed to the Chinese side that the benefit of resolving the border would be opening up of Indian ports to China.
- **Pakistan:** The stance of Pakistan continuing to be a victim of terrorism was repeated by the Chinese side. Mention was also made of Pakistan's offensive in North Waziristan. We pointed out that eyewitness accounts on the internet indicate nothing much would be achieved, radical leaders having left the area. It was also conveyed that as per the Syrian Ambassador at Delhi, some 5,000 Pakistan Taliban are assisting rebels in Syria and some would have joined the ISIS. On the question of ETIM radicals in Pakistan, Chinese response was that China has good cooperation with Pakistan in counter terrorism.
- **Weapon Exports:** On the question that while China is exporting arms to all of India's neighbours, why does China not respond to global tenders floated by India for importing arms since this would be the best form of CBM, the Chinese side was caught by surprise. Response was that this needed discussion at government to government basis.
- **Indo-US Relationship:** Indian side conveyed that Chinese concerns about possible Indo-US alliance against China are baseless as India is a non-aligned country. At the same time, 97 per cent of India's trade is by sea and hence the safety of SLOCs is as important to India as China. India is aware of Chinese submarine activity in Indian Ocean region and India believes that India Ocean belongs to all.
- **Terrorism:** The scourge of terrorism affects all and China looks towards cooperation with all countries to combat this menace.

Shanghai Naval Garrison

The brief was given by Senior Captain Wu Xiao Deng. Shanghai is strategically important to China although no Fleet HQ is based in Shanghai. The discussions were on:

- India-China cooperation on the high seas is important for protection of SLOCs and against sea piracy and terrorism.
- Shanghai Naval Garrison responsibility is from the coast-line and beyond. Responsibility on rivers inland is of the army.
- Responsibility to counter smuggling of narcotics and arms from sea is that of the Police and the Naval Garrison cannot comment on such events over last five years.
- Minesweeping is undertaken when the situation so demands.
- Interaction between the Indian Navy and PLAN needs to be increased and possibility of navy-to-navy joint exercises explored.
- The delegation was taken aboard a 2013 commissioned state-of-the-art Corvette that has been constructed in just one year.

The visit essentially was a public relations exercise by China. According to Rong Changhai, Deputy Director, International Liaison Department of ACJA who accompanied the Indian Press Delegation, China plans to send a similar delegation to India next year (for which they are looking for an invitation from India) and hope to make this a regular affair to improve understanding of each other. SP



LT GENERAL (RETD)
P.C. KATOCH

Agenda for the new Army Chief

When the top of the tree has been rotting for years, what is the point of watering the roots, and more importantly which Service Chief is supposed to raise these issues with a powerless HQ IDS and the the COSC a Committee, the naked truth being that a committee cannot manage defence of a country, and band aid cannot substitute surgery.

PHOTOGRAPH: PIB

It is customary for articles to come up coinciding with change of command or new appointments, be they the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister or the Army Chief. But what really do you tell the new Army Chief who though still young at 59 years of age, has decades of army service under his belt in all type of situations; operations, field, no war no peace, peace, in command and all types of operational staff? What is it that he does not know or would not have planned for, knowing full he would eventually be the Chief? Would he not have his vision, agenda, objectives, focus areas and modalities worked out?

He has already warned adversaries that a befitting and immediate response will be given to any mischief. So, it would be perfunctory and futile to talk about modernisation of the army, making up critical deficiencies, improving officer-men relationship, stamping out corruption and sycophancy, bringing up image of the Army, pay and allowances, OROP, etc. Of course he must push hard to streamline the service bureaucracy that outweighs even that of Ministry of Defence (MoD); something not being addressed at all.

But now the Army Chief (as all Service Chiefs) has a unique opportunity in meeting the Prime Minister every month – in accordance with Prime Minister Modi's directive. Whether, the Defence Minister and Defence Secretary are also present during such meetings is not material. The Chiefs therefore can convey issues directly to the PM, like: important one's being: the need to integrate military in all decision making on matters military including strategy formulation – mere directive to MoD of seeking Services views not being enough; urgent need to review border control management and placing all sensitive areas (like Depsang and Chumar) directly under command the Army; the pitfalls of defining an LTIPP without a National Security Strategy and Comprehensive Defence Review; urgent need for an RMA under the PM/designated political authority (draft Act of Parliament to be worked out jointly by the three Services and introduced in winter

session of Parliament), urgent need to induct serving military officers at all levels into MoD and in restructuring DRDO, DPSUs and OF; merging HQ IDS completely with MoD; lack of synergy within the three Services including, need to accelerate capacity building for NCW, with recommendations and a specified timeframe; establishment of Integrated Theatre Commands and Integrated Functional Commands without increasing manpower, as possible; immediate withdrawal of MoD/DESW appeals against pay and allowances of war widows, war wounded and disabled soldiers; establishment of credible deterrence against proxy war including pro-active covert employment of Special Forces, etc.



Undoubtedly, critics would cry blue murder – that many of these issues are not relevant to army alone. But, when the top of the tree has been rotting for years, what is the point of watering the roots, and more importantly which Service Chief is supposed to raise these issues with a powerless HQ IDS and the the COSC a committee (like all committees – this one a ploy of the bureaucrats), the naked truth being that a committee cannot manage defence of a country, and band aid cannot substitute surgery. Issues as above, need to be pressed home by 'all' Service Chiefs including the new Army Chief. The alternative approach available is three bags full; keep pushing cases to MoD and wait till the cows come home. **SP**

The views expressed herein are the personal views of the author.



LT GENERAL (RETD)
P.C. KATOCH

Downing of MH-17 - deliberate or terror act?

Downing of the Malaysian Air MH-17 commercial airliner in eastern Ukraine has been yet another ghastly act that has resulted in the tragic loss of 298 passengers and crew from 11 countries. The missile most likely was fired from a BUK Anti Aircraft Missile System held by both Ukraine and Russia but then the same system is also in possession of Ukrainian rebels who overran Ukrainian positions in the recent past. That these rebels have the knowhow to use the system is under debate.

The US administration is building a case that using these missiles required 'specialist' help but it is not whether such specialists are part of the rebels, having willingly crossed over or taken hostage. Why was MH-17 downed in Eastern Ukraine. Obama blamed Russia almost instantaneously for having provided the missile system to Ukrainian rebels but that logic is similar if the Iraqi Army was to be blamed for 'providing' tanks and artillery to the ISIS. Two days after the airliner was shot down, FBI investigators arrived in Ukraine as did investigators from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe but whether any worthwhile clues would be found is questionable since the crash site in the conflict zone has been trespassed repeatedly.

Alexander Borodai, head of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, said he was willing to cooperate with international investigators and denied Ukraine's claim that the rebels removed 38 bodies and took them to Donetsk. The plane's black boxes are being handed over to Malaysia. The Ukrainian government has blamed the crash on Russian-backed separatists. But then Ukraine and US must also take responsibility for this tragedy because it was they who started using aerial firepower to attack and kill the rebels. Such use of aerial firepower should strictly be illegal but then it is routine for US and NATO. And in so doing, did Ukraine and ally US notify the civil aviation authorities about use of airspace for fighting the rebels. So, the rebels were already firing at planes and Ukraine should have closed down its airspace to civil aviation.

Considering the involvement of US in Ukraine, surely the area was under 24x7 satellite cover by the US and logically the heat signatures of the trajectory of the missile should have been noticed and snapshot of it taken. It is also common knowledge that for months Russia has confounded US-NATO's attempts to over-

throw the Ukraine regime and reorganize it along its western border.

US Special Forces have been operating in Ukraine since last year and it was CIA operation to fund rebels in western Ukraine, who occupied government buildings in Kiev and forced the Ukrainian President to flee, rebels ostensibly funded by Ford Foundation. While NATO managed to violently remove the elected government of Viktor Yanukovich, the proxies it chose to replace it with as incompetent as the Muslim Brotherhood that was established in Egypt. In quick succession, Crimea peeled away from Kiev and became a federal district of Russia, while the provinces of Donetsk and Lugansk declared independence and sought closer ties with neighboring Russia.

What would Russia, already bombarded by US through sanctions, gain by downing MH-17. In contrast, by blaming Russia, US-NATO would score a geopolitical victory. Donn Martin, attributes the US blame-game against Putin for not accepting the illegally installed US backed, neo-Nazi infested coup in Ukraine and refusing to bow to the demands of Uncle Sam. While accidental downing of the plane by Russia cannot be totally discounted considering some reports that the plane was not flying the designated route, its downing could well have been CIA operation with USSF operating in Ukraine and proxy forces world over available on hire especially if Putin was the target? It could also have been Ukraine. Remember the Sarin Gas attack on hapless civilians in Syria? FSB (Russian intelligence) reported UK's top mercenary outfit 'Britain Defence' (world's largest mercenary force) delivered a chemical weapon to Syrian rebels, proposed by Qatar and approved by Washington to Syrian rebels - used eventually for Sarin attack. Intercepts of 'Britain Defence' said, "We'll have to deliver a CW (chemical weapon) to Homs, a Soviet origin g-shell from Libya similar to those that Assad should have. They want us to deploy our Ukrainian personnel that should speak Russian and make a video record". Of course, downing of MH-17 on own initiative by the rebels where air power is being used to kill them cannot be discounted either. More significantly, new reports have emerged that Kiev deliberately radioed MH-17 to divert course to the fatal route, that two Ukrainian fighters were escorting the ill-fated airliner over Ukraine and that 'immediately' post the missile hit, Kiev announced the downing. The bottom-line, however, is the loss of 298 innocent lives, extinguished forever. **SP**



Buk-M1-2 SAM system

What would Russia, already bombarded by US through sanctions, gain by downing MH-17. In contrast, by blaming Russia, US-NATO would score a geopolitical victory.

Relinquishing of command by General Bikram Singh

General Bikram Singh on July 31 relinquished the command of Indian Army and hung his uniform after a career spanning 42 years. On the eve of his superannuation, the General officer extended his gratitude to all ranks of the Indian Army. He also paid rich tributes to brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty as also those who suffered grave injuries while upholding India's honour and security.

The tenure of General Bikram Singh was marked by people friendly operations in Jammu and Kashmir and the North East while maintaining a high state of operational preparedness along the borders. More often than not, the first responder to a national crisis, the Army's professionalism was aptly demonstrated during the Uttarakhand tragedy. The General also initiated measures to refine modernisation procedures. His efforts were able to bring in greater transparency and accountability in all policies and procedures



while ensuring greater financial probity.

His tenure of two years resulted in desired accretion of combat power achieved in the form of commencement of raising of Mountain Strike Corps. The tenure also saw a boost to infrastructure development along Northern borders by improving efficiency of Border Roads Organisation, outsourcing of projects and expediting the processes of environmental/forest clearance.

The outgoing Army Chief also initiated a review of Army's human resource policies to fulfil the aspirations of the officers and soldiers as also the requirements of the organisation. His efforts to bring about an organisational wellness that permeated the rank & file of the Indian Army were reflected in the high levels of motivation and morale demonstrated by all ranks of the Indian Army. General Bikram also crafted a legacy in his pioneering efforts towards the welfare of Army Veterans, Veer Naris and widows.

General Bikram Singh is succeeded by General Dalbir Singh, who assumes charge on August 1, 2014. **SP**

Army Chief pays homage to martyrs



On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of 'Operation Vijay Diwas', General Bikram Singh, COAS arrived at Dras on July 25. The Army Chief was received by Lt General D.S. Hooda, Army Commander, Northern Command and Lt General B.S. Negi, GOC, 14 Corps.

The visit started with a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the war memorial by the Army Chief. General Bikram Singh also interacted with the 'next of kin' of the martyrs, Veer Naris and the gallantry award winners. In the somber mood at the event, all present remembered the losses borne proudly by the families of those who sacrificed their sons, husbands or brothers in the Kargil War in 1999.

Addressing the media, the COAS complimented them for their patriotic fervor and thanked them for covering the Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations year after year. He stated that paying homage to the martyrs who laid down their life for the nation's cause was the most befitting way for him to mark the culmination of his career in

the Army. The chief stated that our defence preparedness is much better today than it was 15 years ago. He assured the nation that the Indian Army is fully capable of safeguarding the nation's sovereignty and territorial integrity. **SP**

Visit of UN delegation

A four member UN delegation led by Herve Ladsous, Under Secretary General of United Nations at the Department of Peace Keeping Operations called on the Chief of Army Staff, General Bikram Singh, R.K. Mathur, Defence Secretary and VCOAS on July 25.

The delegation appreciated India's contribution to global peace-keeping efforts. Ladsous commended the professionalism, commitment and dedication of Indian Peace peepers. The discussions covered a wide range of issues related to current UN peace keeping efforts including emerging trends and associated challenges. Discussions were also held on enhancing the effectiveness of UN lead peace efforts in future. **SP**



VLF transmitting station commissioned at Tamil Nadu



Admiral R.K. Dhowan, Chief of the Naval Staff, inaugurated a new state-of-the-art “Very Low Frequency (VLF)” transmitting station at INS Kattaboman, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recently. This new facility would provide a boost to the Navy’s ability to communicate with deployed ships and submarines on an uninterrupted basis throughout the year. India is among a handful of nations in the world that has such a capability.

VLF radio waves are used for communicating with submarines that are underwater and the Indian Navy has been operating a similar facility for the last 24 years. The new facility incorporates cutting edge technology and will provide the Navy significantly enhanced reach, redundancy and operational features. Being a Navy that deploys globally to represent and protect Indian national interests, the Service has an elaborate communication infrastructure, including modern satellite communication facilities, to link and network its deployed units with their home bases and command and control centres. The new VLF station will strengthen this infrastructure and provide the Navy additional operational advantages.

The new facility equipment has been constructed by Larsen and Turbo divisions in Chennai and Bengaluru. Interestingly, the facility boasts of the highest masts structures in India, as well as several other unique engineering feats. **SP**

MKU selected by Republic of Ecuador for providing ballistic protection to its police force

MKU Pvt. Ltd., a leading manufacturer of ballistic protection solutions for personnel and land-air-sea platforms has been awarded a contract for 40,000 body armour by the Republic of Ecuador for upgrading the protection of its Police Force. MKU had participated in a global tender in Ecuador for the contract.

The body armour selected by the Ministry of Interior, Ecuador had gone through extensive tests and field trials before being selected. The body armour is tested and certified by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), USA as compliant to their most stringent 0101.06 standard.

The contract was awarded to MKU Pvt Ltd., by Minister of Interior of Ecuador Sr. Jose Serrano Salgado at MKU’s 100 per cent EOU at Kanpur, India. This is the single largest export order received by an Indian company for body armour.

While awarding the contract, Ecuador Minister of Interior Sr. Jose Serrano Salgado congratulated MKU on winning the contract and stated that, “MKU was selected on the basis of meeting all specifications and requirements as per the global tender.” He added that this decision was extremely important as the country likes to take the best decision for their people and police. “The lives of our police are the lives of our people.”

The Minister also stated that the delegation would be coming back to India in few months time to hold discussions with the Indian Home Ministry for an MoU for a strategic alliance.

Speaking on the occasion of the signing ceremony of the contract, Manoj Gupta, Chairman MKU, stated, “MKU is extremely proud to receive this order. India is looked upon primarily as an importer of defense and security equipment. Orders like this will help in putting India on the export map of world class defense and security technology.” He added, “It was about 15 years ago that India had imported body armour for Kargil. It makes everyone at MKU very proud that today we have achieved the technological excellence to export these from India.” **SP**

Gyro-stabilised Talon platform

Paradigm SRP has introduced the gyro-stabilised TALON platform system by which a soldier can obtain precise accuracy from any helicopter, watercraft, or vehicle, using rifle and scope.

This pinpoint precision is achieved by incorporating state of the art mil-spec gyros, high speed servos, and advanced circuitry into a precision machined two axis turret. Paradigm MEMS gyros send out digital attitude data to the high speed servo motors via a custom engineered and programmed circuit board. This allows stabilisation correction solutions to be made thousands of times per second.

The marksman can operate the TALON from a revolutionary hand controller with an integrated HD color monitor and fire control system. Laser range and inclination data is overlaid directly to the hand controller’s monitor.

The TALON is easily transported by a single operator. Installation of the TALON is rapidly performed by securing it with any type of cargo straps. Quick Disconnect (QD) mounts handle any Picatinny rail equipped rifle making attaching/detaching your weapon system lightning fast. The TALON mount allows the shooter to stay on target, even at full optic magnification, from a helicopter or any other moving vehicle.



The marksman/sniper-specific gyroscopic weapons mount called the Talon Gyro-Stabilized Marksman Platform/Universal Weapons Mount (GSMP/UWM), allows a marksman or sniper to engage the enemy with precise shots on the move, even at high speed.

The Talon GSMP’s features include: Quick-detach (QD) mounting system; HD wide-angle camera; HD reticle camera that mounts to the scope; Proprietary remote trigger activation device; Hand Controller with HD monitor providing scope view, wide-angle view and picture-in-picture capability; Fire control system (viewable on handheld monitor); Weapon control system (on monitor); 2,000-metre (2000M) laser range finder; Adjusted ranging provides shooting solutions for angular shooting; Brass catcher for airborne applications and 54 lbs weight. **SP**

Indian Air Force receives sixth C-17 Globemaster III

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received its sixth C-17 Globemaster III on July 28. On its arrival, the Defence Minister Arun Jaitley visited the Airbase and familiarised himself with the aircraft. The Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha conducted the minister through the aircraft and briefed him on the strategic capability and role of the aircraft. The Defence minister was also given a detailed brief by the Commanding Officer Group Captain B.S. Reddy.

The government accorded approval to buy 10 C-17 Globemaster III along with associated equipment for the IAF in June 2011. The first of the 10 aircraft touched down in India on 18th June 2013 and the delivery of all 10 is expected to be completed by December 2014. This aircraft will enhance the operational potential of the IAF with its payload carriage and performance (about 75 tonnes) and would augment the strategic reach (about 4,500 km) of the nation during operations, disaster relief or any similar mission. **SP**



Cobham, Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) agreement for aerial refuelling equipment

Cobham and Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) have agreed that TASL will manufacture for Cobham's world – leading 5th generation air-to-air refuelling equipment at TASL's facility in Hyderabad, India.

The partnership also reinforces TASL's continued fast – paced growth towards being a preferred partner to the global aerospace & defence industry. As a leader in the aerostructures industry in India, TASL has successfully undertaken complex global transition programs for Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation and has recently announced a new partnership with RUAG Aviation for the Do 228-212 NG structures.

"This business agreement has been implemented as a key element of our business strategy to establish a world class supply chain footprint in India to support long term programme delivery obligations, including proposed India air-to-air refuelling requirements. This multi-million pound engagement marks the beginning of a strategic long term arrangement with TASL," said David Squires, Chief Operating Officer of Cobham.

"The relationship between Tata and Cobham is a testimony of new-generation partnerships with key technology leaders from across the globe are partnering with

India and the Tata group for their global customers. In Cobham, we see a commonality of values, which are a foundation for future collaboration. We seek to develop this into a strategic partnership wherein we would be partners in the growth and success of Cobham and its customers," said S. Ramadorai, Chairman-Tata Advanced Systems. **SP**

Brazil orders Airbus C295



Brazil has signed a contract with Airbus Defence and Space for the acquisition of three Airbus C295 search and rescue (SAR) aircraft. The three aircraft will progressively be delivered to the Brazilian Air Force (FAB) from the end of this year under the terms of an agreement which also includes a five-year full in service support (FISS) contract.

In Brazilian service the SAR aircraft will join 12 transport-configured C295 aircraft,

taking the total FAB C295 fleet to 15.

"We are very proud of this repeat order which demonstrates Brazil's high level of confidence in our light and medium aircraft family as well as confirming the C295's demonstrated excellence in the SAR role," said Antonio Rodríguez Barberán, Head of Commercial for Military Aircraft. **SP**

Third A400M MSN 010 in French Air Force

The French Air Force has transferred to the Centre d'Expériences Aériennes Militaires (CEAM), its aerial trials unit, the acceptance process of its third A400M Atlas military transport aircraft.

On July 25 the A400M Multi-National Entry Into Service Team (MEST A400M), a CEAM sub-unit based at Orléans Bricey air base, dispatched a team to Seville, Spain, to take delivery of aircraft MSN010 and ferry it to France.

This aircraft has increased capabilities compared to the first two aircraft which were delivered last year. Its flight envelope has been significantly increased, and now allows the aircraft to reach its contractual ceiling of 12,000 meters. It also can fly Category II approaches in very low visibility. Moreover, its carrying capacity has been increased because two cargo pallets can now be carried on the rear ramp.

The MEST A400M carries out all the operations of flight check out and delivery. This unit also includes military personnel from foreign countries participating in the A400M programme. **SP**

First two Australian F-35s roll out

Lockheed Martin recently commemorated the official roll out of the first two F-35 Lightning II aircraft for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

"We celebrate a milestone in the US-Australia partnership, a partnership built on strength, friendship, and technological innovation," said Frank Kendall, US Under-Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics. "

Joining Kendall at the ceremony, among various distinguished guests in attendance, were Air Marshal Geoff Brown, Chief of RAAF; and Marillyn Hewson, Lockheed Martin chairman, president and CEO.

The F-35 Lightning II aircraft will provide the Royal Australian Air Force with a transformational 5th generation fighter capability and provides significant benefits to the Australian aerospace industry, with more than \$412 million already contracted and up to \$6 billion in expected manufacturing orders over the life of the programme.

The aircraft, known as AU-1 and AU-2, are scheduled to undergo functional fuel system checks before being transported to the flight line for ground and flight tests in the coming months. The jets are scheduled to be delivered to the Royal Australian Air Force later this year, and will be based at Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, where they will be used for Australian and partner country pilot training.



The F-35 Lightning II is the world's most advanced military aircraft and for over a decade, the U.S. and our allies have invested in developing this fifth-generation, international, multi-role fighter aircraft that will serve as a cornerstone of global security in the 21st century. **SP**

Boeing delivers upgraded French AWACS aircraft



Boeing on July 17 delivered on schedule the first of four upgraded French Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft. The upgraded aircraft will increase the fleet's surveillance, communications and battle management capabilities.

The mid-life upgrade – the largest set of modifications to AWACS aircraft for France – will provide the crew with more actionable information and better situational awareness and increase mission effectiveness and efficiencies.

"The focus, commitment and hard work among Boeing, Air France Industries and French and U.S. government teams were

key in achieving this milestone on schedule," said Steve Swanz, French AWACS programme manager for Boeing. Modifications to the other three French AWACS aircraft are scheduled for completion by the third quarter of 2016. **SP**

Airbus completes P-3 Orion modernisation for Brazil

Airbus Defence and Space has delivered the last of the nine P-3 Orion anti-submarine warfare (ASW) aircraft modernised with new systems and avionics for the Brazilian Air Force (FAB). The aircraft has been ferried from Seville, Spain to Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, where it will be based.

Airbus Defence and Space has installed its fully integrated tactical system (FITS) and a completely new suite of mission sensors, communications systems and cockpit avionics. In addition, the aircraft engines and structures were updated, extending the fleet's operational life for many years to come and providing Brazil with a modern and highly effective asset suitable for military and civic duties including anti-submarine, maritime patrol, search and rescue, and economic exclusion zone enforcement.

"This has been a large and complex programme and we are very proud of the work done in upgrading the Brazilian P-3 fleet.

The FAB now has one of the most modern fleets in its class," said Antonio Rodríguez Barberán, Head of Commercial for Military Aircraft with Airbus Defence and Space. **SP**

Lockheed Martin wins six C-130J-30s for India



Lockheed Martin Aeronautics, Marietta, Georgia, has been awarded a not to exceed \$564,700,000 modification (P00273) to FA8625-11-C-6597 to fund six India foreign military sales C-130J-30s, field service representatives and three years of post-delivery support after the first aircraft delivery.

The total cumulative face value of the contract is \$2,067,370,707. Work will be performed at Marietta, Georgia, and is expected to be completed by April 30, 2020. This contract is 100 per cent FMS for India and \$50,900,000 will be obligated at time of award. **SP**

Tackling Naxal menace in a coordinated way

The Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju has said in Parliament that the weapon holding of Left Wing Extremists is not superior to the weaponry used by the security forces in the LWE affected area. The LWE outfits are using weapons/equipments like LMG, AK-47, SLR, .303 rifles, GF rifles, HE grenades and VHF & HF sets for attacks on security forces.

There are reports that the CPI (Maoist) is focusing on further augmentation of its military capability to increase the lethality of its armory. The use of rockets, mortars and Molotov cocktails through indigenously manufactured launchers have also been witnessed during some attacks on security forces in the Bastar region.

He said that the banned CPI(Maoist) party has its own weapons manufacturing unit called the Technical Research and Arms Manufacturing (TRAM) unit. The TRAM caters to the weapons/ammunition requirement of the CPI (Maoist). The LWE have an intelligence network, mainly among villagers in their strongholds.

The Central Government has a four pronged strategy to tackle LWE insurgency – security related measures; development

related measures; ensuring rights and entitlements of local communities and public perception management, wherein it supplements the efforts of the State Governments over a wide range of schemes and measures. Several steps have been taken to strengthen and upgrade the capabilities of intelligence agencies at the central and state level. This includes intelligence sharing through multi-agency centre (MAC) at the central level and state MAC (SMAC) at the state level on 24x7 basis. Training in intelligence is an integral part of regular training imparted to security personnel belonging to Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs). The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Border Security Force (BSF) have set up their own schools to provide training on intelligence to its troops.

The LWE affected states have been advised from time to time to strengthen their intelligence wings/State Intelligence Bureaus (SIBs). Steps have been taken to improve the intelligence network – technical intelligence and human intelligence through continuous technical upgradation and regular training of personnel on surveillance & intelligence collection techniques and analysis of technical intelligence, with the funds provided under the modernisation of police force (MPF) scheme. **SP**

Inter-State Joint Force to tackle Maoist attacks

During the current year (upto July 11, 2014) 620 incidents of left wing extremist (LWE) violence took place which resulted in casualties of 61 Security Forces personnel and 127 civilians.

The Union Government deploys Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) in the LWE affected states to assist the State Police in counter-insurgency. The State Police undertakes anti-Naxal operations along with Central Armed Police Forces and also carries out joint operations with the State Police of the bordering States, as and when required and depending upon the ground situation. Per-se, no separate Inter-State Joint Force exists to undertake anti-Naxal operations.

This information was given by Kiren Rijiju Minister of State (Home) in a written reply to a question by Anand Sharma. **SP**

Homeland security spend increases in India

The budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) for the year 2013-14 was just under \$11 billion and is expected to near the \$20 billion mark by 2017-18. Of course only a part of that contributes to the overall homeland security (HS) market in India.

Nevertheless, according to estimates the Indian internal security industry is also slated to be worth at least 20 billion US dollars by 2018 with the central government accounting for a third of this spend. Even beyond the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and its move to upgrade central paramilitary force capabilities, it is clear that Police departments in India too are no longer being equipped with only hand me downs from the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the MHA. While the Centre would want state governments to do more with respect to modernising police systems under their purview (Police after all is a state subject in India) at the very least

the utilization of funds under the Centre's modernisation of police forces (MPF) scheme is on the rise across Indian provinces.

The HS market in India can be thematically broken up into the following broad segments considering the sources of demand as it were terrorism prevention and management, critical infrastructure protection, border security, maritime security, police modernisation, city surveillance, intelligence and cybersecurity. **SP**

US mulls strengthening chemical security

Recently, the Department of Homeland Security co-hosted the 8th Annual Chemical Sector Security Summit in Baltimore, Maryland with focused on strengthening chemical security and resilience across the country.

Highlights from this year's summit included a keynote address from National Protection and Programmes Directorate Under Secretary Suzanne Spaulding, who discussed the importance of having both a strong cyber and physical security plan in place. In addition, there was a status report on Executive on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security, a review of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) programme, the importance of voluntary programs and resources, and congressional perspective on current and future legislation related to the chemical sector.

This year's summit came at an important time when the US is beginning the transition to implementing the recommendations brought forward under the President's executive order. The summit discussed areas where the US has taken critical steps in bringing together regulatory representatives and stakeholders with a vested interest in reducing the risks associated with the handling and storage of chemicals. The status report summarises progress, focusing on actions to date, findings and lessons learned, challenges, and short and long-term priority actions, and focus on five specific thematic areas: strengthen community planning and preparedness; enhance federal operational coordination; improve data management; modernise policies and regulation and incorporate stakeholder feedback and develop best practices. **SP**

Boeing and Paramount Group collaboration

The agreement, signed during the annual Farnborough Air Show, will allow Boeing and Paramount to apply their complementary strengths in providing aircraft and land systems solutions for customers in Africa and other major markets that face a range of security challenges. Those include border security; heavy airlift of products and personnel across vast distances; cross-border operations, coastal piracy and anti-poaching; and disaster and humanitarian relief as part of future coalition efforts. Platforms being explored under the collaboration include various Boeing rotorcraft, unmanned aerial systems and related support services, as well as Paramount's leading portfolio of land vehicles and aerospace systems capabilities currently deployed around the world.

"Boeing and Paramount will be able to provide new or existing customers with a unique partnering of defense solutions and capabilities, including the retrofitting or refurbishment of existing platforms, systems integration, as well as training and maintenance support for any new acquisitions," said Chris Chadwick, President and CEO of Boeing Defense, Space and Security. "Together we will be able to offer African customers the full scope of defense and security needs from two global leaders in their respective fields."

"Africa is one of the world's fastest-growing markets for aerospace and defense equipment, and we are very pleased to be part-



nering with Boeing to combine our various capabilities to better serve our customers in Africa and elsewhere," said Ivor Ichikowitz, Paramount Group Chairman. "Paramount has extensive world-class design, development and manufacturing capability in Africa, which we consider to be an asset of the continent. It has for many years been our policy to identify best-of-breed partners to collaborate with in growing our African capability." **SP**

Airbus Group acquires Salzburg München Bank

Airbus Group closed the acquisition of Salzburg München Bank AG from Raiffeisenverband Salzburg on 25 July 2014, allowing the aeronautics and space group to establish its company bank in order to provide additional financing options.

Salzburg München Bank will be renamed Airbus Group Bank in the third quarter of 2014 and gradually be developed to provide finance solutions to support the Group's businesses. Formerly 100 per cent owned by Raiffeisenverband Salzburg, the acquired company is a fully-licensed bank based in Munich serving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and private clients.

"With the closing of this acquisition, I am grateful that we can now move forward with our bank project," said Airbus Group Chief Financial Officer Harald Wilhelm. "All parts of Airbus Group stand to benefit from the increased financing flexibility that this bank will provide."

At the end of 2013, Salzburg München Bank had total assets of around €330 million. The transaction will not have any immediate effects on its existing clients or businesses. **SP**

Poland's Teldat signs LoI with Raytheon

Raytheon Company signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Poland's TELDAT to cooperate in mutually beneficial business opportunities related to Poland's air defense architecture, as well as significant exports to global markets. The companies will examine areas for partnership in the following categories: IP-based networking solutions, software and devices; militarised communications equipment; command and control software; and system integration, verification and validation testing.

Mike Shaughnessy, Vice President of Supply Chain, Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems and Henryk Kruszynski, Ph.D., CEO of

Teldat Company, signed the LoI to explore partnership opportunities in Poland. **SP**

Rockwell Collins sells military ground-based satellite communications portfolio

Rockwell Collins announced it has completed the sale of its satellite communications business. The business, which designs, manufactures and services ground-based satellite communication systems primarily for military customers, will be renamed DataPath, Inc.

"This transaction is part of a strategy to reshape our Government Systems portfolio to align with the changing dynamics of the defense environment, and focus on core products that will fuel future growth for the company," said Rockwell Collins CEO and President Kelly Orberg.

The sale includes operations in Duluth, Georgia, and Stockholm, Sweden, and includes approximately 365 employees. **SP**

Saab acquires TKMS AB (Kockums)

Defence and security company Saab's acquisition of the Swedish shipyard Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems AB (TKMS AB, formerly Kockums) has now been completed. The acquisition strengthens Saab's position as a comprehensive supplier of naval military systems.

The required decisions and approvals for Saab's acquisition of Thyssen Krupp Marine Systems AB (TKMS AB) have now been granted. The company will become a business unit within Saab's business area Security and Defence Solutions. The business unit is named Saab Kockums. Saab expects that operations will continue to be carried out primarily in Malmö, Karlskrona and Muskö. **SP**


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Technological advances unending surprise

On April 12 this year, USS Donald Cook (DDG-75), the US destroyer equipped with the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System was repeatedly mocked by a Russian Sukhoi-24 fighter-bomber equipped with state-of-the-art counter electronic warfare system (Khibiny) as the that failed the hitherto considered 'unmatchable' Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense System to lock on to the Russian aircraft. But this is yet another case of technological surprises.

The US would develop a counter and the game will go on. It just happens that the days of conventional conflict are practically over, so the Russians played the cat and mouse game openly as a practical joke. But such a surprise in actual hostilities could result in catastrophic losses for the side dealt the surprise. But look at the speed of technological advances in our everyday lives that we get used to routinely. Just five-six years back, TV makers of high-definition TVs were looking to optimise 3D technology to provide stereoscopic depth and a reason for consumers to buy a newer set. But when HDTV was introduced, it was already considered inevitable that technology would make it obsolete one day. So, we already have the next wave of 3DTV and/or a 2D picture with some stereoscopic depth. All these advancements have defence applications as well; projection of the common operational picture, video streaming, etc. 3D film making has become a common feature. More and more research is being undertaken to enhance the depth of pictures. Same goes for computer animation, which is improving by the day.

Scientists specialising in nanotechnology are working on a bionic contact lens that would paint imagery and information directly on the eye to augment reality. It implies overlaying what we see with computer-generated contextual data or visual substitutions. The aim of this technology is to enhance our ability to interact with things around us by providing us with information immediately relevant to those things. Several companies have release programs

that overlay position- and context-based data onto a continuous video camera feed. The data comes from various radios and sensors built into modern smart-phones, including GPS radios (for identifying position by satellite data), accelerometers (for measuring changes in speed and orientation), and magnetometers (for finding position relative to magnetic north). Smart-phones and related applications have revolutionized our daily lives.

Research is on to put the complete display directly on to the eyeball. The video circuiting would come onto wearable contact lenses, wearing which would enable you to see a continuous context based data feed, which will become routine

for navigation and interacting with mobile devices. In the medical field, US military researchers announced recently they have awarded \$40 million toward developing a new kind of brain implant that may help restore memories in wounded soldiers and civilians. The work represents a major scientific leap forward. The hope is that some day, a wireless implantable device would bridge the gaps in an injured brain (physical injury or trauma), making it possible to remember events, places,

and context; termed declarative memories. Since year 2000, traumatic brain injuries have affected some 2,70,000 military personnel and on an average touches 1.7 million US civilians annually.

What more of future? The list is endless. But let us take a peek into the sphere of aerospace. Scientists and engineers at BAE Systems have lifted the lid on some futuristic technologies that could be incorporated in military and civil aircraft of 2040 or even earlier. The four technologies unveiled are: 3D printers so advanced they could print UAVs during a mission; aircraft parts that can heal themselves in minutes; a new type of long range aircraft which divides into a number of smaller aircraft when it reaches its destination, and a directed energy weapon that could engage missiles at the speed of light, destroy them and protect the people below. **SP**



The hope is that some day, a wireless implantable device would bridge the gaps in an injured brain (physical injury or trauma), making it possible to remember events, places, and context; termed declarative memories.

Sandra Bullock and other stars beef up security

The man found hiding in Sandra Bullock's Hollywood home last month and charged with stalking the Oscar-winning actress allegedly owns an arsenal of weapons, including illegal machine guns. Less than two weeks ago, reality star Kat Von D contacted authorities about a man – against whom she had gotten a restraining order – who allegedly pledged to “go Columbine in Los Angeles” as an act of revenge.

Those incidents are just the tip of the iceberg, security experts and Hollywood insiders say. In a society increasingly obsessed with a famous face, high-profile names are spending billions of dollars a year to beef up their security and stay safe from their over-adoring fans.

Kelly Carlson, star of the former FX series “Nip/Tuck,” says she went through hell two years ago when she was stalked by a number of individuals (for hire) as the result of a past relationship. “My home was broken into multiple times,” Carlson said. “The strange part is that they had a key. I found out later that (a building employee) was paid to give my key to someone while I was away”

Last month Sandra Bullock's home was broken into by obsessed fan, Joshua Corbett. The New York Daily News obtained the Corbett search warrant affidavits and found that Corbett had love notes in his possession for Bullock, one of which read “...You are very special to me and without you in my life there is only misery.”

Bullock found Corbett in her home last month on June 8. She discovered him around 1am when she actually came face-to-face with the deranged stalker. Bullock reported that she heard loud banging in the house which prompted her to go close and lock her bedroom door. She then saw 39-year-old Corbett standing in her hallway donned in dark clothing. Bullock reportedly quickly shut the door and called 911. Once the police officers arrived, Corbett reportedly yelled out to Bullock, “... Sandy I'm sorry. Please don't press charges.” **SP**



Security lapses in Gujarat jails

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in the State Legislature has indicated security lapses and mismanagement by the jail staff in the Gujarat prisons. The report said that lapses in security led to excavation of a tunnel at Sabarmati Central Prison (located in Ahmedabad city).

The CAG report said, “Door frame metal detectors, close circuit TV system and mobile phone jammers installed at the prisons (test-checked) were found ineffective.”

The report also added that there were no watch towers outside Sabarmati Central Prison and the elevation of watch towers at Palara special prison in Bhuj district was reduced due to Air Defence protocols. “In contravention of the Bombay Jail Manual, high-rise buildings were constructed within the prohibited distance of Navasari Sub Prisons. Out of 1,540 prisoners who had escaped, 567 prisoners were yet to be traced (March 2013),” it said.

The report has also given a detailed note on the ‘2013 Sabarmati jail escape bid’ allegedly planned by the accused of ‘2008 Ahmedabad serial bomb blasts case’. The note with the title ‘security lapses

leading to excavation of tunnel in prison’ observed that there were 26 CCTV cameras installed in Sabarmati prison, but majority of them were not working since 2010. **SP**

Depressed man barges into Andhra Assembly

A man in his late 20s, who was undergoing treatment for depression, walked inside the Andhra Pradesh Assembly by breaking open a wooden door, laying bare security lapses on the highly protected premises recently.

The intruder — identified as Gujjula Ashok Reddy later — was seen loitering around. He was arrested and produced before a local court. Viewing the stranger's intrusion as a serious security lapse, the Saifabad police decided to submit a report on the incident to the Special Protection Force providing security to the premises of A.P. and Telangana Assemblies.

The incident left the Legislature secretariat officials red-faced. Congress MLC Ponguleti Sudhakar Reddy, who visited the Assembly premises, took serious exception to the security lapse. **SP**

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