

SP's



AN SP GUIDE PUBLICATION

# MAI

ISSN 2230-9268

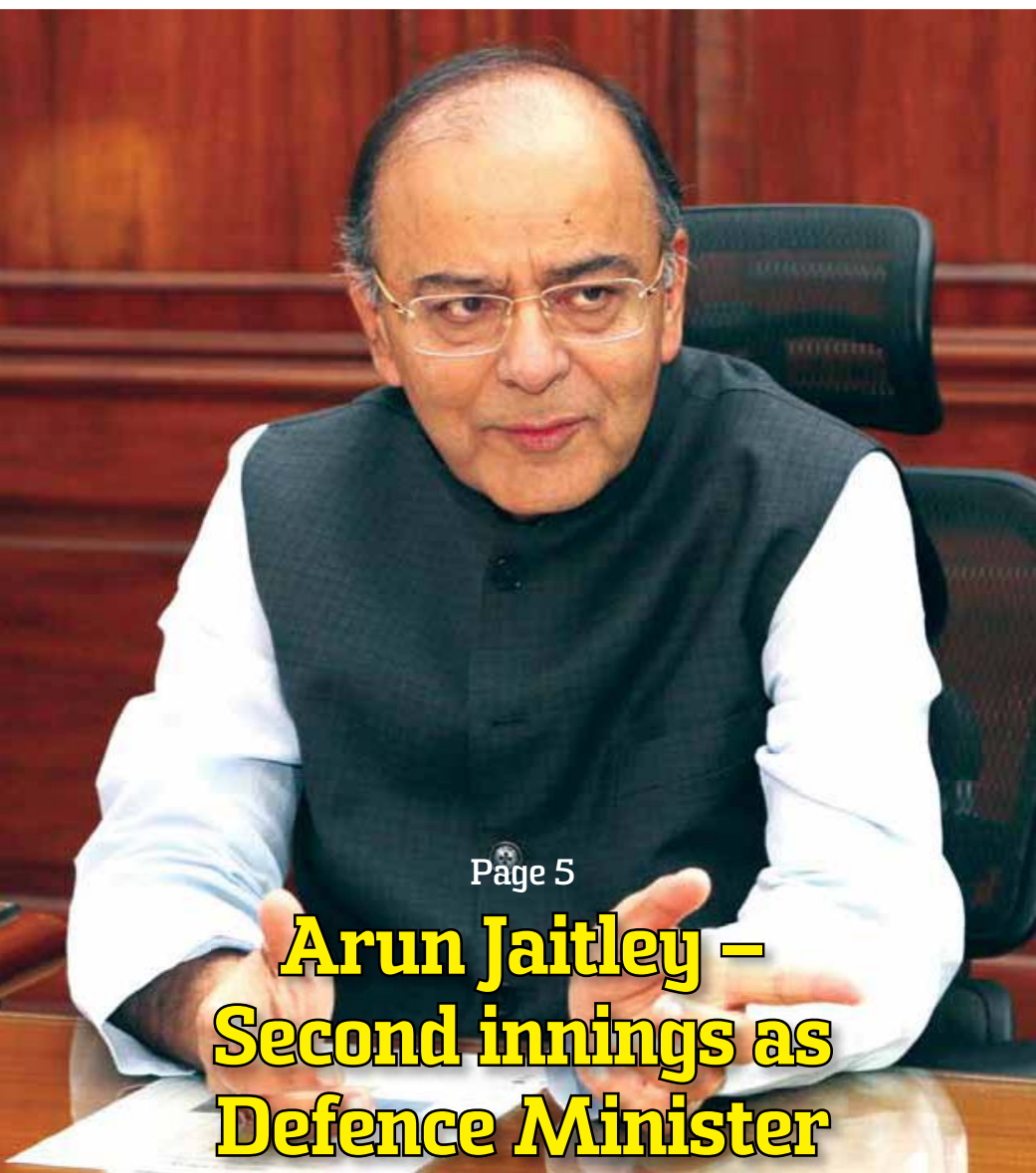


Vol: 7 Issue 5 ■ March 1-15 ■ 2017

[www.spsmai.com](http://www.spsmai.com)

ONLY FORTNIGHTLY ON **MILITARY AEROSPACE INTERNAL SECURITY**

₹55.00 (INDIA-BASED BUYER ONLY)



Page 5

## Arun Jaitley – Second innings as Defence Minister



**Parrikar's exit and its impact  
on languishing defence  
projects** PAGE 7



**INS Viraat  
decommissioned** PAGE 12

**FROM THE  
EDITOR'S DESK** 4  
**SECURITY BREACHES** 22

**MILITARY**  
Viewpoints 10, 11, 13  
Updates 14

**AEROSPACE**  
Developments  
Unmanned

**CORPORATE**  
News 17  
20 21



“In a country like India with limited support from the industry and market, initiating 50 years ago (in 1964) publishing magazines relating to Army, Navy and Aviation sectors without any interruption is a commendable job on the part of SP Guide Publications. By this, SP Guide Publications has established the fact that continuing quality work in any field would result in success.”

Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India (\*message received in 2014)



**SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS**

[ **SP's @ 53** PURSUING EXCELLENCE OVER FIVE DECADES SINCE 1964 ]

## Admiral Vladimir Korolev, Commander-in-Chief, Russian Federation Navy, visits India

**A**dmiral Vladimir Korolev, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Federation Navy along with a four-member Russian Navy delegation is on an official visit to India from March 15-18, 2017. The visit aims to consolidate bilateral naval relations between India and Russia, as also to explore new avenues for naval cooperation.

During his visit, the Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy held bilateral discussions with Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff, and other senior officials of the Indian Navy. The Admiral is also scheduled to meet the Minister of Defence, the Chief of the Air Staff, the Chief of the Army Staff and the Defence Secretary as part of his official engagements in New Delhi.



The Commander-in-Chief, Russian Federation Navy, Admiral Vladimir Korolev, with the Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba, in New Delhi

India is the largest importer of defence equipment from Russia and majority of the armament inventory in the Indian armed forces is of Soviet/Russian origin. The Indian Navy cooperates with the Russian Federation Navy on many fronts, which include operational interactions, training, hydrographic cooperation, information technology and exchange of subject matter experts in various fields through the medium of Navy-to-Navy staff talks. In addition, the Indian Navy and the Russian Federation Navy have been conducting the bilateral maritime exercise 'Indra Navy' since 2003.

In addition to New Delhi, the Admiral is also scheduled to proceed to Mumbai where he will hold discussions with the Commander-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, as well as visit an indigenously built destroyer INS Mysore, Naval Dockyard and Mazagon Dock and Shipbuilders Limited. **SP**



### Cover:

Arun Jaitley on March 14, 2017, took additional charge as Defence Minister, in New Delhi, after Manohar Parrikar resigned from that post to take over as the Chief Minister of Goa.

Cover images: PIB, US DoD, Indian Navy

### PUBLISHER AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Jayant Baranwal

### ASSISTANT GROUP EDITOR

R. Chandrakanth

### SR TECHNICAL GROUP EDITORS

Air Marshal B.K. Pandey (Retd)

Lt General Naresh Chand (Retd)

Lt General V.K. Kapoor (Retd)

R. Adm S.K. Ramsay (Retd)

### SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

Lt General P.C. Katoch (Retd)

### CHAIRMAN & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Jayant Baranwal

### PLANNING & BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Executive Vice President: Rohit Goel

### ADMIN & COORDINATION

Bharti Sharma

### ASST - ADMIN, HR & INFRA

Pooja Tehlani

### DESIGN & LAYOUT

Creative Director: Anoop Kamath

Designers: Vimlesh Kumar Yadav,

Sonu Bisht

Research Assistant - Graphics:

Survi Massey

### SALES & MARKETING

Director: Neetu Dhulia

General Manager Sales: Rajeev Chugh

### SP'S WEBSITES

Sr Web Developer: Shailendra P. Ashish

Web Developer: Ugrashen Vishwakarma

© SP Guide Publications, 2017

### SUBSCRIPTION/ CIRCULATION

Annual Inland: ₹1,320 • Foreign: US\$ 325

E-mail: [subscribe@spguidepublications.com](mailto:subscribe@spguidepublications.com)

[subscribe@spsmai.com](mailto:subscribe@spsmai.com)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

[editor@spsmai.com](mailto:editor@spsmai.com)

### FOR ADVERTISING DETAILS, CONTACT:

[advertise@spsmai.com](mailto:advertise@spsmai.com)

[neetu@spguidepublications.com](mailto:neetu@spguidepublications.com)

[rajeev.chugh@spguidepublications.com](mailto:rajeev.chugh@spguidepublications.com)

### SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD

A-133 Arjun Nagar  
(Opposite Defence Colony)  
New Delhi 110003, India.

Tel: +91 (11) 24644693,

24644763, 24620130

Fax: +91 (11) 24647093

E-mail: [info@spguidepublications.com](mailto:info@spguidepublications.com)

### REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE

204, Jal Vayu Vihar

Kalyan Nagar

Bengaluru 560043

Tel : +91 (80) 23682204

### MOSCOW, RUSSIA

LAGUK Co., Ltd, Yuri Laskin

Krasnokholmskaya, Nab.,

11/15, app. 132, Moscow 115172, Russia.

Tel: +7 (495) 911 2762,

Fax: +7 (495) 912 1260

Owned, published and printed by Jayant Baranwal, printed at Kala Jyothi Process Pvt Ltd and published at A-133, Arjun Nagar (Opposite Defence Colony), New Delhi 110003, India. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, photocopying, recording, electronic, or otherwise without prior written permission of the Publishers.



**SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS**

[ **SP's @ 53** PURSUING EXCELLENCE OVER FIVE DECADES SINCE 1964 ]

[www.spguidepublications.com](http://www.spguidepublications.com)





## Arun Jaitley dons two hats

**F**or the second time in three years since the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) under the leadership of Narendra Modi came to power, the versatile, articulate and knowledgeable Arun Jaitley has been given additional charge of the defence portfolio, along with his main portfolio of finance and corporate affairs. Manohar Parrikar who held the defence portfolio has moved back to Goa as Chief Minister. The fact that this is an 'additional charge' means that the Defence Ministry will have a minister holding the portfolio independently. Till then, Jaitley will don two hats and it is hoped that the Defence Ministry will stand to benefit as there are many financial issues of the Defence Ministry pending before the Finance Ministry.

In this issue, we have different viewpoints on the temporary charge. In a scathing attack, the former Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Lt General Vijay Oberoi opines that when a Defence Minister joins the committee culture of the bureaucracy, as Parrikar has done, with recommendations of the committees either pending or extended or lying in cupboards without any action, then all is obviously at a standstill on the security of the nation.

Giving a slightly contrasting view is Lt General V.K. Kapoor (Retd) who mentions that in tumultuous tenure, Parrikar also initiated reforms in the procedures for the acquisition and indigenous manufacture of weapons and equipment and ensured the preparation and publication of the new Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016.

Air Marshal B.K. Pandey (Retd) has said while the appointment of Manohar Parrikar as the Goa Chief Minister has been dictated by political expediency, this move has implications for the Indian armed forces. It goes without saying that the aspirations of the nation are unlikely to be fulfilled with a 'Part-Time Minister of Defence' at the helm. Hopefully, the government will address this issue without any further delay. After a decade of deep slumber, in 2015, the Ministry of Defence under the NDA government with Manohar Parrikar as the Minister of Defence embarked upon a number of reforms in the defence sector.

Lt General P.C. Katoch (Retd) writes that since he is the Finance

Minister, it would probably facilitate concluding the contracts of the capital expenditure in the ₹86,488 crore defence outlay of the current financial year — same as he did in 2014. But what could be a very more significant contribution by him is if he would make available the additional ₹13,000 crore demanded by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence while drawing the attention of Parliament to the crying need for modernising the armed forces, to which the current allotment of ₹2,74,000 crore in defence budget 2017-18 does little to contribute.

In yet another viewpoint, Lt General Katoch has talked about how China in her devious ways has voiced an innocuous unofficial statement through Dai Bingguo that if Tawang Plateau is ceded by India, it could pave the way for a boundary settlement.

In this issue, we have a story on the glorious era of INS Viraat, the flagship of the Indian Navy, that came to an end on March 6, 2017. INS Viraat, the second Centaur class aircraft carrier in service which has spent 30 years in the Indian Navy and 27 years in the Royal Navy, was decommissioned, in a solemn yet grand ceremony at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai recently.

Happy reading!

**Jayant Baranwal**  
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief



# Arun Jaitley: An articulate personality of multi-role versatility

*The portfolio of defence is key and highly critical one. So is the finance portfolio. But for someone like Arun Jaitley who is so knowledgeable, so capable and so much in control, holding important positions in the Cabinet is not unmanageable. Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again has turned to him, till he finds a suitable replacement for Manohar Parrikar who has since moved to Goa as Chief Minister.*

[ By R. Chandrakanth ]

**A**run Jaitley on March 14, 2017, took additional charge as Defence Minister, in New Delhi, after Manohar Parrikar resigned from that post to take over as the Chief Minister of Goa. Jaitley currently holds the portfolio of the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs.

On his arrival at the Ministry of Defence in South Block, Arun Jaitley was received by the Minister of State for Defence Dr Subhash Bhamre, Defence Secretary G. Mohan Kumar and other senior officials. Jaitley held a meeting with senior officials to take stock of the ministry.

This is the second time Jaitley is holding additional charge as the Defence Minister. When he took charge of the defence portfolio in the first instance, he had said: "Security of India is a matter of prime importance and predominantly the external security of India is the responsibility of this Ministry". For this he stated that "preparedness and support to our armed forces and speeding up all equipment required for their support are going to be the priority areas as far as our government is concerned". He also remarked that during the UPA government, some of the areas in the Ministry had slowed down and therefore, expediting them will be a matter of top priority.

## Onerous Tasks Ahead

When he first took over, he had said enhancing the FDI limit beyond the existing 26 per cent was an issue which will be dealt with by his two ministries. Subsequently, the FDI norms were relaxed to allow 100 per cent FDI in defence, a transformational move to help indigenisation of the defence industry. With emphasis on modernisation of the armed forces and aggressive 'Make in India' initiative, Jaitley will be faced with an increasingly impatient industry which is expecting large-scale work once the Defence Ministry finalises its strategic partnerships (SP) model — a plan to select key industry players for large manufacturing projects. Jaitley will have to do a balancing act of keeping the armed forces spending in tune with needs and also the general economic climate. With defence accounting for over 16 per cent of government's annual spending, Jaitley will have to take a call on the infusion of more capital for modernisation.

## Held Many Senior Positions

Currently a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat, Jaitley has been a Cabinet Minister in the Narendra Modi government since May 26, 2014. He was given the Finance and Corporate Affairs portfolio along with Defence and also Information and Broadcasting for few months.



(Left) Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Defence, Arun Jaitley, at a book release function in May 2014 in New Delhi; (right) A file photograph of Arun Jaitley talking to the media.

Jaitley has been a member of the national executive of Bharatiya Janata Party since 1991. On October 13, 1999, in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government, he was appointed Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting (Independent Charge). He was also appointed Minister of State for Disinvestment (Independent Charge), a new ministry created for the first time to give effect to the policy of disinvestments. Besides, he also took additional charge of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs on July 23, 2000. Later, he became a Cabinet Minister in November 2000 and simultaneously took charge of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs and Shipping. In June 2009, he was chosen as the leader of the opposition in Rajya Sabha.

## Early Life

Arun Jaitley was born on December 28, 1952, to Maharaj Kishen and Ratan Prabha Jaitley. His father was a lawyer. Jaitley did schooling at St. Xavier's School, New Delhi, from 1960-69. He graduated in commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, New Delhi, in 1973 and passed law degree from the University of Delhi in 1977. Jaitley got married to Sangeeta Dogra on May 24, 1982, and has two children — son Rohan and daughter Sonali.

## Active in Student Politics

From his student days, he was very actively involved in public affairs. He was an Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) student activist in the Delhi University in the 1970s and became President of the University Students' Union in 1974.

After obtaining LL.B., he was practising law before the Supreme Court of India and several High Courts in the country since 1977. In January 1990, he was designated as a Senior Advocate by the Delhi

High Court. He was appointed Additional Solicitor General in 1989. Jaitley who is very articulate was a delegate on behalf of the Government of India to the United Nations General Assembly Session in June 1998 where the Declaration on Laws Relating to Drugs and Money Laundering was approved.

During the period of proclamation of Internal Emergency (1975-77) when civil liberties were suspended, he was placed under preventive detention first in the Ambala jail and then in the Tihar jail, Delhi. In 1977, being the convener of the Loktantric Yuva Morcha at a time when the Congress suffered a humiliating defeat in the general elections, he was appointed the president of the Delhi ABVP and All India Secretary of the ABVP. Later, he headed the youth wing of the BJP as its president.

## Role as Leader of Opposition

As leader of opposition, he has focused on the efforts to position BJP as a party which plays a proactive role in the democratic functioning of the country. Thus many steps have been taken to expose deficit of governance; be it various corruption scandals such as the 2G spectrum scam, the Commonwealth Games scam, the Antrix-Devas deal, or the failure on the economic front to rein in spiraling inflation and to push for a stable environment conducive for investments and growth. The party played a very constructive role while passing the historic Women's Reservation Bill in Rajya Sabha. Similarly, the party kept the government under scrutiny while passing the Indo-US civil nuclear deal. The party supported the Anna Hazare movement for bringing in a strong and effective Lok Pal and successfully resisted the passing in the Rajya Sabha of a weak bill passed by Lok Sabha.

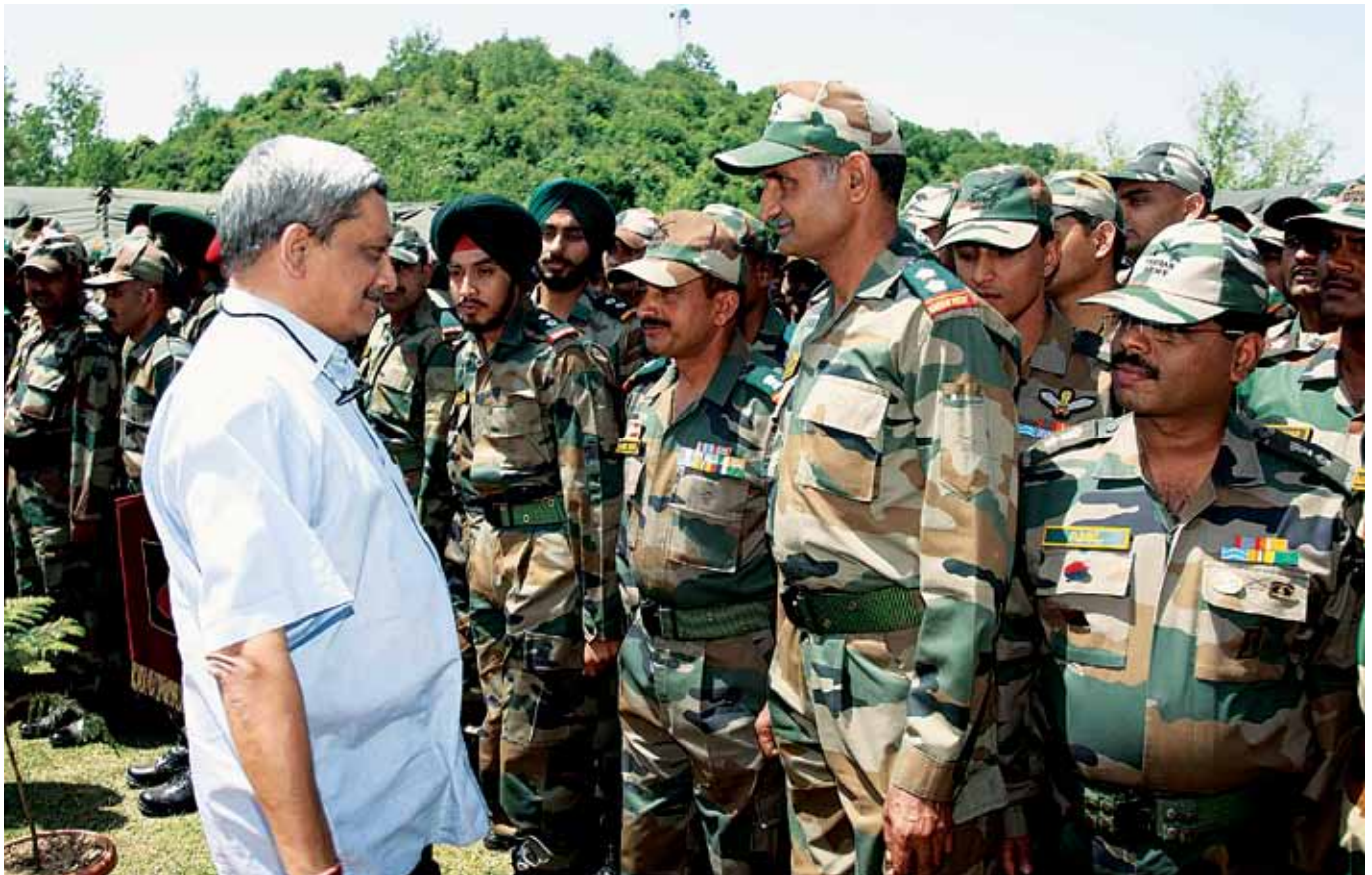
Jaitley is so versatile, eloquent, composed and focused that the bureaucracy cannot pull wool over his eyes. And it is for that reason, he is top ranking minister in the Modi cabinet. **SP**





LT GENERAL  
VK. KAPOOR (RETD)

# Parrikar's exit and its impact on languishing defence projects



The then Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar interacting with the troops in Rajouri sector, Jammu and Kashmir, in May 2015

**M**anohar Parrikar who held the office of the Defence Minister of India for two years and four months has now returned to Goa to take over as the new Chief Minister after the recent election in Goa. While it may be politically expedient by the Bharatiya Janata Party to do so to help stabilise the fluid situation in Goa, it does not augur well for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) where a large number of defence projects are languishing for want of decisions and action which would have a long-term impact on military capability as well as national security in the two-front challenge facing the country.

## Tumultuous Tenure

The period spent by Parrikar in office as the Defence Minister has been rather tumultuous. He took over the mammoth MoD at a time when the modernisation had hit the rock bottom and equipment shortages had multiplied manifold due to total inaction and neglect by the UPA government. Thus when Parrikar took over as Defence Minister from Arun Jaitley on November 9, 2014, after the latter had been in office for about six months, there was a sense of relief as well as optimism because Jaitley, then wearing two hats, had his hands full with the Ministry of Finance and hence his attention was rightly on the North Block. Prior to Jaitley the Ministry

was saddled with A.K. Antony for seven-and-a-half years. Under him, decision-making in the ministry had slowed to a crawl. It had catastrophic consequences for defence preparedness. India's military machine — still equipped with tanks, fighter jets and warships acquired mostly in the 1980s was in a poor state of maintenance due to a variety of reasons. Artillery howitzers had not been replaced since early 1980s, new submarines had been delayed inordinately and fighter jet proposals were pending since 1999. Light helicopters were ready to be discarded and army was losing precious lives of its pilots. The \$100-billion list of pending military requirements would take over a decade or two to be met. This is why Rear Admiral K. Raja Menon (Retd), a well known military analyst, called Antony the "worst Defence Minister ever". Jaitey's short tenure could not see much headway towards solving long pending demands of the three services and therefore it was at this critical juncture that Manohar Parrikar took over as the Defence Minister.

The military welcomed the arrival of a professional and technically sound politician. They reposed their faith in him and expected that he would ensure a better deal for them; would assist them in regaining their pride and élan that had been severely eroded over the past two decades; set right the civil-military relations and were looking forward to move towards modernisation that had virtually stopped.

## Highlights of Parrikar's Tenure

Parrikar brought dynamism and hard work to his office. Files were cleared faster than they accumulated as he set about acquainting himself with the nuances of military organisations and equipment. An outsider in Delhi, Parrikar was quick to grasp the intricacies of the ministry, the working of the armed forces and the challenges of modernising the military in the face of shrinking budgets. However, it is only at the fag end of his tenure that Parrikar had launched a concerted drive to make up the existing deficiencies by invoking emergency financial powers of the government. The government had, at long last, begun to address the 'critical hollowness' plaguing defence preparedness — a term used by the former Army Chief General V.K. Singh in 2012 when he wrote to the Prime Minister on this issue. Additionally Parrikar also initiated reforms in the procedures for the acquisition and indigenous manufacture of weapons and equipment and ensured the preparation and publication of the new Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016. Therefore his departure when the initiatives by him were fructifying is worrisome because in India, based on past experience, our political leaders have the uncanny ability to roll back to status quo faster than others.

Some of the highlights of his tenure as a Defence Minister need to be recalled. These are given in the succeeding paragraphs along with our comments of what needs to be done in the future with regard to each issue highlighted.

## One Rank, One Pension

Parrikar deserves credit for implementation of the OROP scheme in 2015. A more than four-decade-old demand, the scheme grants equal pension to military personnel retiring in the same rank with the same length of service, regardless of the date of retirement. Nearly three million ex-servicemen and widows benefited from the scheme. However, it seems that the demands of the ex-servicemen were not met fully. As it was a long-pending and a highly emotive issue, OROP as it was meant to be was not implemented fully but a watered down version

was implemented. Inadequacy of funds was the excuse given by the Finance Ministry as well as bureaucrats of the MoD which did not go down well with the veterans. In the bargain, he alienated veterans which also affected the morale of the forces. Ultimately, while the military continued to struggle to get their dues in financial terms, the bureaucrats, police and other civil administrative services managed to get all kinds of increments, perks and the like. Even the so-called Non-Functional Upgradation (NFU) is being denied to the military, despite the recommendation of the Seventh Central Pay Commission and a judicial ruling on the issue.

**Judicial Committee Report.** The complaints by the ex-servicemen on the implementation of OROP compelled the government to appoint a Judicial Committee headed by Justice L. Narasimha Reddy, former Chief Justice of Patna High Court, to look into the anomalies of implementation of OROP. The Committee has submitted its report on October 26, 2016. This report needs to be made public and then implemented.

## Military Modernisation and Capability Enhancement

His tenure as Defence Minister saw the inking of some major defence contracts. The main projects concluded include a \$8.7 billion deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets, a \$ 3.1-billion order for 22 Boeing AH-64E Apache Longbow attack helicopters and 15 Chinook heavy-lift choppers and a \$750-million deal for 145 ultra-light howitzers (M777) from the US. The Defence Acquisition Council also gave the green light to several key projects including 420 air defence guns for ₹16,900 crore, 814 artillery guns for ₹15,750 crore and 118 Arjun Mk-II tanks for ₹6,600 crore.

**Critical Gaps which Need to be Plugged.** Notwithstanding the above deals, critical gaps still need to be addressed, ranging from bullet-proof vests, assault rifles and carbines for the infantry, mine-sweepers, light helicopters for the three services, equipment for special forces and submarines being some of the important types equipment which need to be inducted/replaced and we know that decisions taken even today will imply that the equipment will start coming in only five years later and 'Make in India' projects will take even longer to fructify.

## Surgical Strikes

On June 10, 2015, India's Special Forces carried a cross-border raid in Myanmar against Naga militant camps inflicting heavy casualties as a retaliation to the NSCN-IM ambush on Indian Army convoy of 6 Dogra which killed 18 soldiers. Similarly on night of September 28/29, 2016, Indian Army carried out surgical strikes at seven areas in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and inflicted heavy casualties on terrorists and Pakistan military preparing to cross over to India. The army's cross-border operation came after 19 soldiers were killed in an attack on an army base in Kashmir's Uri sector that India blames on terrorists who crossed from the Pakistani territory. The surgical strikes demonstrated India's hardened military resolve to the world. Parrikar said last year's surgical strikes against terror pads in PoK had injected uncertainty into the neighbour's mind. Thus Parrikar's term saw India not only carry out surgical strikes in Myanmar and PoK and but also claim political ownership of the targeted operations. The daring move won accolades from political leaders and civil society alike.

**Parrikar initiated reforms in the procedures for the acquisition and indigenous manufacture of weapons and equipment and ensured the preparation and publication of the new Defence Procurement Procedure, 2016**



**Effects of Surgical Strikes.** Pakistani terror tanzims have not stopped their infiltration into the Kashmir Valley to carry out terror strikes which are continuing and therefore the government will have to ensure effective defensive and offensive measures including the use of modern technological aids to prevent the terrorists from succeeding in their efforts.

## Indo-US Strategic Partnership

India and the United States have signed an important logistics agreement that will enable forces of both the countries to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies. US Defense Secretary Ash Carter and Defence Minister Parrikar formally signed the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) on August 29, 2016. It has been specially drafted and designed for India due to the apprehensions expressed by the Indian Government regarding the Logistics Support Agreement (LSA) which has been signed by nearly 100 countries some of who are seen as close military allies of the US. The LSA failed to pass muster with the two previous UPA regimes and even the Modi government, on taking over, was sensitive to its content. Parrikar's term witnessed the signing of this long-pending agreement with the US.

**Future Agreements.** The LEMOA is one of the three foundational agreements proposed by the US more than a decade ago for tailoring a more robust strategic partnership. There's been no progress on the other two: the communications interoperability and security memorandum of agreement (CISMOA) that will allow India to access CISMOA-controlled secure equipment and the basic exchange and cooperation agreement (BECA) for exchange of geospatial information such as maps, charts, imagery and other data for digital mapping. Parrikar's personal rapport with his then US counterpart Ash Carter played a key role in broadening the scope of Indo-US defence cooperation.

## The Size and Shape of the India's Military Machine

With dwindling defence budgets, Parrikar was determined to see how the MoD could cut down on superfluous manpower so as to reduce the revenue budgets and utilise the defence budgets more effectively. An 11-member panel, headed by Lt General D.B. Shekatkar (Retd), was appointed by the government to enhance the combat potential of the armed forces and rebalancing defence expenditure. The committee has recommended a number of measures to trim, redeploy and integrate manpower under the Ministry of Defence in a gradual manner to meet the objective of an agile but effective military to meet current and future threats that India faces. The report which was submitted on December 21, 2016, is being studied by the government. The panel prepared the report by taking into account the existing models of workforces and budgets of leading militaries, including China's People's Liberation Army, for a comparative analysis.

**Implementation.** While a large number of reports are prepared, very few are implemented fully. With the move of Parrikar to Goa it remains to be seen as what would be the future of this report.



## Parrikar's personal rapport with his then US counterpart Ash Carter played a key role in broadening the scope of Indo-US defence cooperation

## Pay Revision

The Seventh Central Pay Commission for the services has not been implemented after the Service Chiefs had met the Prime Minister to apprise him of the anomalies that existed and needed resolution and the carryover of anomalies of the Sixth Pay Commission which had not been resolved. The issue is being looked into by the anomalies committee and there is growing resentment among the services over the delay. Presently the Services are being paid 10 per cent increase over the current salaries. This issue needs to be sorted out at the earliest.

## Appointment of a Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (PC COSC) /CDS

Parrikar was very keen that this reform, pending from the Group of Ministers recommendations following the Kargil War, should be implemented at the earliest so to ensure a single-point military advice and this additional four star general is vital not only for providing single-point military advice to the government but also to usher in synergy vertically and horizontally between the three Services to ensure greater jointness and integration gradually and build military capability on basis of an overall tri service plan of action rather than single service plans.

## Defence Budgets

One of the areas that Parrikar has not been able to render assistance is in the budget allocations for defence. It is a fact that the share of the revenue expenditure in the total defence budget has been increasing over the years. The increase is primarily due to the hike in the manpower cost of the armed forces, which accounts for over 83 per cent (or ₹11,071 crore) of the overall growth of ₹13,291 crore in the defence budget 2017-18. It is significant to note that the manpower driven defence budget is not unique to the current budget. In the last several years, it has been a recurring feature with a debilitating effect on two vital elements of the defence budget, namely revenue stores and capital modernisation which together play a vital role in the operational preparedness of the armed forces. The combined share of these two elements has declined from 55 per cent in 2007-08 to 40 per cent in 2016-17. This does not augur well, especially when there exists a huge void in India's defence preparedness, and the armed forces have grave shortages in many areas ranging from ammunition, assault rifles, bullet-proof jackets, night-fighting devices to howitzers, missiles, helicopters, fighters and warships. Needless to say that for a credible defence preparedness, the present ratio needs to change for better for which allocation under revenue stores and capital modernisation needs to be augmented substantially.

The above mentioned issues are some of the most important aspects which the new Defence Minister will have to look into and resolve at the earliest so as to ensure the development of a robust military capability to preclude threats to our national security. **SP**

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



AIR MARSHAL  
B.K. PANDEY (RETD)

# Need for a full-time Minister of Defence

*While the appointment of Manohar Parrikar as the Goa Chief Minister has been dictated by political expediency, this move has implications for the Indian armed forces*

**W**hile the nation was coming to terms with the somewhat stunning but not entirely unexpected results of the elections in five states, the Indian armed forces are yet to appreciate the repercussions of the change in the political leadership as Minister of Defence, Manohar Parrikar, moved to Goa to don the mantle of the Chief Minister, a position he had held before moving to Delhi in 2015. He has now been replaced by Arun Jaitley, the Minister of Finance, who is holding the post of Minister of Defence as 'Additional Charge'.

While the appointment of Parrikar as the Chief Minister of Goa at this juncture has been dictated by considerations of political expediency for the party in power, this somewhat sudden move has implications for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and in turn for the Indian armed forces. After a decade of deep slumber, in 2015, the Ministry of Defence under the NDA government with Manohar Parrikar as the Minister of Defence, embarked upon a number of reforms in the defence sector. At the outset, the NDA government is looking to turn the Indian Army into one of the finest fighting forces in the world with infrastructure and manpower to match rhetoric with action and cope with the emerging challenges. The Shekatkar Committee report on the major reforms required has been submitted to the MoD and its recommendations are yet to be implemented.

While Parrikar had unveiled the restructured Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) at the Defexpo in Goa in 2016, the document did not contain the chapter on Strategic Partnership with the private sector for the indigenous production of military hardware. This component of the DPP 2016 which Parrikar had promised to include at a later date, continues to remain as an unfinished agenda. This is a critical requirement in the context of the 'Make in India' programme of the NDA government as without it, indigenous production in the regime of aerospace and defence will not gather any momentum. Inclusion of this chapter has acquired urgency especially with major programmes for the manufacture in India with foreign collaboration of combat platforms such as the Lockheed Martin F-16 fighting Falcon or the

Gripen JAS 39E from Saab of Sweden for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and possibly Boeing F/A-18 Super Hornet for the Indian Navy.

Another major task on his agenda was to introduce reforms in the regime of higher defence management through the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the Indian armed forces. This was recommended in 2001 by a Group of Ministers set up in 2000 to review the management of the national security system in the aftermath of the Kargil War in 1999. The proposal to appoint a CDS that was crafted to bring about better organisational coordination and integration of the three wings of the Indian armed forces has been pending for the last 16 years. Parrikar was planning to see

this proposal through in the next few months. Linked with this proposal also are plans to bring about significant organisational changes through the establishment of Theatre Commands, a concept that appears to be in a nascent stage.

But perhaps the most urgent task before Parrikar was to address the glaring shortages of weapons, ammunition and other items of military hardware the Indian Army is currently facing. The situation in the IAF with regard to the strength of its combat fleet is even more distressing as the number of squadrons equipped with fighter aircraft has dwindled to 32 against the authorised level of 39.5 and is destined to go down further. Parrikar was embarked on addressing the problem through foreign collaboration under the 'Make in India' programme as also by ramping up production of the light combat aircraft Tejas by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited from the present capacity of



Defence Minister Arun Jaitley with the Minister of State for Defence, Dr Subhash Bhamre on March 14, 2017

eight platforms per year to 16.

Clearly, keeping the nation secure is an onerous responsibility that the Minister of Defence must carry. This task is undoubtedly humongous and will require total and dedicated involvement of the political leadership in its execution. It goes without saying that the aspirations of the nation are unlikely to be fulfilled with a 'Part-Time Minister of Defence' at the helm. Hopefully, the government will address this issue without any further delay. **SP**

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



LT GENERAL  
P.C. KATOCH (RETD)

# Change of Defence Minister

**W**ith Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar having moved to Panaji due to political expediency of the state of Goa, Arun Jaitley has been given additional charge of the Ministry of Defence (MoD). How long this temporary arrangement will continue is anybody's guess though the social media is ripe with new rumours every day with new names every time, besides the joke circulating that "Even Defence Minister has put up his papers due to low career prospects in defence".

But then Arun Jaitley is not new to MoD, having handled defence for most part of 2014 after the present government came to power. Since he is the Finance Minister, it would probably facilitate concluding the contracts of the capital expenditure in the ₹86,488 crore defence outlay of the current financial year — same as he did in 2014. But what could be a very more significant contribution by him is if he would make available the additional ₹13,000 crore demanded by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence while drawing the attention of Parliament to the crying need for modernising the armed forces, to which the current allotment of ₹2,74,000 crore in defence budget 2017-18 does little to contribute. Since Parrikar had already written to him, as reported by the media, and he now wears the twin hats of Finance Minister and Defence Minister, he should seriously consider this.

Ironically, the change of Defence Minister has come at a time when there were some indications of the government making moves to appoint a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), reorganising the MoD and some reorganisation of the military as well. The CDS was actually required a decade back and needs to be appointed without further delay. However, if his operational powers are limited to Out of Area Contingencies (OOAC) then he will hardly be able to usher true jointness in the three Services and can hardly be a single-point advisor to the government on matters military. There are also news reports that government is looking at identifying some middle-level appointments in the MoD that could be manned by military officers. This would hardly be of much advantage, amounting to the inadequate status quo since independence.

A major flaw in the MoD besides not having military professional at all levels is that MoD has no institutionalised set up for strategy formulation. HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) can fill this gap very easily and the very basis of raising the HQ IDS; it was to be part and parcel of the MoD. Hence, complete merger of HQ IDS with the MoD could be a significant contribution by Jaitley towards the defence of India. There is also news about the Theatre Command where the priority must go to establishing Integrated Functional Commands first, preceded by appointing

a CDS. The Indian Coast Guard is responsible for the entire 7,517 km of India's coastline which is directly under the MoD right from its establishment in August 1978. Bringing all forces deployed on India's 15,107 km land borders similarly under MoD can be another singular achievement of Defence Minister Jaitley. This would be the correct interpretation of the 'One Border, One Force' concept and true application of the Kargil Review Committee recommendations that while the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) could be tasked to augment the Army manning the borders, they should be placed under the Army. So let them be under the MoD at least.

Significantly, all Border Guard Divisions of China are directly under the command of the PLA. Then there is also the poor state of border infrastructure. Army Chief General Bipin Rawat stated on Army Day this year (January 15) that of the 72 strategic roads only 22 have been completed after so many years, and all of the 14 strategic rail-lines approved remain on paper only. This issue needs immediate attention and the crux must be public-private partnership rather than continuing to depend on limited capacity of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

The progress in defence procurements including through 'Make in India' in the defence sector needs to focus on elimination of red tape, which doesn't appear happening; defining strategic partnership; availability of skilled labour; assurances to investors of assured purchases by way of numbers and agreements for exports of products, and the like.

Finally are the issues like anomalies in the Seventh Central Pay Commission (CPC) particularly allowances, disbursement of, One Rank, One Pension (OROP) and disability pensions, non-functional upgradation (NFU) allowance granted to all government services less armed forces, and downgrading status of the military through MoD's letter of October 18, 2016, on assigning duties and responsibilities — all of which have been dealt in a lackadaisical manner.

Wonder if Defence Minister Jaitley also noticed that Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh were personally present to lay wreaths for the 12 martyrs of CRPF who laid down their lives at Sukma this month. How many times has such respect given to security forces martyred in Jammu and Kashmir? Post the wreath laying, Rajnath Singh announced the government will ensure that the families are given minimum ₹1 crore. In case of police forces, one family member of the martyr also gets an assured job. So, why do Defence Ministers of India accept armed forces being discriminated against? **SP**

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

**A major flaw in the MoD besides not having military professional at all levels is that MoD has no institutionalised set up for strategy formulation**



# INS Viraat decommissioned



[ By Our Special Correspondent ]

**A** glorious era of INS Viraat being the flagship of the Indian Navy came to an end on March 6, 2017. INS Viraat, the second Centaur class aircraft carrier in service which has spent 30 years in the Indian Navy and 27 years in the Royal Navy, was decommissioned, in a solemn yet grand ceremony at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. The decommissioning ceremony was attended by over 1,300 personnel who have served onboard INS Viraat.

Admiral Sir Philip Jones, KCB, ADC, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff of Royal Navy; Vice Admiral Vinod Pasricha, PVSM, AVSM, NM the commissioning Commanding Officer of INS Viraat, were the guests of honour, while Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff, was the chief guest for the ceremony.

To commemorate "30 years of Glorious Service to the Nation" by INS Viraat, a special postal cover was released by the chief guest on the occasion.

INS Viraat holds the world record as mentioned in the Guinness Book of Records for being the longest serving warship of the world. The ship which was the centrepiece of the Navy, housed the fighters Sea Harriers of INAS 300, popularly called 'White Tigers', anti-submarine aircraft Sea King Mk 42B — also known as 'Harpoons', Sea King Mk 42C and the SAR helicopter Chetak as an integral flight. The indigenous advance light helicopters 'Dhruv' and the Russian twin rotor Kamov-31 have also operated from the ship. The Sea Harrier fleet was decommissioned at Goa on May 11, 2016.

Under the Indian flag, the ship has clocked more than 22,622 flying hours by various aircraft in the past three decades and has spent nearly 2,252 days at sea sailing across 5,88,287 nautical miles

(10,94,215 km). This implies that Viraat has spent seven years at sea, circumnavigating the globe 27 times. Since her inception, she has had a total of 80,715 hours of boilers running.

Viraat played a major role in Operation Jupiter in 1989 during the Sri Lankan peacekeeping operation, after which she was affiliated with the Garhwal Rifles and Scouts of the Indian Army in 1990. She also saw action during Op Parakram in 2001-02, post the terrorist attack on Parliament. The ship was instrumental in honing the art of flying operations from a carrier deck in the Navy, which also resulted in seamless induction of INS Vikramaditya and its integration with the fleet.

The ship has participated in various international joint exercises like Exercise Malabar (USA), exercise Varuna (French), Naseem-Al-Bahar (Oman Navy). She has also been an integral element of all annual theatre level exercises (TROPEX). The last operational deployment of Viraat was for the International Fleet Review (IFR 2016) off Visakhapatnam in February 2016.

'Mother', as she was fondly referred to in the Navy had been commanded by 22 Captains since 1987. She was the flagship of the Navy since her inception. Around 40 Flag Officers including five Chiefs of Naval Staff were raised and groomed in her lap. Her legacy under the Royal flag was no less. As HMS Hermes, she was commanded by 13 Captains of the Royal Navy. Her role in Operation Mercy in 1974 and the Falklands War in 1982 are now textbook references for future navies.

At sunset on March 6, 2017, as the Naval Ensign and Commissioning Pennant was lowered for the last time onboard INS Viraat, a glorious era in the history of the Indian Navy came to a nostalgic end. The legacy of Viraat will live on forever and will be carried forward by INS Vikramaditya, which is already integrated with the fleet, and INS Vikrant which will be inducted in the next few years. **SP**



LT GENERAL  
P.C. KATOCH (RETD)

# India-China strategic dialogue – Hollowness persists

**O**n February 22, India and China held their 'upgraded' strategic dialogue at Beijing. Just before the dialogue, Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar held talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who was to co-chair the dialogue. Significantly, the dialogue was being held in the backdrop of: one, China consistently vetoing the move at the United Nations to brand Pakistan's radical mullah and Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar as terrorist despite ample proof; two, consistently blocking any move for India to be given membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) unless same is accorded to Pakistan — that China is also smarting under India being admitted to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) while China has been denied the same also being a reason, and; three, China exhorting India to join the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) even as it impinges heavily on India's national security both on land and in the Arabian Sea being China's strategic highway to the Indian Ocean — since CPEC is not economically viable, luring India (despite adverse strategic ramifications) is a move to make it economically viable.

But despite all this Wang Yi wore his fake smile and showered diplomatic niceties while opening the 'upgraded' strategic dialogue referred to high-level talks held by officials from both sides on critical issues earlier said, "We have to have frequent meetings....The official-level meetings made very good foundation for the 'successful strategic dialogue.'" He added that the Chinese side attaches importance to "this reconstituted dialogue....I am certain by raising the level of this strategic dialogue the two sides will be able to enhance their strategic communication, reduce misunderstanding and build more trust and deepen our bilateral cooperation. This way we can better tap into the potential of our strategic relations and live up to our responsibilities for the regional stability".

Later, Jaishankar along with China's Executive Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Yesui held the strategic dialogue. In his opening remarks at the dialogue, Jaishankar touched upon: happening between India and China having global and regional significance; bilateral relations have acquired steady momentum over many years; growing economic engagement; cooperation on many international issues; and border areas have maintained peace and tranquillity. Zhang said: "I expect that we discuss the full range of issues that are important to our countries". The strategic dialogue was upgraded during Chinese Foreign Minister Yi's visit to New Delhi last year. China has deputed Zhang, also the head of the influential Communist Party of China (CPC) committee of the Chinese Foreign Ministry to co-chair the talks.

Jaishankar countered China's demand for "solid evidence" against Masood Azhar saying the "burden of proof" was not on India as Azhar's actions were well documented. He said, India had overwhelming support from the international community for Azhar to be sanctioned by the United Nations Security Council's (UNSC) 1267 committee, and that Beijing's may be a minority voice. "This time around, it's not India but other countries (that moved the plea for sanctions). So, there's a body of world opinion." Referring to a recent move by the US, France and the UK, Jaishankar said these countries "seem very well convinced, else they would not have taken the initiative to move that proposal....The burden of proof is not on India."

Another reason cited by China for stopping the UNSC committee from censuring the Jaish chief is what it describes as a lack of consensus in the committee. To this, Jaishankar said, "There isn't a consensus because China hasn't joined it." There is no denying the fact that China is a revisionist power which in its ambition to 'Great Power' status and superseding US as the global superpower gives scant regard to its neighbours less Pakistan and North Korea that is her nuclear talons. Chinese scholars like Minxin Pei have made statements like, "If India thinks that China has a grand scheme of trying to contain India or prevent India from becoming a great power (it's not true)...It could be in some circles but China is pre-occupied with the US, which China sees as a much more serious, external adversary." What Pei fails to elucidate are the "circles" he describes; are these not the Politburo and Central Military Commission (CMC)? Besides "much more serious, external adversary" doesn't rule out India as an adversary. The boundary talks have gone on endlessly.

Now China in her devious ways has voiced an innocuous unofficial statement through Dai Bingguo (former negotiator on the Sino-Indian boundary) that if Tawang Plateau is ceded by India, it could pave the way for a boundary settlement. Bingguo refers to the importance of Tawang to Tibetan Buddhists but it is much significant to Tibetans and Buddhists residing in India. Bingguo fails to outline what will China cede of the 38,000 sq km Aksai Chin and the 5,180 sq km Shaks-gam Valley illegally occupied by China including Mount Kailash, so sacred to Indians being the abode of Lord Shiva? It certainly can't be in lieu of China's illegal claims in Eastern Ladakh and the central sector. But getting back to the 'upgraded' strategic dialogue, it was a case of agreeing to disagree. Finally, as the Frankenstein of terror devours mother Pakistan, how it devours the CPEC remains to be seen. **SP**

**China in her devious ways has voiced an innocuous unofficial statement through Dai Bingguo that if Tawang Plateau is ceded by India, it could pave the way for a boundary settlement**

## DRDO hands over its products to Indian Army

**T**he Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over three of its products for induction into the Indian Army in a formal function here recently. The products — Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) Swathi; NBC Recce Vehicle and NBC Drugs. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar handed over the products to the Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat on behalf of DRDO.

The Defence Minister congratulated DRDO for the series of recent trials including the interceptor missiles. He complimented DRDO scientists for handing over equipment to the Indian Army. Parrikar said that DRDO, defence forces, PSUs and private sector industry's partnership can be a game changer in the near future.

General Bipin Rawat after receiving the products complimented the DRDO for achieving another milestone in their continuing success stories. He was optimistic that at this speed, modernisation of the Indian Army would move at a much faster pace.

The DRDO Chairman and Secretary Department of Defence R&D Dr S. Christopher said: "After Navy and Air Force, time has now come to handover our products to the Army and it is a proud moment for all scientists in DRDO." He stressed that the co-development approach of involving DRDO, user and the industry would speed up projects.

DRDO has been developing a number of products for the Indian Army in support of their field operations and welfare of soldiers on ground. Many of these products have been inducted and are presently operational in field units. In 2016, the Weapon Locating Radar, NBC Recce Vehicle and a set of NBC Drugs had been successfully tested after extensive evaluation by competent evaluation teams/bodies.

Weapon Locating Radar Swathi, developed by DRDO's Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), provides fast, automatic and accurate location of all enemy weapons like mortars, shells and rockets firing within its effective zone of coverage and simultaneously handles multiple projectiles fired from different weapons at different locations. The system is capable of adjusting the fire of our own artillery weapon also. The weapon



includes 81mm or higher calibre mortars, 105mm or higher calibre shells and 120mm or higher calibre free flying rockets. Thus WLR has two roles to perform, i.e. Weapon Location Mode for Enemy Artillery and Direction of Own Artillery Fire (DOOAF) Mode for our own Artillery.

The NBC Recce Vehicle MkI is developed by the Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (VRDE) for carrying out post event recce of nuclear, biological and chemical contaminated areas. It is capable of collecting solid and liquid samples of biologically contaminated areas, mark the nuclear and chemical contamination zone and transfer the recce data speedily to support formations. On successful development of NBC RV MkI in association with DL, Jodhpur, the equipment was approved for induction into the Services.

DRDO's INMAS is actively engaged in research in the field of radio protectors, de-corporating agents and antidotes for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies, combat casualty care and other life-saving drugs. INMAS has carried out extensive research and laboratory trials in the past two decades to develop formulations for use as antidotes and de-corporating agents for CBRN emergencies. Out of the several formulas developed by INMAS, 15 drugs have been identified for induction. **SP**

## Eleventh Indo-Nepal Joint Exercise

**I**ndo-Nepal Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran-XI commenced on March 7 at Pithoragarh. In this 14-day exercise, Nepal Army is being represented by the officers and troops of the elite Durga Baksh Battalion while the Ekta Shakti Battalion of the Punjab Regiment is participating on behalf of the Indian Army.

This is 11th such battalion level exercise between the two countries aimed at training of troops in counter-insurgency operations in mountainous terrain. It formally incorporates issues related to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) and will help enhance defence cooperation



and military relations between the two countries. **SP**

## Maiden anti-ship missile launch by Kalvari

**T**he Indian Navy recently successfully conducted the maiden firing of an anti-ship missile from the first of the indigenously built Kalvari class submarines, during a test-firing in the Arabian Sea.

The missile successfully hit a surface target at extended ranges during the trial firing held recently. This missile launch is a significant milestone, not only for the Kalvari, which is the first in a series of Scorpene class submarines being built in India, but also in enhancing the Indian Navy's subsurface warfare capability.

All six Kalvari class submarines being built in India will be equipped with this anti-ship missile, which has a proven record in combat. These missiles will provide the submarines the ability to neutralise surface threats at extended ranges. **SP**



## Successful test-firing of AAD endo-atmospheric interceptor missile

**D**RDO conducted the successful launch of the interceptor missile Advanced Area Defence (AAD) recently from Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The endo-atmospheric missile, capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 km successfully, destroyed the incoming missile. All the mission objectives were successfully met.

The weapon system radars tracked the target and provided the initial guidance to the interceptor which could precisely home on to the target and destroyed it in endo-atmospheric layer. The complete event, including the engagement and destruction, was tracked by a number of electro-optical tracking systems using infrared imagery. Radars and telemetry stations tracked the target and the interceptor till the destruction of the target. The launch has proved the Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) prowess of the country.

The Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar congratulated DRDO on the successful launch of the interceptor missile. Chairman DRDO and Secretary Department of Defence R&D Dr S. Christopher also congratulated team AAD for the successful test-firing.

Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri and Director General (Mis-



siles & Strategic Systems), DRDO Dr. G. Satheesh Reddy monitored the launch operation along with other senior officials. **SP**

## INS Tillanchang commissioned at Karwar



**I**NS Tillanchang, a water jet fast attack craft (WJFAC), was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Naval Command, at Karwar recently.

INS Tillanchang is the third ship of four follow-on WJFAC built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The first two ships of the class, IN ships Tarmugli and Tihayu were commissioned in 2016 and are based at Visakhapatnam. The ship has been indigenously designed and built and is an upgrade from the Chetlat class of fast attack craft that the Indian Navy possesses.

Speaking on the occasion Vice Admiral Girish Luthra said that these ships play a vital role in light of security environment in the country and are designed to take on both conventional and asymmetric threats. He apprised the gathering that Tillanchang was

able to achieve the fastest speeds among all WJFACs during the speed trials.

INS Tillanchang is about 50m long and powered by three water-jet propulsion system, which give it speeds of over 35 knots. The ship is armed with a 30mm main gun and a number of light, medium and heavy machine guns to undertake operations at sea. It is manned by 50 personnel. Tillanchang, commanded by Commander Adit Patnaik, is an ideal platform for a number of missions like coastal and offshore surveillance, EEZ control, law enforcement as well as non-military missions such as search and rescue, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

INS Tillanchang will be based at Karwar under the operational control of the Flag Officer Commanding, Karnataka Naval Area. **SP**

## Indo-Oman Joint Army Exercise Al Nagah-II

**T**he second edition of the joint exercise between the Indian and Oman Armies commenced with the opening ceremony at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. The training contingents comprised of platoon strength from both the armies, which was validated over two-three days by senior military observers of both the countries. The previous edition of the exercise was held at Muscat, Oman, in 2015.



The aim of this exercise is to acquaint both forces with each other's operating procedures, improve the interoperability in conducting joint operations in the backdrop of counter-insurgency/counter-terrorism environment as also to enhance the existing military relationship between the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman. **SP**



LT GENERAL  
P.C. KATOCH (RETD)

## FGFA redesigned?

**H**appenings at the Aero India 2017 signified the next chapter in the Indo-Russian fifth-generation fighter aircraft (FGFA) saga. Whether it will now move faster than the snail's pace is yet to be seen. Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the Aero India 2017 exhibition Viktor N. Kladov, Director of International Cooperation and Regional Policy, Rostec, stated, "We are talking of new design and jointly developed fifth-generation fighter jet. It will have a new engine with fifth generation features". He added, "We are not talking about the PAK-FA (a Russian built prototype of the FGFA)".

Trust the hype in the Indian media headlining that "Russia has upgraded its offer to India on reviving the stalled FGFA project by putting on table a joint design and development of a brand new fighter jet with a new engine". This offer has been there all along and in fact reported by the same Indian media in yesteryears. Kladov also met Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar during the Aero India exhibition. Parrikar had stated on February 14 that the Ministry of Defence (MoD) had constituted a team to look into various aspects of the FGFA and it was likely to submit its report within a month. A year earlier, our media had reported that India has been pushing for talks with Russia for FGFA while the Russian media had said that both countries were finalising the R&D design contract with both countries putting in \$4 billion each for the FGFA development. The R&D design contract was to be signed in 2016 in all probability, and that India is going in for an FGFA that would be a 'variant' of the Russian single-seat FGFA, termed Sukhoi T-50 or PAK-FA. The preliminary design of the Indian FGFA has already been worked out at a cost of \$295 million, Russian developers having incorporated over 40 modifications that India wanted.

Russian media had also reported that Russia has already permitted the Indian Air Force (IAF) test pilots to fly the prototype FGFA. Now our media says that since engine of the Russian T-50 called PAK-FA (Prospective Airborne Complex of Frontline Aviation) programme, is not fifth-generation, so India had already told Russia during 2016 that it wanted a new engine and the plane must have super-cruise ability, a 360-degree radar ability, added stealth features among 40-odd other modifications, that was the 'variant' that had already been agreed upon in general last year, albeit it was largely a new fighter. The media had also attributed the delay in progressing the Indo-Russian FGFA project to the Rafale deal not having been finalised with France. If true, this was illogical as the Rafale deal only was for 36 aircraft while the IAF is facing enormous criticality in fighter aircraft.

In 2015, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence had informed the Parliament that the situation of the equipping of the IAF was very grim and the national security was being compromised with IAF down to just 25 fighter squadrons against a sanctioned strength of 42. This report by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence was preceded by a report by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) tabled in the Parliament pointing out several criticalities in operational capabilities not only of the IAF but also the Army Aviation Corps (AAC), focus being on poor serviceability of Su-30MKIs and AWACS, plus the obsolete Cheetah / Chetak helicopter fleets: serviceability of over 210 x Su-30MKIs of 272 jets contracted from Russia for over \$12 billion was just around 55-60 per cent against minimum 75 per cent despite the first such fighter inducted 19 years ago and 14 x MiG squadrons were to be progressively retired.

The overall cost for producing 127 x FGFA in India is estimated to be around \$25 billion, which was in news last year. What Kladov also stated was, "We have designs and plans...but we cannot commit ourselves unless we see a willingness to continue [from India]". During the last visit of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to Russia, he was apprised about the extraordinary delay from the Indian side in inking the Kamov 226T utility helicopters to be manufactured under the 'Make in India' programme. It is evident from happenings in recent months that despite the Prime Minister's push and exhortations for 'ease of business', the red tape has refused to reduce especially in matters of defence. Russia's recent leanings towards Pakistan could also have raised apprehensions in the minds of policy makers. But ultimately, what matters is national security; the criticalities of the IAF are enormous and the FGFA under 'Make in India' will require large gestation period. China has already unveiled its fifth-generation stealth fighter.

Intervening in the debate relating to MoD's functioning in Rajya Sabha on May 8, 2012, leader of the opposition, Arun Jaitley (now Finance Minister) had said, "To analyse these security vulnerabilities of the country, the geostrategic realities of India have to be reassessed. Our defence preparedness today must be integral to these changed realities." There is plenty of rhetoric of this type by politicians while in opposition, but when it comes to delivery when in power, all that said is conveniently forgotten.

Two successive 'negative' defence budgets in India undoubtedly make China and Pakistan happy but are we as a nation alive to the geostrategic realities of the enlarging China-Pakistan threat? As for the FGFA, we must get on with the project without wasting any more time. **SP**

**Ultimately, what matters is national security; the criticalities of the Indian Air Force are enormous and the FGFA under 'Make in India' will require large gestation period**

## President's Standard and Colours presented to MTI and 125 (H) SQN at Air Force Station Tambaram

**T**he President of India and Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces, Pranab Mukherjee, awarded the prestigious President's Standard and Colours to 125 Helicopter Squadron and Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) respectively, during a ceremonial parade held at the Air Force Station in Tambaram recently. The Commanding Officer of 125 Helicopter Squadron Group Captain V.D. Badoni and Commanding Officer of MTI Group Captain A. Arunachaleswaran received the President's Standard and Colours respectively.

The ceremonial parade was commanded by Group Captain Arunachaleswaran. The President also released First Day Covers of 125 Helicopter Squadron and Mechanical Training Institute at the function. There was a spectacular display of precision and daredevilry by the Air Warriors drill team. Fly-past consisting of Mi-35 and Mi-17 Helicopters, Pilatus and Kiran trainer aircraft was synchronised with significant events of the parade. The ceremony concluded with a breathtaking air show demonstrated by Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT), which won the admiration of one and all.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu and senior government officials from Tamil Nadu administration, Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa, Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal C. Hari Kumar, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Air Command, Air Marshal S.R.K. Nair, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command along with other senior defence and civilian dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the President congratulated the awardee units and said that the nation is proud of the capability and competency of the IAF. "Over the last eight decades, the IAF has emerged as an immensely professional and combat-ready force. It has achieved distinction in defending our skies and delivering vital humanitarian aid and disaster relief. The brave men and women in blue have displayed incredible courage and determination in the discharge of their duties, acquitting themselves



with great confidence. The ongoing process of modernisation will transform the IAF into an even more potent and strategic force that can take on all future challenges. The IAF will remain ever vigilant in protecting our skies and continue to maintain its cherished standards of excellence." **SP**

## Rockwell Collins' technology for the KC-46A one step closer to entering service

**J**ust over a year after Rockwell Collins' Remote Vision System (RVS) aided in the Boeing KC-46A tanker's successful first refuelling test flight, the US Air Force has awarded Boeing its third low-rate initial production aircraft lot. The order includes 15 KC-46A aircraft as part of an overall plan to replace the Air Force's tanker fleet. First deliveries of the KC-46A will begin later this year.

Rockwell Collins provides significant content on the KC-46A, including the

innovative RVS, which combines 2D and 3D vision technologies in both visible and long-wave infrared spectrums, allowing the boom operator to safely refuel military aircraft in any weather and time of day, including 'lights out' operations.

"The cutting-edge technology developed for the RVS defies anything that's previously been used for airborne refuelling," said Dave Schreck, Vice President and General Manager, Airborne Solutions for Rockwell Collins. "This technology resulted from the hard work and innovative spirit of dedicated, professional teams from Rockwell Collins, Boeing and the Air Force. It also wasn't just the RVS. This productive, collaborative environment applies to the numerous systems we're providing on the KC-46A."

In addition to the RVS, Rockwell Collins provides the following for the KC-46A tanker.

Integrated display system featuring four 15.1-inch diagonal liquid crystal displays, built on proven technology from the Boeing 787 programme, delivering significantly higher levels of reliability and safety; a Tactical Situational Awareness System (TSAS) processor built on a Joint Interoperability Test Command (JITC)-certified system, which provides situational awareness to the crew, routing cues to avoid imminent threats in the area, and awareness of friendly entities; Signal data concentrator network, a DO-178B and DO-254 certified system that forms the avionics network on the aircraft and state-of-the-art communications, navigation, surveillance, networking and flight control systems. **SP**



## Lockheed Martin upgrades flying intelligence test bed



**L**ockheed Martin's manned airborne test bed, the Airborne Multi-INT Lab (AML), has been enhanced to expedite its ability to deliver decision-quality intelligence. The AML is utilised to experiment with combinations of sensors, systems and technologies to help customers develop ways to support a diverse range of contingency operations.

To accelerate its ability to transform 'data' into 'intelligence,' updates were recently made to the AML's onboard processing capability, which collects and correlates disparate types of sensor data. The AML now has an autonomous sensor control mode that can coordinate operations between the test bed's various onboard

sensors. This mode allows operators to focus on mission planning and operational issues while detailed execution is handled autonomously.

Also integrated into the test bed's mission system was a cognitive processing capability that enables rapid adaptation to a changing target environment. In addition, the AML's open, 'plug-and-play' architecture was upgraded to extend the system's ability to integrate with existing ground architectures. This open architecture allows additional new software and hardware to be integrated in a matter of hours.

"Getting the right intelligence to those who need it is critical for any mission to succeed," said Dr Rob Smith, Vice President of C4ISR for Lockheed Martin. "The AML has furthered our ability to expedite solution delivery, reduce the risk of those solutions, and help us deliver differentiated capabilities affordably to our customers."

The AML, a modified Gulfstream III business jet, provides a readily reconfigurable platform to rapidly explore how multiple sensors and onboard systems interact, and how to best apply them for use in military and non-military markets. A variety of features onboard the aircraft enable this experimentation. Equipped with a multitude of sensors (electro-optical/ infrared systems, synthetic aperture radar, electronic intelligence and communications intelligence) and various communications apertures, the AML also has an open archi-

ture that eases sensor interchangeability, a radome on the belly of the aircraft with ample volume for a mix of sensors, four onboard workstations and a computing capability that supports most commercial operating systems.

Beyond traditional uses such as development and evaluation support, this robust intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR) lab can be deployed anywhere in the world with a minimal support footprint. Since its introduction in 2009, the AML has more than 4,000 mission hours providing 'ISR as a Service' supporting real-world customer missions. **SP**

## Yokota welcomes first C-130J Super Hercules

**T**eam Yokota welcomed the first of 14 C-130J Super Hercules being assigned to the 374th Airlift Wing and Pacific Air Forces on March 6, 2017. The new aircraft will eventually replace the unit's existing C-130H fleet, which has been in service for nearly 30 years. The transition is part of an Air Force-wide effort to modernise the entire active duty C-130 fleet. It effectively closes a strong chapter in airlift history, as the H model has been in active duty service since 1974. The C-130J incorporates state-of-the-art technology to reduce manpower requirements, lower operating and support costs, and provide life-cycle cost savings over earlier C-130 models. **SP**

## Boeing launches MH-139 in US Air Force helicopter competition

**B**oeing recently unveiled its MH-139 helicopter in the competition to replace the US Air Force's (USAF) UH-1N 'Huey' fleet, which currently protects intercontinental ballistic missiles and transports US Government and security forces.

Boeing's response to the Air Force, revealed at the Air Force Association Air Warfare Symposium, is based on the market-leading Leonardo Helicopters AW139, a modern, non-developmental, multimission helicopter.

"This Northeast Philadelphia-built aircraft is sized to meet USAF requirements and offers more than \$1 billion in acquisition and life-cycle expense savings over 30 years when compared to competitor aircraft," said David Koopersmith, Vice President and General Manager, Boeing Vertical Lift.

The US Air Force's UH-1N Replacement Program plans to replace the current Huey fleet — which entered service in the 1970s — with up to 84 new helicopters.

"The Huey replacement is of vital importance to the Air Force, and the MH-139 is the right solution for those missions," said Judy Fedder, Director of Global Sales & Marketing, Boeing Integrated Logistics, and a retired USAF Lt General. "The fact that the AW139 is



being built today on an active production line will speed it to meet the time-critical demand following the competition."

Almost 900 AW139s are in service with more than 250 governments, militaries and companies across the world. More than 250 of the helicopters have been assembled and delivered from Philadelphia. **SP**

## Bell Helicopter continues to shape the future of vertical lift

**B**ell Helicopter recently unveiled its vision for the future of rotorcraft — the FCX-001. This is Bell Helicopter's first concept aircraft and presents a 3D road map for delivering safer, smarter and more efficient rotorcraft solutions.

"For the past 80 years, Bell Helicopter has imagined the art of the possible and brought those dreams to life," Bell Helicopter's President and CEO Mitch Snyder said during the opening ceremony at the HAI Heli-Expo. "Six months ago we created a dedicated team to focus on emerging technologies and how we could incorporate them into our products. Among that team's first tasks was to display visually the technologies and innovations that present a road map that we envision bringing to market."

Bell Helicopter formed a core group of engineers and a team of graphic designers that proved to be a highly collaborative team of problem solvers. It was through this process that the FCX-001, a concept aircraft, came to light to physically demonstrate a new way of thinking.

The concept aircraft was built to address the evolving demands of our customers and demonstrate key technologies that revolutionise the pilot and passenger experience, including: A new anti-torque system in the tail boom designed to change the safety, noise and performance parameters of vertical lift aircraft forever; Hybridised propulsion combines advanced thermal engine cores for the main propulsion; An airframe that is made from advanced sustainable materials to provide structural performance and offer configurations that our customers desire; A landing gear with non-traditional geometries that facilitate function when combined with



advanced materials and actuation; Morphing rotor blades that allow aircraft to optimise performance in different flight regimes; A single pilot seat and an entirely new flight deck experience with the pilot controlling the aircraft through augmented reality and an artificial intelligence computer assistance system and a highly modular passenger cabin enhanced with the same augmented reality technology for individualised infotainment.

"Being a pioneer in the aircraft industry is in our DNA and we want to share this renewed passion with the world. The FCX-001 points the way for our future — a renewed focus on innovative solutions and technologies. When the time is right we look forward to sharing more of what we're doing behind closed doors," added Snyder. **SP**

## MD Helicopters debuts MD 6XX concept helicopter



**A**fter announcing the planned development of an all-new, high-performance single-engine helicopter at HAI Heli-Expo 2016 in Louisville, Kentucky, MD Helicopters Inc (MDHI) announced the debut of the MD 6XX concept helicopter at the 2017 HAI Heli-Expo Trade Show & Exhibition.

On display at Booth #9349 in the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center, Dallas, Texas, the MD 6XX is a next-generation, multimission helicopter that will set new standards for power, performance and multimission capabilities across military, law enforcement, EMS/air medical, and special operations markets.

"With the development of the MD 6XX I have assembled some of the industry's most well-respected companies to work directly with me and my internal technology, engineering, and R&D teams to deliver an aircraft that will provide unparalleled value and performance for our operators," said Lynn Tilton, Chief Executive Officer of MD Helicopters.

Inspired by the payload capability of the MD 600N, the MD 6XX concept aircraft features a number of newly designed structural elements and technologically advanced systems that combine to deliver enhanced safety, reduced pilot workload, increased flexibility, and lower cost of ownership.

MD Helicopters began development of the MD 6XX concept helicopter in order to fill a specific scout attack helicopter mission profile that is currently not addressed. **SP**

## US Coast Guard MH-65 Dolphins reach 1.5 million flight hours

**A**irbus Helicopters Inc saluted the US Coast Guard for its recent milestone achievement of reaching 1.5 million flight hours with the service's fleet of MH-65 Dolphin patrol and search-and-rescue helicopters.

From patrolling the skies over Lake Michigan to performing life-saving rescues in the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard's MH-65 Dolphin has become the most recognisable search and rescue aircraft in the world.

"This is an enormous accomplishment for the US Coast Guard, and for Airbus," said Chris Emerson, President of Airbus Helicopters Inc. "We are proud of the great work the men and women of the Coast Guard perform with these aircraft. They have saved countless lives and guarded our nation's borders and ports. We look forward to working with the Coast Guard for years to come, supporting their missions by keeping this workhorse helicopter flying and serving the American people." **SP**

## Ten years of Shoal

**T**he Shoal (Heron 1) UAV joined the Israeli Air Force 10 years ago, taking the UAV division a step forward. Since then, it has taken a central role and active part in Israel's recent military operations and performed various missions.

"The Shoal UAV was a quantum leap in the world of UAVs, like the Baz (F-15) and the Adir (F-35I) in the fighter division," said Colonel (Res') Hodi Lahav, who commanded the First UAV Squadron when the Shoal was integrated in 2007.

It performs a large variety of missions such as reconnaissance, location of MIA (Missing in Action) and other operations the UAV division leads in due to its unique characteristics. "We work around the clock," emphasised Lt Colonel Arik, Commander of the First UAV Squadron. "We perform missions from the strategic level to the routine security level".

The Shoal can stay in the air for up to 30 hours, an ability that allows it to fly to far places or alternatively fly over a target for long periods of time for the purpose of intelligence gathering. Its single engine is considered especially trustworthy and is characterised by silent activity which contributes to its quiet flight, a clear need when dealing with long range or intelligence missions in which low signature is critical for the success of the mission. **SP**



## Kelvin Hughes launches new drone detection radar

**K**elvin Hughes said it would be launching its new drone detection system at the Home Office Security & Policing exhibition. The SMS-D is the first integrated, medium-range, radar-based surveillance system designed for the detection and tracking of small aerial targets.

Whether used maliciously or just irresponsibly, drones represent a new threat to security. The SMS-D tracks the real-time position of these aerial targets, including those that could be used to attack infrastructure, vehicles or individuals as well as those that may be used for hostile observation or smuggling. Based on the company's solid-state SharpEye X-Band radar transceiver technology, the system is able to detect drones up to 1.5 km away.

Highly cost-effective, the SMS-D provides continuously updated bearing, distance, altitude and velocity data. The latest addition to the Kelvin Hughes SMS (Single Mast Solution) range, it identifies targets automatically through its video tracking system, ensuring that any remedial or defensive action can be implemented without delay.

The SMS is designed to accommodate a combination of radar, optical and thermal imaging devices in order to provide 360° surveillance of any site perimeter or border as well as providing early detection of

any drones or other UAVs. The SMS can be fixed to a permanent structure or mounted on a vehicle to further extend the envelope of detection.

Jonathan Field, Security Systems and Sensors Director for Kelvin Hughes, commented: "We're very much looking forward to the official launch of the SMS-D. The first of its kind, the system is a fully integrated package of radar and electro-optic sensors and software providing a sophisticated yet highly cost-effective response to the increasing threat of drone incursion. And it's yet another example of our long-proven record of world-leading innovation." **SP**

## Australian Navy's Avalon eyes in the sky



**N**ot all aircraft at the Australian International Airshow at Avalon actually have pilots — just ask the team at the Navy

Unmanned Aircraft Systems Unit. The unit is tasked with testing two different unmanned aircraft types — the ScanEagle (fixed-wing) and the Schiebel Camcopter S-100 (rotary-wing) for the Royal Australian Navy.

Lt Commander Matt Hyam is the Engineering Manager in charge of the maintenance and engineering of both unmanned aircraft systems. Most of the staff at the unit are aviation technicians, specialising in avionics or airframes.

"We only have a very small team here at Avalon this year because a lot of our technicians are currently undergoing world-class training with Schiebel in Vienna, Austria, for two months," Lt Commander Hyam said.

"The ScanEagle is a fixed-wing, unmanned aircraft focused on providing commanders with a vital intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capability, providing a more complete battle picture," Chief Petty Officer Hustwit said.

"At sea, the ScanEagle operates well beyond the range of a warship's organic sensors, providing a vital eye in the sky." The ScanEagle has been on trials by the Navy for about 18 months, with first of class trials conducted in HMA ships Choules and Newcastle.

This is the first time the Navy has displayed the Schiebel Camcopter S-100, which looks like a mini helicopter, so it is drawing the biggest crowd. "The main advantage of the Schiebel is its vertical take-off and landing capability, which saves on the deck space that would be required for a launcher," he said. **SP**



## Magellan Aerospace announces construction of new manufacturing and assembly plant in India

**M**agellan Aerospace announced plans to construct a new manufacturing and assembly facility in India. The new 1,40,000 sq ft building will be constructed on three hectares in the Aerospace Special Economic Zone near the Bengaluru International Airport. Magellan expects to break ground for the new facility in June 2017.

Magellan will invest more than CDN \$28 million in this state-of-the-art manufacturing and assembly plant, which will be constructed in three phases. When the first phase is commissioned

near the end of 2017, it will employ approximately 120 engineers, machinists, procurement professionals, and quality and management personnel and be equipped with a full suite of 5-axis machining centres.

Phillip Underwood, President and Chief Executive Office of Magellan Aerospace, said: "Magellan's expanding footprint in India, and increasing spectrum of capabilities, reflects the company's commitment to provide competitive solutions for major commercial customers." **SP**

## GKN Aerospace's Fokker business and Dutch MoD sign total support agreement



**O**n March 3 GKN Aerospace's Fokker business and the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf) have signed a multimillion Euro total support agreement for a five-year period, covering standard parts supply and services for all of the RNLAf's aircraft, helicopters and multiple support systems. After the five-year period the contract can be extended twice with a period of one year.

The total support solution covers the delivery of the standard parts and additional services such as transportation, management of storage systems, forecasting and stock storage.

RNLAf fleet of Apache, Chinook and Cougar helicopters as well as the F-16s, PC-7s and the KDC-10 tanker aircraft are included in the contract. The total support solution will be delivered from the Fokker facility in Hoofddorp, the Netherlands.

Fokker was selected in 2012 by NHIndustries as standard parts provider for all NH90 helicopters worldwide and holds a strong position as an integrated after-market service provider for Airbus, Boeing, Fokker and Bombardier aircraft.

Commodore Mario Verbeek said: "This is an important innovative performance based contract which will directly contribute to the readiness of the Royal Netherlands Air Force. I am very proud and happy to take this important step together with our strategic partner GKN Aerospace Fokker."

Paul Vorstermans, Vice President at Fokker Services, said: "Fokker

is proud to be selected for long-term total support of the RNLAf fleet. We recognise and appreciate the confidence that the RNLAf has demonstrated in our team and we look forward to further develop our relationship. This contract will enhance the position of Fokker in the military support market providing a total support solution for this specific group of parts." **SP**

## Leonardo is growing in the US with the acquisition of Daylight Solutions

**L**eonardo, through the US subsidiary Leonardo DRS, has signed a definitive agreement to purchase Daylight Solutions Inc, a leading developer and supplier of quantum cascade laser products and technology.

Mauro Moretti Leonardo, CEO and General Manager, declared: "Acquisition of Daylight Solutions is a first significant step forward towards the objectives of growth and development of the Industrial Plan 2017-21. This acquisition will allow Leonardo DRS to extend the range of advanced solutions to civil and military customers around the world, integrating the Daylight Solutions laser technology in the core business of electro-optical and infrared sensors and systems."

Both Leonardo DRS and Daylight Solutions are leaders in infrared research and product development. The integration of laser and sensor systems developed by the two companies can be used in a variety of dual-use applications, including aircraft survivability products and medical and industrial applications, including imaging for cancer diagnostics and chemical detection.

Bill Lynn, CEO of Leonardo DRS, said: "With this acquisition, Leonardo DRS reinforces its commitment to remain at the forefront of infrared technology to not only protect our men and women in uniform but also to perform critical tasks across a range of industries, including medical and industrial applications."

Daylight Solutions is expected to grow significantly in the coming years, thanks to the rollout of new US military aircraft survivability systems, where Daylight Solutions has secured significant roles. Daylight's Scientific Instrumentation business segment is at the forefront of introducing new diagnostic and analytical tools for medical research and treatment, which build on the commercial utilisation of its core quantum cascade laser products.

Leonardo DRS will pay \$150 million for 100 per cent of the equity of Daylight Solutions. Following the closing of the transaction, Daylight Solutions will be one of eight Leonardo DRS lines of business. Both Daylight Solutions co-founders, Timothy Day and Paul Larson, will remain with Leonardo DRS. **SP**

## One more White House trespasser

**F**ederal attorneys have identified the person who allegedly jumped a White House fence recently and got so deep into the compound that he was seen hiding behind one of the mansion's columns before being apprehended. The suspect has been identified as Jonathan Tuan Tran, 26, of Milpitas, California, according to the US Attorney's Office and court documents.

Tran purportedly entered the White House grounds at about 11:38 p.m. with a backpack and was approaching the building's south portico residence entrance when apprehended. President Trump was inside the White House at the time and the next day he appreciated the Secret Service efforts. The Secret Service statement said the backpack contained no hazardous materials and that the unidentified suspect had no 'previous history' with the agency. **SP**



## UK Prime Minister's aircraft on radar



**T**he *Mail* recently reported that the official aircraft of the UK Prime Minister, Theresa May, can be tracked by a mobile phone app. *The Mail* quoted experts stating that the astonishing security lapse made Theresa May 'a flying target' as she arrived in the terror hotspot of Turkey from Washington recently. The exact location of the aircraft, dubbed 'May Force One' — along with its height, direction and speed — was broadcast online as it came in to land in Ankara, the site of repeated terrorist attacks.

Experts called for the transponder — the onboard device that broadcasts its location — to be switched off, as is the case with the US President's Air Force One jet. Chris Phillips, the former head of the National Counter Terrorism Security Office, said: "This is perfect information for a would-be terrorist. They should have turned off the tracker on the plane. It is ridiculous and irresponsible that this information is publicly available. Planes are in the most danger when they are taking off and landing. If you know the next incoming plane has the Prime Minister onboard, you can lie in wait and fire something at it."

The long-range Royal Air Force (RAF) Voyager aircraft was commandeered by Downing Street last year after being converted at a cost of £10 million for use by senior ministers and members of the Royal family. **SP**

## Eleven people walk through security at JFK airport

**T**he US Department of Transportation Security Administration (TSA) left a security lane unattended at JFK's JetBlue Terminal recently which saw 11 people walking through without security frisk. However, three of them set off alarms. It took TSA agents about two hours to alert the Port Authority Police Department of the major breach, and by then, the unidentified passengers were nowhere to be sighted. The security lapse occurred at around 6 a.m., when TSA agents in Terminal 5 opened a screening lane without immediately assigning agents to staff it, according to sources. "The screening lane was unmanned, but passengers didn't know, so they started going through it," a source said. Three travellers set off alarms as they walked through the metal detector — but no one stopped them, the sources said.

When the agents realised what had happened, they grabbed images of the passengers from security footage and scoured the terminal for them. **SP**

## Kim Jong-nam's death raises security issues

**C**ould a lapse in security between Kim Jong-nam's security detail and Malaysian police have given two North Korean spies the opportunity to get close to him and poison him? That is the suggestion from a source familiar with the case, according to South Korea's Yonhap News Agency. The agency quoted the source as saying that agents of the Reconnaissance General Bureau, North Korea's spy agency, had carried out the killing by taking advantage of a security loophole created between Jong-nam's bodyguards and Malaysian police at Klia2, which is Malaysia's low-cost carrier airport in Sepang.

Jong-nam, 45, who was the eldest son of the late North Korean leader, Kim Jong Il, was said to have been killed by two women who are believed to be spies. He was reportedly poisoned by the two women at the airport, where he was scheduled to take a flight to Macau. Jong-nam is the half-brother of current North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. **SP**



Follow us on Twitter

**SP's**  
**MILITARY**  
**YEARBOOK**  
S I N C E 1 9 6 5

**SP's**  
**AVIATION**  
SHARP CONTENT FOR SHARP AUDIENCE

**SP's** AN SP GUIDE PUBLICATION  
**Land Forces**

**SP's** AN SP GUIDE PUBLICATION  
**Naval Forces**

**SP's**  
**AIRBUZ**  
AN INITIATIVE BY SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS & AIRBUS

**SP's** AN SP GUIDE PUBLICATION  
**MAI**  
AN INITIATIVE BY SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS & MAI  
DEFENCE FORUM ON  
MILITARY  
AEROSPACE  
INTERNAL SECURITY

**BizAV India**  
An initiative by SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS & SPGA



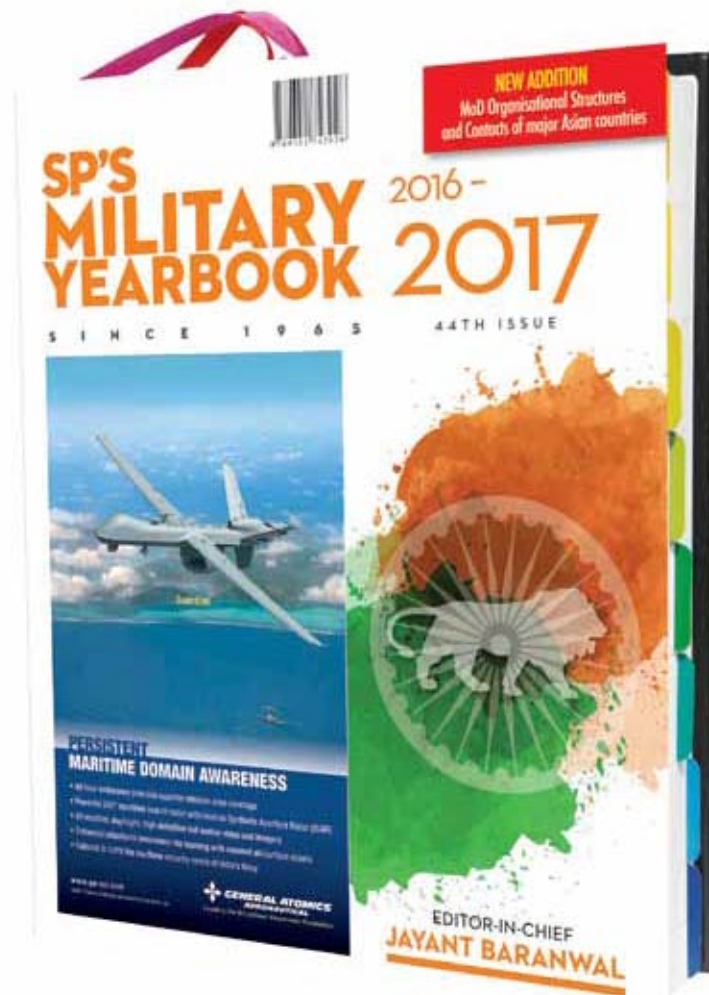
**SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS**

[www.spguidepublications.com](http://www.spguidepublications.com)



Now Available  
**NEW EDITION**

# INDISPENSABLE COMEPNDIUM



**A CONCISE, YET EXTENSIVE PUBLICATION,  
FOR THOSE WHO SEEK DEFENCE-RELATED  
INFORMATION ON ASIA-PACIFIC REGION**



**Reserve Your  
Own Copies, Now!**

[order@spsmilitaryyearbook.com](mailto:order@spsmilitaryyearbook.com)



**SP GUIDE PUBLICATIONS**

[ SP's @ 53 PURSUING EXCELLENCE OVER FIVE DECADES SINCE 1964 ]