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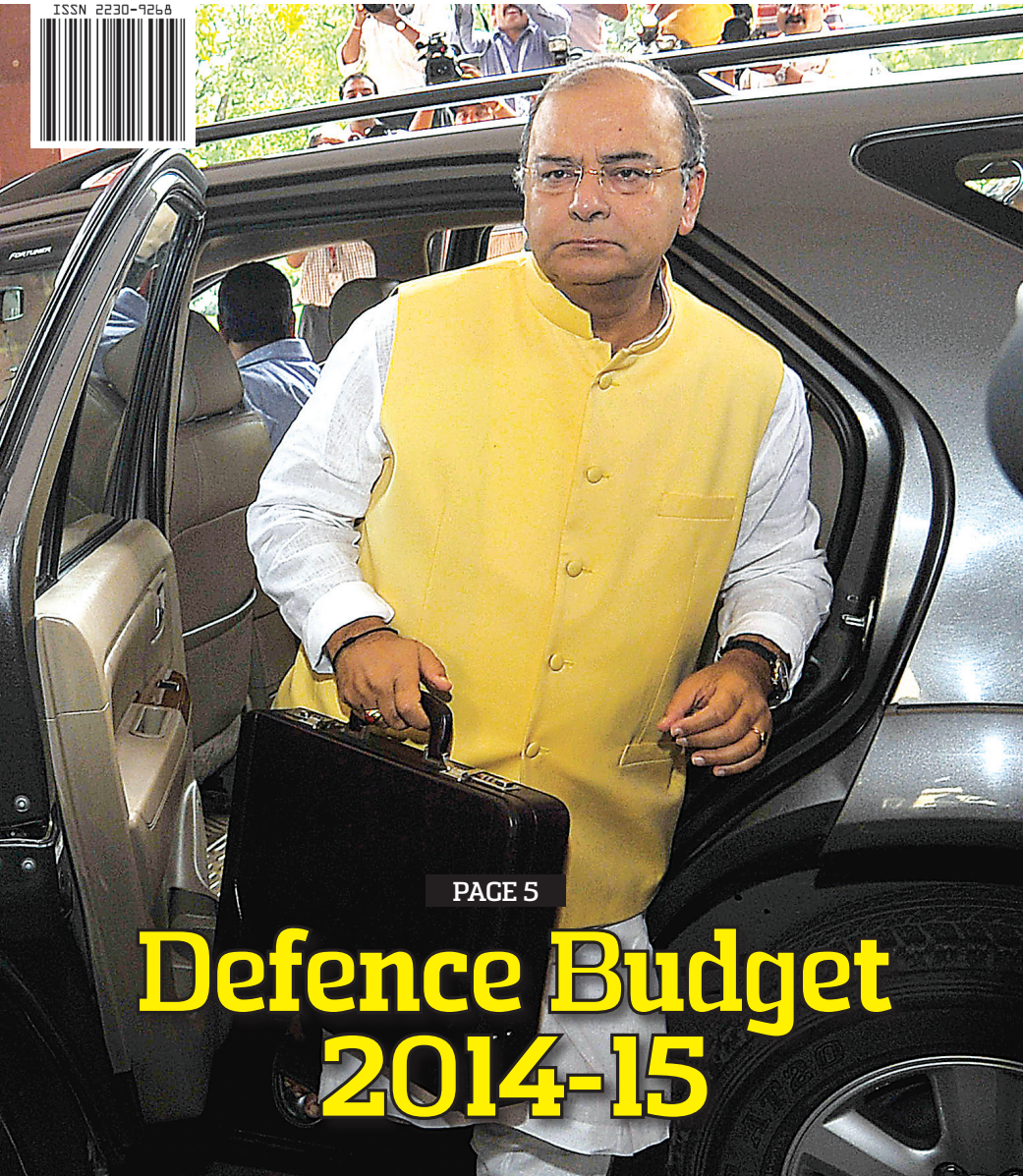
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## Mexican Navy takes delivery of first of four Beechcraft King Air 350ER aircraft

**B**eechcraft Corporation, a subsidiary of Textron Aviation Inc., a Textron Inc. company, announced on July 15 at the Farnborough International Airshow that it has delivered the first of four Beechcraft King Air 350ER aircraft ordered by the Mexican Navy Secretaría de Marina (SEMAR). In addition to the aircraft, Beechcraft will support SEMAR with on-the-ground service, support and training through its Global Mission Support organisation.

Rear Admiral Jose Marie Macedo, Director General of Naval Aviation Operations, visited company headquarters in Wichita, Kansas, to accept delivery of the aircraft, which will be stationed at the naval base in Veracruz. The remaining three aircraft will be delivered by the second quarter of 2015.



“SEMAR recognises the Beechcraft King Air as a cost-effective and reliable partner for special missions work within the country,” said Dan Keady, Vice President, Special Missions. “The Mexican Navy operated a King Air C90 in the past and it’s great to see the King Air family return to its fleet. The delivery of the King Air 350ER further expands the Beechcraft relationship with SEMAR, which earlier this year placed an initial order for two T-6C+ military trainers.”

The Textron Aviation display at Farnborough included a specially modified Beechcraft King Air 350ER, which is operated out of northern Europe and fitted with a unique and flexible mission package that supports search and rescue, fishery inspection, pollution monitoring and seaway/shipping lane surveillance missions. The King Air 350ER was selected for these missions due to its high dash speeds, long endurance, high reliability and low operating cost. 



### Cover:

Government has announced the defence budget amounting to ₹2,29,000 crore for financial year 2014-2015. The defence spending was boosted by 12 per cent over the previous year and a ₹5,000-crore increase over what the previous government had announced as part of the interim budget earlier this year.

Cover images: PIB

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## Positive budget, scope for more

**A**fter having inherited an economy with enormous challenges, the Narendra Modi-led BJP Government should be praised for its first budget, making a sincere effort to revive the economy. It is a Herculean task and the task of putting it back on rails is not a one-budget affair. It is in this perspective, we need to analyse the defence budget which has been increased by 12 per cent over the previous year. The allocation for defence is ₹2,29,000 crore (\$38.5 billion).

The Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who also holds the Defence portfolio, announced that “modernisation of the armed forces is critical to enable them to play their role selectively in the defence of India’s strategic interests.” He has set aside for defence outlay over and above the amount provided under the interim budget to give a boost to the modernisation of the armed forces. Yes, we know it is not enough, considering the major acquisitions that India has lined up. However, a positive beginning has been made and it is only hoped that the government understands defence exigencies. As per a Pentagon report, India’s annual defence budget is just one-third of that of China (\$145 billion last year). While we need to be prudent, there is no doubt whatsoever that India has to escalate its defence spend.

In this issue, former top army officers have given insights into the defence budget. Lt General (Retd) P.C. Katoch expresses concern that there are serious voids, which, as per some estimates, are to the tune of ₹2,70,000 crore in the Army alone, leaving that much less for modernisation. Major deals such as the 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft contract are pending which is pegged at over ₹60,000 crore. All these have to be provisioned for and it is not an easy task.

On the one hand is the budget and on the other are the policies which the industry, defence, etc. are hoping will be freed up. There are moves by the government already and one of which is the foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence sector, hiked from 26 per cent to 49 per cent. It is a welcome move, but the original equipment manufacturers feel that unless they get a majority stakeholding equity, the hike in FDI is not going to make much of a difference. It remains to

be seen how much FDI will flow in after the hike as the earlier cap only fetched less than \$5 million FDI.

Nevertheless, we see a positive movement with regard to foreign governments, companies and other stakeholders stating that there are winds of change. The United States is actively engaging India in various spheres getting a whiff of the anticipated developments in India. The US dispatched its Deputy Secretary of State William Burns and prior to him, the Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia, Anita Desai Biswal, to prepare grounds for the Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the US in September this year.

All this bodes well for the government which promises ‘good days ahead’ (*aache din aanevale*). We hope they just don’t remain mere words.

We look forward to your feedback and happy reading!



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

INS Sahyadri (F 49) transits to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam to participate in RIMPAC 2014



## INS Sahyadri stars at world's biggest naval wargame

**T**he LCA Indian stealth frigate INS Sahyadri, the first Indian Navy warship to participate in the Rim Of The Pacific (RIMPAC) series of international maritime exercises, has drawn considerable interest at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. She is part of a multinational flotilla of 49 surface ships, six submarines and more than 200 aircraft involved in the exercise, along with about 25,000 personnel from 22 nations and six observer nations, participating in the 24th RIMPAC exercise, the world's largest international maritime exercise, till August 1, in the East Pacific. Sahyadri and the other surface combatants will, according to the US Navy, conduct training ashore and out at sea in a coalition and joint effort.

"RIMPAC is a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans," says the US Navy.

"I think it's important to note that by simply attending RIMPAC, every nation here is making the bold statement that we must improve multilateral military cooperation despite disagreements," US Navy Admiral, Harry Harris, Pacific Fleet commander, said. "Today, maritime cooperation is more vital than ever. For centuries the world's oceans kept us apart but in this increasingly globalised world the world's oceans bring us together."

"The rebalance is based on a strategy of cooperation and collaboration and that's why it's imperative that we work together to build trust and confidence to solve our collective maritime challenges," Harris said. "When great nations work together, we can accomplish great things. Collaboration and cooperation; that's why we're here, to learn together, to operate together and to sail together."

"It's going to be very valuable training but make no mistake it's going to be very hard work," said US Navy Vice Admiral Kenneth E. Floyd, Combined Task Force commander. "I'm already proud and very honoured to have the opportunity to lead the 25,000 people from 22 different countries on the RIMPAC team this year and I'm looking forward to all that they are about to do out on the high seas."

Harris said that building mutual trust and opening lines of communication are critical for success but challenging to build. RIMPAC offers participants the chance to work alongside other nations in preparation for real world events, and is designed to strengthen rebalance efforts of the Asia-Pacific region. **SP**

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LT GENERAL (RETD)  
PC. KATOCH

# Defence budget 2014-15

**The fact is that while the FDI confidence index of the country is very high, that in the defence sector is extremely low. It is imperative that all stakeholders be integrated in reforming the Defence Procurement Policy and procedures, without which raising the FDI limit is unlikely to provide significant dividends.**

PHOTOGRAPH: PIB

**T**he Finance Minister has announced the defence budget amounting to ₹2,29,000 crore (\$38.5 billion) for financial Year 2014-15. The defence spending was boosted by 12 per cent over the previous year (defence expenditure for 2013-14 was kept at ₹2,04,000 crore) and a ₹5,000-crore increase over what the previous government had announced as part of the interim budget earlier this year.

While announcing the defence budget, the Finance Minister said, "Modernisation of the armed forces is critical to enable them to play their role selectively in the defence of India's strategic interests." The additional sum of ₹5,000 crore has also been set aside for defence outlay over and above the amount provided under the interim budget to give a boost to the modernisation of the armed forces. However, this includes a sum of ₹1,000 crore for accelerating the development of railway system in border areas.

Earlier, in June 2014, a Pentagon report had stated that India's annual defence budget is just one-third of that of China despite the tensions that remain along their shared border. That situation remains unchanged as the newly announced budget is still less than a third of China's \$145 billion expenditure last year. Actual figures Chinese defence expenditure have always been much more and shrouded in ambiguity because of the enormous business concerns of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). But considering the downward spiral of our economy under the previous government, it would have been too optimistic to expect a greater hike in the defence budget. However, what should be of serious concern to us is making up of the existing voids, which as per some estimates are to the tune of ₹2,70,000 crore in the Army alone, leaving that much less for modernisation.

Major deals like the 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA) aircraft contract are pending, which is expected to be worth over ₹60,000 crore. The other major acquisitions expected to be finalised in next few weeks include the deals for 22 Apache combat helicopters, 15 Chinook heavy-lift helicopters

and six mid-air refuelling aircraft. The 155mm gun howitzer deal ex BAE Systems of US appears to be off in view of development of the indigenous 'Dhanush' but the question is how many years will it require to complete the voids of the artillery, argument of procurement of additional 130mm guns cutting no ice. As for border infrastructure, while ₹1,000 crore have been allotted for the strategic railway lines, what about the balance infrastructure and how much will be required for this from the current defence budget?

Of the overall 73 strategic roads planned, only 17 have been completed to date. There is little change to the shocking revelations made by the Standing Committee of Defence in February 2014: only one out of 27 ITBP roads have been completed; detailed project report for 18 roads have not even been reportedly prepared although deadline for completion of all 27 roads range from March to October 2014; 14 strategic railway lines proposed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2010 and 2012 along the China border are still on paper; after a three-year delay, contracts for six Advanced Landing Grounds in Arunachal Pradesh have reportedly not been awarded yet. Allotment of the ₹100 crore Technology Development Fund is a welcome step but it must be used judiciously and we must have a proper road map for leapfrogging technology including adapt to the art of reverse engineering, as is being practised by China.

Similarly, hiking FDI in the defence sector is a welcome step but much work is required to streamline procedures and make the system attractive and practical for investors. The 26 per cent FDI had barely attracted less than \$5 million foreign investment; just 4.94 per cent in last 14 years. The fact is that while the FDI confidence Index of the country is very high, that in the defence sector is extremely low. This cannot be rectified by the MoD by themselves, which they have failed to do over the years. It is imperative that all stakeholders be integrated in reforming the Defence Procurement Policy and procedures, without which raising the FDI limit is unlikely to provide significant dividends. **SP**





AIR MARSHAL (RETD)  
B.K. PANDEY

# 2.5 per cent of GDP ideal

**T**he newly elected Government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented its first budget on July 10, just 45 days after taking over the reins of power. On account of the promises of “good times ahead” made by the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) during the election campaign, expectations of the nation from the Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley had justifiably risen sky high. Unfortunately, the NDA Government had inherited an economy that was not in a very healthy state with the fiscal deficit at nearly twice the acceptable level. The problem has been compounded further by the escalating crisis in the Middle East that may impact oil prices as well as predictions of a failed monsoon that would have a devastating effect on agricultural production. These factors made it all the more difficult for the government to muster resources seriously limiting the options before the Finance Minister in the formulation of the budget.

The presentation of the budget was followed by a stormy debate in the public domain and was unfortunately reduced to a BJP vs Congress slanging match. However, what was conspicuous by its absence was serious debate on the defence budget except for the sharp increase in foreign direct investment (FDI) in the defence sector from 26 to 49 per cent with approval by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB). Incidentally, this is not entirely a new proposition as it was mooted by the UPA II Government too as the inflow of FDI was pitifully low. This proposal was stoutly resisted by the then Minister of Defence A.K. Antony on account of some vague and unwarranted apprehensions. The UPA Government had finally settled for FDI in the defence industry at 49 per cent only if it involved transfer of high-end technology and that too on case-by-case basis and required to be approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) and not just the FIPB.

In the budget of 2013-14 the sum allotted for defence was ₹2,03,162 crore representing a hike of a measly 5.3 per cent over the previous year, not enough even to compensate for inflation. Besides, a sum of ₹7,869 crore was taken back from the defence budget before the end of the financial year 2013-14

and credited to the consolidated fund of India to meet with pressing commitments in other sectors, further eroding the percentage hike.

As against the allocation in 2013-14, despite the prevailing fiscal stress, the allocation for defence in 2014-15 is to the tune of ₹2,29,000 crore, up by ₹25,838 crore representing a hike by 12.7 per cent.

Allocation under capital expenditure, as compared to last year, has gone up from ₹78,872 crore to ₹94,588 crore, an increase by ₹15,716 crore which represents a hike by nearly 20 per cent. This was badly needed in view of the several proposals for acquisition of urgently required military hardware that have been languishing on account of lack of resources. On the other hand, the revenue expenditure has gone up by ₹9,612 crore i.e. from ₹1,24,800 crore to ₹1,34,412 crore, a hike by 7.7 per cent only. Also, the ratio between allocations under capital expenditure and revenue expenditure in the financial year 2013-14 was 0.63 whereas in the budget for 2014-15 this ratio has gone up to 0.70 reflecting the distinct shift in focus towards capital expenditure. This should be good news for the armed forces who are eagerly looking forward to the induction of modern military hardware.



Rafale fighter aircraft

In the circumstances in which this budget has been formulated, the defence sector may have reasons to be happy with the allocations. However, the ground realities are not very comforting and do not bode well. Given the huge backlog of acquisitions of military hardware including combat aircraft, attack and heavy-lift helicopters, heavy transport planes, aerial tankers and basic trainer aircraft, all for the Indian Air Force, helicopters, artillery guns and air defence missile systems for the Indian Army as well as submarines and maritime helicopters for the Indian Navy, it appears that the 12.7 per cent enhancement in the budgetary allocation for defence may not be adequate. One cannot ignore the disturbing fact that outlay for defence still constitutes only 1.78 per cent of the GDP. Unless this figure is enhanced substantially or at least to 2.5 per cent, there is a strong possibility that the quest for rapid modernisation of the armed forces may continue to remain a distant dream, at least during the current financial year. **SP**

**Given the huge backlog of acquisitions of military hardware, it appears that the 12.7 per cent enhancement in the budgetary allocation for defence may not be adequate.**



# The defence budget: Some new elements

[ By Ranjeet Kumar ]

Perhaps financial constraints did not permit the Narendra Modi-led NDA Government to substantially increase the provisions for the defence budget for the financial year 2014-15. The increase for ₹5,000 crore (\$835 million) for the capital outlay, which included for the first time a fund of ₹1,000 crore for railway infrastructure development on border areas, was only a symbolic one. The defence budget hence was pegged at ₹2,29,000 crore (\$38.5 billion) which was 12.43 per cent higher than the previous financial year of ₹2,03,672 crore. The UPA Government in February this year had presented an interim defence budget of ₹2,24,000 crore.

Since, the government has to take immediate decisions on the acquisitions of many weapon systems worth over \$ 25 billion in this financial year, strategic observers were waiting to see a big jump in the allocation for defence. However, lack of money does not mean lack of will and should not prevent the government from giving the go ahead for some of the major deals like the 126 MMRCA for the Indian Air Force (IAF), worth around \$15-20 billion. The Boeing heavy-lift helicopter Chinook and the attack helicopter Apache are also waiting clearance before the Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarks on a historic trip to White House. There are other major weapon systems and platforms like the Howitzer guns, Javeline missiles, air refuellers, soldier modernisation project, etc, which are also urgently waiting government's attention. The previous government simply could not gather enough courage to okay these big-ticket deals. This sorry state of affairs cannot continue for long and the new Modi Government has to be seen to be governing and taking decisions in right earnest.

Over the years the government has run into the habit of not spending the entire sum allocated under the capital outlay, hence the Ministry of Defence under A.K. Antony had to return an hefty amount of ₹7,868.48 crore in 2013-14 budget. Originally the provision for capital outlay for acquisitions in defence budget was pegged at ₹86,740.71 crore which was reduced to ₹78,872 crore in the revised estimate for 2013-14 financial year. Now, in the next financial year 2014-15, the government has fixed ₹94,587 crore for capital acquisitions.

In this light, the Arun Jaitley budget does not evoke much confidence. Commenting on the budget Air Commodore (Retd) Prashant Dixit said, "The additional allocation of ₹5,000 crore on capital expenditure does not seem compatible unless we recognise that earlier funds earmarked for capital acquisitions either remained unused or were diverted to other expenditures as austerity measures. This problem will not vanish unless the government gears up speedily but judiciously and does not buckle under other compulsions." The three services have been allotted \$16 billion for defence capital expenditures, which has been divided under various categories. Under the aircraft and aero-engine segment the IAF has been allocated \$2.75 billion.

Though defence pensions have been kept out of the actual allocation budget for the three services, the government was perhaps constrained by the rising expenditures on account of pensions, which will go up substantially with the NDA commitment for One rank One pension scheme. This has forced the government to hike the provision for defence pensions from ₹45,500 crore in the last financial year (2013-14) to ₹51,000 crore in the 2014-15 financial year. If we add the government expenditure on account of pensions the Indian Government total spend on defence would be substantially higher, however, probably to give a different angle to defence budget, the government has separated the two.

However, what is most relevant for defence watchers is the provision for capital outlay for the three services. Out of the total budgetary provision of ₹2,29,000 crore (\$38.5 billion) the capital outlay of ₹94,587 crore (\$14.75 billion) is said to be very modest. This expenditures includes the provision of ₹21,730 crore for the three services on aircraft and aero-engines, which in fact is much less than the provision for the last financial year which was ₹37,189 crore. Under this head the Air Force will get the maximum of ₹16,271 crore while the Navy would be getting ₹3,330 crore and the Army ₹2,127 crore.

For the Army to acquire heavy and medium vehicles the provision has been substantially increased which is ₹2,692 crore this year whereas last year this was ₹1,480 crore. In the category of other equipment, which does not mention any particular class of weapon system, the budget has made a provision of ₹35,302 crore which is almost double than last year's provision of ₹17,795 crore. Probably other equipment incorporates systems like the ballistic missiles and other latest weaponry and platforms. For the Air Force to meet the running expenditures a provision of ₹20,504 crore has been made, while Army has got ₹92,669 crore and the Navy only ₹13,975 crore.

Jaitley has revisited the special provision of ₹100 crore made in 2011 defence budget but not executed on ground for setting up a technology development fund. The government has also for the first time introduced a new element of socio-economic development of villages on the border areas, which are considered to be first line of defence and India's eyes and ears on the borders. A special fund of ₹990 crore has been earmarked, whereas another first time provision of ₹150 crore for the marine police stations, jetties and purchase of police boats is significant. The decision to erect a war memorial and a museum at a cost of ₹100 crore will also be taken note of by the defence community.

One can certainly excuse the present Modi Government for not being very generous in funds allocation for defence, because the government has inherited a very poor state of economy and four months have already passed from the current financial year. However, with the rising security challenges in India's neighbourhood and in the vicinity of Indian maritime area, the government cannot afford to be complacent. The current government has first to clear the backlog of the previous government's pending decisions and make fresh acquisition plans to augment India's combat capability to take care of India's strategic interests. **SP**

**The current government has first to clear the backlog of the previous government's pending decisions and make fresh acquisition plans to augment India's combat capability to take care of India's strategic interests.**

# FDI – Cautious response

[ By Ranjeet Kumar ]

**T**he multinational arms companies would have loved to see India opening up the Indian defence sector for them without any strings attached. However, the Indian defence industry has widely welcomed the announcement made by the Defence Minister Arun Jaitley in his maiden budget speech, of raising the FDI limit up to 49 per cent in defence industry. The CII President Ajay Shirram has welcomed the raise in foreign direct investment (FDI) limit in defence while the FICCI President Siddhart Birla has said that the announcement to enhance the composite cap of foreign investment in defence sector will send a strong message to the global investor community.

However this falls far short of the expectations of the international arms companies who would like to manufacture their weapons systems, proposed to be sold to Indian armed forces, on Indian soil provided they are extended the protective policy umbrella. The President of the Federation of German industries Ulrich Grillo, who was in New Delhi only a day after the presentation of the budget, reacted cautiously to the raising of the FDI limit in defence after meeting the Finance and Defence Minister Arun Jaitley. Grillo told this writer, German industries would not like to transfer technology if they are not able to control the investments they have made. If you have a critical technology in a sensitive area, German companies would like to have some control of it. Dr Hubert Lienhard, Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Committee of German business (APA), commented, It is better than old ruling (26 per cent FDI). But the 49 per cent FDI limit is not ideally we would like to see.”

The raising of the FDI limit in the 2014-15 defence budget was the major highlight of the Jaitley budget speech in Parliament on July 10, 2014. The defence and strategic circles were waiting to see any dramatic move by the new Narendra Modi-led NDA Government, but Jaitley could not go beyond the traditional route. Even he bordered on conservatism when he refused to allow FDI beyond 49 per cent, which would have allowed majority stake to foreign arms majors. In fact when the country is at the cusp of modernising its armed forces and would be acquiring weapons systems worth \$100 billion in next one decade, the government should have jumped several steps to encourage the foreign companies to manufacture their systems on Indian soil itself. Perhaps the logic behind the decision to disallow foreign ownership of defence firms on Indian soil was the security concerns. However the talk of security concerns looks redundant when we find that the same weapon system manufactured from the foreign soil would be totally controlled by them and the Indian Government would not have any leverage on them. However if the government allows them to manufacture the weapon system in India under their ownership, it would have automatically encouraged them to bring their machinery and technology while skilled manpower would have been sourced from India. The foreign arms majors would not have dared to deny India necessary spare parts in times of crisis whereas if they were to manufacture their systems on their own soil, they would be susceptible to their

governments sanctions in case the country concerned want to harass Indian Government.

Since the armed forces cannot wait indefinitely to get deliveries from India-based foreign companies working on joint ventures with minority foreign stakes in their partnerships, they would always prefer to import them from other sources, because of immediate combat requirements. The foreign arms companies would not be loser as in any case they have to supply the weapon systems manufactured from the place of their choice. However, if they were to have been based in India, they can be forced to listen to Indian dictates, in times of crisis.

Political observers are of the view that the NDA Government is also bitten by the same bug of populism. Since the Antony-led MoD of the UPA Government was very vocal against raising of the FDI limit in defence on the excuse of concerns relating to security, the Jaitley led MoD under the NDA Government did not substantially budge from this outdated view and failed to announce this big-ticket reform in view of

the forthcoming elections in few states including the crucial Maharashtra state, where the Congress would have launched scathing criticism of the Modi Government of having compromised on nation's security interests by inviting the foreign arms majors without any preconditions. Probably Jaitley also buckled under the corporate pressure, who advised Jaitley not to cross the 49 per cent barrier, after which the government would have to give them the control over the joint ventures in defence sectors.

On raising of the 49 per cent FDI limit in defence sector through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) route with full Indian management and control, Jaitley said, “India today is a largest buyer of defence equipment in the world and domestic manufacturing capabilities in this area are still in a nascent stage. We are buying substantial part of our defence requirements directly from foreign players, companies controlled by foreign governments and foreign

private parties are supplying our defence requirements to us and at a considerable outflow of foreign exchange.”

“Currently, we permit 26 per cent FDI in defence manufacturing. The composite cap of foreign exchange is being raised to 49 per cent with full Indian management and control through the FIPB route,” Jaitley said. The previous UPA Government had permitted FDI limit to 26 per cent through FIPB approval route and allowed FDI up to 100 per cent through the Cabinet Committee on Security-approval route.

The 26 per cent FDI limit was first introduced in 2001, in the immediate aftermath of the Kargil conflict when Indian armed forces faced sudden crisis like situation of scarcity of ammunitions. However, till now this policy has only resulted in \$5 million foreign investment in India. In view of this experience, the Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy of the Commerce Ministry had reiterated its original proposal of 2010 for allowing 74 per cent FDI in defence sector and had also stated that the limit could be raised to 100 per cent in some select cases. When Jaitley took over as Defence Minister, he promised to consider the DIPP proposal which was widely welcomed in the industry circles. Now that the 49 per cent limit has been announced, the defence industry will wait for the actual response from the foreign arms majors, till the presentation of the next defence budget. **SP**



Ulrich Grillo, President of the Federation of German industries



# Burns ignites Indo-US relations

[ By **Ranjeet Kumar** ]

**A**fter the dramatic victory of Narendra Modi in the Lok Sabha polls, which has generated huge expectations of revival of Indian economy and the resultant economic advantages for those countries who maintain good political relations with India, top leaders of many powerful countries have paid their obeisance at the 7, Race Course Road, which also included the US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns. Prior to his visit the US Department of State had dispatched the Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asia Anita Desai Biswal for preparing groundwork for all the future high-level visits from Washington to New Delhi which will culminate in the first visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to White House on September 30. The Burns visit will be followed up by the visit of Secretary of State John Kerry by the end of July and the Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel in early August. In fact Kerry's visit will break protocol, as Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was expected to visit Foggy Bottom (State Department office) for the annual Strategic Dialogue. But Kerry proposed that since he has already decided to visit India, both the countries should hold the dialogue in New Delhi itself.

In this background, the Indian External Affairs Ministry also broke protocol by giving access to Indian Prime Minister to a not too senior functionary from the US State Department William Burns, who is somewhat equal to the Indian Minister of State rank, handed over the formal invitation from the US President Barack Obama, when he met Narendra Modi at 7, Race Course Road. In his invitation letter Obama said that he wants to work closely with Prime Minister to make India-US relations a defining partnership for the 21st century.

The contours of the defining partnership has been set long ago but was not acted upon by both the countries. In fact the issue of mid-December strip search of Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade in New York emerged as the fiercest storm in India-US relations, which Indian MEA pledged to take it to its logical conclusion after taking several retaliatory actions against the US Embassy in New Delhi. Earlier India had preferred to look aside on the National Security Agency (NSA) snooping issue in order to maintain the momentum of the bilateral relations. In fact when a US newspaper revealed that the BJP leaders phones and e-mails were also under scanner the BJP leaders made low level protest and forgot the next day when Burns landed in New Delhi. Now, the senior officials of both the countries contend that these two issues are being dealt with at the diplomatic level. In fact Burns clarified in response to media queries, "We're confining those discussions to diplomatic channels right now. We understand the concerns that have been raised and we'll deal with them professionally. But we also want to look ahead, as I said, in all the areas of promise in our partnership that I mentioned. That's very much the spirit of the conversations I had with my Indian colleagues."

Indian interlocutors are also conveniently underplaying these very emotional issues and instead focusing on the deliverables during the Modi visit to Washington. These were extensively discussed by Burns during his meetings with the Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh and later courtesy meetings with External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Prime Minister

Modi gave so much importance to his meeting with Burns that he asked his National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh to be present during the meeting.

During the meeting, Burns conveyed President Obama's desire to strengthen economic relations, including in next-generation technologies and manufacturing sector; cooperate in enhancing energy security; deepen security cooperation, including in maritime security, counter-terrorism and intelligence exchange; expand consultation and coordination on Afghanistan; and, work more broadly for security and prosperity in Asia. In response Modi said, "I look forward to a result-oriented visit with concrete outcomes that imparts new momentum and energy to India-US strategic partnership." The Prime Minister was of the view that re-energising the partnership between India and the United States would send an important message to the region and beyond.

In the background of recent Chinese aggressiveness in the South and East China Sea and the US policy of rebalancing Asia and its hidden desire, which was inadvertently made public last year by the US officials, to make India its lynchpin of the Asia-Pacific strategy earlier called Pivot to Asia, the Modi visit to US will be observed closely especially by Chinese Government and the international strategic observers.

However, the US has a vested economic interests in promoting relations with India. Like other major developed countries, their economic honeymoon with China seems to be over, hence they want to court India, which they find cosy only when India moves fast on the path of economic, social and political stability. The US and West has a stake in India's fast economic progress and revival of Indian economy, which will provide them a big market for their produce and high end technology. In fact the US Administration had helped clear all the path of India's integration with the international nuclear mainstream by signing a civil nuclear cooperation agreement with India, with only hope that India will open up its more than \$100 billion nuclear power market for the US nuclear companies, which in turn will generate employment to thousands of its people. The other

expectation of the US policy makers was to divert India's defence acquisition from Russia to US. Undoubtedly the US arms companies have over the years bagged deals over \$10 billion in last one decade, mostly after the 2008 nuclear deal. Now, the US wants more.

Hence, the proposed New Delhi visit of the US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel in early August assumes importance. In order to bag mega billion-dollar deals from India, the US side has ignored its own agreements like CISMOA (Communications Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement), LSA (Logistics Support Agreement), BECA (Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo-spatial Cooperation), etc. After ensuring big-ticket defence deals from India, the US Administration is now focusing on the mega nuclear parks, which had been allotted to US companies in Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat. However, the US officials are extremely unhappy with the Indian Nuclear Liability Law and Burns raised this issue during his meeting with Indian leaders. This issue will be on the table again when the Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and her counterpart John Kerry meet in late July with the intention to thrash out the issue in US favour before Modi meets Obama in White House on September 30, 2014. **SP**

**US arms companies have bagged deals over \$10 billion in last one decade, mostly after the 2008 nuclear deal. Now, the US wants more.**

# Deterrence against proxy wars



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

**T**he explosion of terror in the Middle East has engaged the attention of the world, not that similar terrorism and radicalisation is not engulfing other regions of the world, what with Pakistan's so-called offensive against the TTP and Haqqanis in Northern Waziristan and China's crackdown in Xinjiang to subdue the increasingly volatile ETIM in particular and Uighurs in general. The more significant fact is that powerful nations are indulging more and more in using terrorism as the currency of power in furtherance of national interests as part of geopolitical gaming.

John Pilger in his article titled 'In Ukraine, the US is Dragging Us Towards War with Russia', dated May 14, 2014, published in *The News* it writes, "Every year the American historian William Blum publishes his 'updated summary of the record of US foreign policy' which shows that, since 1945, the US has tried to overthrow more than 50 governments, many of them democratically elected; grossly interfered in elections in 30 countries; bombed the civilian populations of 30 countries; used chemical and biological weapons; and attempted to assassinate foreign leaders". He adds, "In many cases

Britain has been a collaborator".

Proxy forces have been used in all this. The fact that Saudi Arabia is funding terror globally is no secret, as is the fact that Saudi Arabia also supplies money to US politicians. Then is the age-old Shia-Sunni rivalry being capitalised by the West to manipulate oil and gas rich regions—as is happening in the Middle East. USA and NATO having burnt their fingers in Iraq and Afghanistan have replaced the policy of 'boots on ground' by the policy of 'proxy boots on ground'. So you see terrorist organisations that they fought for years, like Al-Qaeda and Taliban, being 'used' by them to manoeuvre regional and global level powerplay.

In recent times, the West has been employing its Special Forces for regime change as a new asymmetric option/policy. The combination is information warfare (IW), intelligence agencies, Special Forces and air power applied in the last stages. If media reports are to be believed, US engages in asymmetric war by any means in national interest; recent reports indicate US used Al-Qaeda in Libya and is doing similarly in Syria in conjunction USSF, NATO, Turkish and Qatari Special Forces mixed with rebels/opposition. Paul Joseph Watson, wrote in 2012 that just as Al-Qaeda terrorists were used to oust Gaddafi, hundreds of Libyan rebels with Al-Qaeda will-



ing members were being airlifted into Syria to aid opposition in carrying out attacks against government forces. This implies USSF using willing captured Al-Qaeda cadres including detainees from Guantanamo prison. This was no different from World War II where the US OSS (Office of Strategic Services), predecessor to USSF, utilised members of a German dissident group who had fled to France as refugees for unconventional operations against the German Army in conjunction with OSS. The philosophy of the then OSS Chief General Donovan had been, "Use them as long as they kill Nazis". In October 2012, Mitt Romney, US presidential candidate vowed to arm Al-Qaeda in Syria, responding to which Paul Joseph Watson, editor of *PrisonPlanet* wondered whether America shares its values with terrorist. In her recent book *Hard Times*, Hillary Clinton says that she would have preferred to arm 'moderate' Syrian rebels in a much earlier time frame.

China and Pakistan have both been resorting to unconventional war against India since long. China has been providing tacit support to Pakistan's anti-India jihad and in many cases Pakistan is acting as a proxy for meeting Chinese aims. Chinese weapons and communication equipment have been supplied to Indian insurgents, particularly Maoists coming via Myanmar to the PLA in Manipur and onwards to Indian Maoists. Media reports quoting intelligence sources had reported last year that China had supplied AK-47 manufacturing capability to Kachen rebels in Myanmar and Maoists in India. Significantly, Indian media on June 7, 2014, have reported emergence on the scene of AK-47 rifles "manufactured in Bihar". The presence of Paresh Barua and other ULFA hierarchy at Ruli in China has been confirmed through communication intercepts. China has also been trying to mould perceptions of villagers living in strategically located East Sikkim and Ladakh through money, rations, kerosene, even mixing of blood, a trend that could be further exploited by her. Unrestricted and hybrid warfare are likely to be employed by China and peace time cyber attacks on Indian websites expose potential of this type of warfare.

It is no secret either that Pakistan continued to play the double game with the US, of which the US also has been fully aware. The Haqqanis have special treatment in Pakistan. Pir Zubair Shah and Carlotta Gall wrote in *New York Times* on October 31, 2011, "The Haqqani family, which runs the network like a mafia, maintains several town houses, including in Islamabad and elsewhere, and they have been known to visit military facilities in Rawalpindi, attend tribal gatherings and even travel abroad on pilgrimages. Experts say leaders of the Haqqani network may be hiding in plain sight in cities rather than in remote tribal areas." Then is Mullah Omar, Afghan Taliban Chief whom Pakistan gives royal treatment like Osama bin Laden. General John Allen, Commander, US and NATO Forces, Afghanistan had disclosed in August 2012, "Omar lives in Pakistan, as do many of his commanders. From that safe vantage point, they've sent hundreds of young impressionable and helpless youth to their death and detention in Afghanistan. For this, they must forfeit their honour and any claim to Islamic virtues." The current Pakistani offensive in North Waziristan (Operation Zarb-e-Arb) is not likely to achieve much since eyewitness accounts say that the radical leadership has already left the region.

'Beyond Bullets: Strategies for Countering Violent Terrorism' a 2009 study by the Centre for a New American Security, USA stated, "Some countries require particular attention. Pakistan, for example, represents the most difficult problem because it has become the

## **We need to establish credible deterrence against irregular warfare. We need a comprehensive policy to deter proxy wars and protect ourselves from being victims of international terrorism.**

host of the global jihadist movement and terrorists can increasingly operate with impunity there because of the weakening of the state. The fact is that the linkages of Pakistan's Military-ISI with terrorist organisations in Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Bangladesh have serious implications for us. Then wherever the US-NATO forces have been deployed, there have not only been excessive casualties through collateral damages because of their scorched earth policy but more importantly, there has been upsurge in radicalism - both during occupation and in the aftermath. Whether it is 'boots on ground' like Afghanistan or 'shoot and scoot' likely in Syria, results are the same.

This is the stark truth of the war in Afghanistan where upsurge in instability has been because of the free-hand given to Pakistan to generate terror. It has nothing to do 'with' Kashmir but it is to do with freely allowing Pakistan to terrorise whole of India, leave aside Kashmir. Cosmetic actions like imposing sanctions on Jamia Taleem-ul-Quoran-Wail-Hadith Madrassa in Peshawar and saying Hafiz Saeed was involved in 26/11 Mumbai terrorist attack mean little. The report 'Global Trends 2025' by US National Intelligence Council, as earlier similar reports, talks of the growing arc of instability on grounds of economies, management of social change, the two-tier Muslim world and the like. There is no mention, leave aside analysis of how western military actions including supporting terrorism generating countries like Pakistan have helped aggravate instability in the past or will help do so in period 2025.

The Syrian Ambassador to India recently stated that some 5,000 Pakistan Taliban have been assisting the rebels in Syria, some of which may now be with the ISIS. Maldivian radicals have also been fighting in Syria. Indian media has reported on July 9, 2014, that the government is currently tracking 18 Indian radicals who travelled to Iraq and Syria to fight as jihadis. The actual number may be more, having gone out illegally. As sectarian violence increases, it is likely to engulf parts of Af-Pak post the US-NATO withdrawal and with these radicals returning home to roost.

Chances of increased volatility in the region are high. Most significantly, the Islamic state radicals now control former chemical weapons facility northwest of Baghdad that houses remnants of 2,500 degraded Sarin Gas rockets plus other chemical weapon agents. So the chances of CBRN terrorism too are high. It is unfortunate that we think of Special Forces only in emergencies like the one that has occurred in Iraq.

The US Special Forces are deployed in some 200 countries including in considerable numbers in India. They are not visible and are not likely to undertake any raids here at least in the foreseeable future. Russia's Spetsnaz has been operating inside Pakistan. The Chinese Special Forces are spread incognito in development projects globally. These projects are actually being executed by the PLA or through PLA-owned companies. The tasks of Special Forces in modern armies covers the canvas of strategic intelligence, perception management, building partner capabilities, controlling enemy fault lines, shaping the environment in favour of own country and like, over and above direct type of actions, if required. These are politico-military task at the strategic level executed under directions of the highest political authority. We need to establish credible deterrence against irregular warfare. We need a comprehensive policy to deter proxy wars and protect ourselves from being victims of international terrorism. **SP**

# Russian air defenses for India: Reliable protection and national defense industry driver

**I**ndia's geographical position, its territory, rich natural resources and the status of a major military and political power dictate the urgent need to have a reliable and capable national air defense system.

Expanding the mutually beneficial strategic partnership, Rosoboronexport, Russia's major exporter of the entire range of the final defense and dual-use products and services, offers its strategic partner the best models of advanced air defense systems.

Military-technical cooperation between Russia and India dates back to 1960. Since then, owing to mutually beneficial partnership relations, 70 percent of weapons operational with the Indian army have been of Soviet and Russian origin, whereas the total domestic defense exports over the years of cooperation have exceeded US\$ 60 billion. In particular, in 2013 Russian deliveries of weapons and equipment to India amounted to US\$ 4.78 billion.

Procurement of modern Russian weapons for the national armed forces continues, new areas of military-technical cooperation are evolving. India is currently interested in air defense systems, the area where Russia leads the world.

Among the most capable weapons meeting the Indian Ministry of Defense's needs is the newest Tor-M2KM short-range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system. Its successful tests ended in Russia in 2012 and today it is one of the most advanced systems in the world market.

The Tor-M2KM latest-generation highly automated, multi-channel SAM system was developed to counter massive air attacks by aircraft and helicopters and, which is especially relevant, to destroy PGW submunitions, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles flying at medium, low and extremely low altitudes. A battery comprising four Tor-M2KM combat vehicles is capable of simultaneously engaging up to 16 targets flying from different directions at



TOR missile ADS available on various tract and wild chassis including Indian TATA

For decades, the strategic partnership between our two countries has been strengthening and new forms and areas of mutual cooperation have been emerging.

In particular, military technologies have been transferred to India first by the Soviet Union and then Russia for more than half a century since April 1963. With our technical assistance, five major aircraft and engine plants and 12 plants producing armored vehicles, weapons and ammunition have been built in India. No other state in the world is yet ready to transfer modern (including sensitive) technology to India for manufacturing defense products to the extent that Russia does.

Today, India is actively diversifying its defense procurement policy. Nevertheless, our countries still remain strategic partners: pro-

ranges up to 15 km and at altitudes up to 10 km in any weather, day or night, even in a difficult air situation and when the enemy uses various countermeasures.

The Tor-M2KMs are delivered by Rosoboronexport on wheeled chassis and can be mounted on the Indian-made TATA truck chassis; they are also available in a modular version for the installation on semi-trailers, rail platforms, ships and barges, as well as on prepared ground sites. According to experts, no SAM system outside of Russia can match the Tor-M2KM in terms of operational effectiveness.

Automatic interaction between the combat vehicles operating in tandem is implemented at a new level. They share information and allocate targets between themselves. A high degree of automation has reduced the Tor-M2KM's crew size to just two men (commander and





Pantsir-S1 has been exported to various countries

operator), as well as facilitated crew training. It is of importance for countries where such SAM systems have not been previously in service.

The newest Pantsir-S1 air defense gun/missile system is another formidable barrier against air threats at short ranges

With its capabilities, it can counter all types of modern manned and unmanned vehicles, including those carrying PGW. It can also be used to engage lightly armored ground and surface targets, enemy manpower. Its combined missile and gun armament can provide a continuous kill zone. This is one of the main distinguishing features of the Pantsir-S1. A battery consisting of six combat vehicles is capable of engaging up to 24 targets at ranges between 0.2 km and 20 km and at the altitudes of 0.005 km to 15 km. The system has a modular design and is available in self-propelled (wheeled or tracked) and container versions.

In addition, another Pantsir-S1 version, with guns removed and 18 SAMs instead of 12, is unmatched in the world today. The operational effectiveness of missiles has increased 1.5 times.

Upgrading obsolete equipment is the most economical way to improve the capabilities of armed forces, especially when it comes to combat-proven weapon models.

The Pechora (S-125) medium-range SAM system is well known abroad. At various times, several hundred Soviet- and Russian-made S-125s were exported to four dozen countries. On March 27, 1999, this SAM system knocked down an American F-117 stealth aircraft in Yugoslavia by firing two missiles.

Modernization of the SAM system to the Pechora-2M configuration conducted in Russia has involved the installation of its antenna post on a truck chassis and the replacement of all main equipment units with current production equivalents based on state-of-the-art components. A new truck-mounted command & control cabin

(UNK-2M) also relies on state-of-the-art components. A distinctive feature of the UNK-2M is digital control, communications, and information display systems. Finally, a new transporter/loader vehicle (PR-14-2M) was introduced. The 5P73-2M launchers were also mounted on a vehicle chassis.

The upgraded SAM system offers significantly improved ECM immunity, longer target engagement range (32 km), and a higher single-missile kill probability (0.7 - 0.9).

The key factor of success today is not only firepower of combat vehicles, their speed and protection, but also the control systems' capabilities, integration in the "networked battlefield" and a number of other, including economic, parameters - life-cycle costs, growth potential, the possibility of transferring technology for licensed production and even the possibility of jointly developing high-tech models of modern weaponry.

Given the latter component, Rosoboronexport is willing to join efforts with Indian partners to develop an integrated air defense system. This is yet another evidence of confidence and strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation between our countries.

But the world does not stand still. India is one of the world's biggest arms importers. It is quite clear that its political and military leadership seeks not only to diversify its arms imports, but also establish a self-reliant national industry for the production of modern high-tech weaponry and military equipment. This is a natural process. That is why the prospects for Russian-Indian relations encompass joint design, development and production of competitive military products, as well as cooperation in the field of high technology. And no changes in the geopolitical situation can weaken our strategic partnership based on close, time-tested friendship, like the friendship between the Russian and Indian peoples. **SP**

Rosoboronexport is the sole state company in Russia authorized to export the full range of defense and dual-use products, technologies and services. Rosoboronexport accounts for over 80% of Russia's annual arms sales and maintains military-technical cooperation with over 70 countries worldwide.



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## Port call at Vladivostok and exercise Indra 2014

**S**hips of the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy, viz., Shivalik, Ranvijay and Shakti, under the Command of Rear Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, VSM, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, arrived at Vladivostok today.

Indian Navy officials were welcomed by the representatives of the Russian Pacific Fleet Command, Diplomatic corps of India and the honour guard with the orchestra of the Pacific Fleet Headquarters on the 33rd pier of Vladivostok ship quay.

The major aims of the visit are strengthening and development of friendly relations between the navies of the two countries and conduct of joint Naval exercise Indra 2014. In the exercise, the Russian Navy will be represented by guided-missile cruiser Varyag, destroyer Bystry, large landing craft Peresvet along with supply vessels (changes are possible). Air assets of the Pacific Fleet and Indian Navy will also be actively involved in the exercise.

The first Indo-Russian bilateral naval exercise was conducted in May 2003 on both the Western and Eastern seaboard of India.

Training and improvement of mutual maritime operations are the main aims of the exercise. The exercise will be spread over six days and will comprise harbour and sea phases. From 14 to 17 July, during mooring of the ships at Vladivostok, leadership of the two navies will undertake planning and training for joint operations. The sea phase of the exercise will be held from July 17 to 19 off



Peter the Great Bay in the Sea of Japan. During the sea phase, ships of the two countries will engage in tactical manoeuvring, defence against un-alerted raids, cross deck helicopter operations, rendering assistance to a ship in distress, replenishment at sea, joint management of anti-submarine, anti-air and anti-surface warfare. Joint missile-artillery strikes on surface and air targets are also planned to be conducted during the exercise. The exercise will culminate with a farewell ceremony for IN ships at sea. **SP**

## Lt General Philip Campose appointed Vice Chief of Army Staff

**L**t General Philip Campose, the Western Army Commander, will take over as Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) on August 1, 2014, as Lt General Dalbir Singh, the current incumbent takes over the reins of the Indian Army.

The General Officer was commissioned in the 9 Gorkha Rifles in 1974 and is an alumnus of St Xavier's School, Delhi; the National Defence Academy Khadakwasla, Pune and Indian Military Academy at Dehradun. He was later sidestepped to the newly constituted Regiment of Mechanised Infantry in 1982. A graduate of the Defence Services Staff College Wellington, the General Officer also attended the Higher Command Course, Mhow and the National Defence College, New Delhi.

The General Officer has commanded an Independent Armoured Brigade, an Infantry Division on the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir and a Corps in the Western Sector. He has headed a UN Peace Keeping mission in the former Yugoslavia and Northern Iraq.

The General Officer has been awarded the Vishist Seva Medal and the Ati Vishist Seva Medal for distinguished service. He tenanted the appointment of the Director General Perspective Planning (DG PP) at the Army Headquarters at New Delhi, before taking over as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command.



He is the current Colonel Commandant of the Mechanised Infantry Regiment. **SP**

## Lt General Kamal Jit Singh promoted Western Army Commander

**L**t General Kamal Jit Singh has been promoted as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command and will assume appointment on August 1, 2014.

Lt General Kamal Jit Singh was commissioned into the Armoured Regiment in 1977. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy. He has attended the prestigious National Defence College, the Higher Command Course and the Defence Services Staff College. He has commanded an Armoured Brigade, an Armoured Division and an operationally committed Corps in the North East.

In a career spanning over 37 years, the officer has served in Counter Insurgency areas, Assam Rifles and with the United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Angola. The General officer has been awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

The General Officer has held important staff appointments at formations and Army Headquarters levels to include Assistant Military Secretary (MS Branch), Colonel General Staff of a Division, Brigadier General Staff of a Corps and Additional Director General of Perspective Planning. The officer has also been an Instructor at the School of Armoured Warfare and Directing Staff at the Higher Command Wing of the Army War College. **SP**





# F-35 no-show, but the show goes on



F-35 full scale model on display



Flying display of A400M

[ By **R. Chandrakanth** reporting from Farnborough, UK ]

**T**he talking point at the Farnborough International Airshow, from July 14 to 20, was whether the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) F-35 from nine-partner countries would make its international debut. The F-35B Lightning II, the new multi-role fighter, was supposed to be the centrepiece at Farnborough and the defence and aviation community eagerly awaited to see its prowess in the skies. It was not to be. The no-show by F-35 was a disappointment, but was made up by significant initiatives by various defence companies, some of whom showcased next-gen technologies.

## UK announces GBP 1.1-billion investment

Leading from the front was the host country, the United Kingdom, which presented a scenario for expanding defence investments and the kind of technologies that would emerge in the coming years. The UK Prime Minister, David Cameron announced on day one of the show that investments to the tune of £1.1-billion would be made in capabilities for the armed forces that would include £800 million for a new surveillance package and another £300 million for a new ice patrol ship and radar.

Cameron set out actions taken by the Defence Growth Partnership of industry and government, as part of the country's long-term economic plan to improve its competitiveness and to boost the UK defence sector which is vital to economic growth.

One of the significant announcements made was setting up of a UK Defence Solutions Centre in Farnborough to bring together industry, with support from government, to develop the new defence technologies of the future, identify future market opportunities and work together to ensure they have the products and solutions that will be in demand. The global defence market is estimated

to be worth around £82 billion a year by 2022.

The other announcement included launching a £4 million UK Centre for Maritime Intelligent Systems based in Portsmouth. Government, industry and the Local Enterprise Partnership will bring together academics, scientists, engineers and naval specialists to develop cutting-edge technology for use in autonomous unmanned boats, submarines or other vessels.

The Prime Minister also said that the government would aggressively facilitate building of skills for the future through a new Defence Apprenticeship Trailblazer to attract new graduates to the industry as well as up-skilling the existing workforce. This Trailblazer will develop a new Masters level standard in Advanced Systems Engineering, a critical skill to deliver competitive advantage. UK defence exports increased by 11 per cent to £9.8 billion in 2013 in an industry that employs over 1,60,000 people in the UK.

## US flexes muscle

The US had the largest contingent of aerospace and defence companies, while there was scaled down presence of Russian military with the crisis Ukraine having an impact on not only geopolitical implications, but also show related.

Like its commercial aircraft behemoth, Boeing Defense, Space and Security (BDS) also upped its ante, showcasing technologies that it could export. The company has been witnessing an upward trend in international customers, almost 30 per cent, from about 7 per cent about six years back.

Boeing and Paramount Group, Africa's largest privately-owned defence and aerospace business, signed a memorandum of collaboration at the show to jointly develop defence and security opportunities in key international markets. The agreement will allow Boeing and Paramount to apply their complementary strengths in providing aircraft and land systems solutions for customers in Africa and

other major markets that face a range of security challenges. Those include border security; heavy airlift of products and personnel across vast distances; coastal piracy and anti-poaching; and disaster and humanitarian relief as part of future coalition efforts.

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

## Lockheed Martin moves into UK space

Lockheed Martin announced that it is opening a space technology office in Great Britain to explore partnership opportunities with UK businesses and universities to support the UK's goal of maintaining and growing its national capabilities in space. Forming part of Lockheed Martin's expanding business footprint in the UK, the office will be based at the UK Space Gateway in Harwell Oxford.

For more than 50 years Lockheed Martin has led the way in the development of spacecraft that have helped scientists understand our planet. The new office will expand the company's relationships with the UK supply chain to share technology and expertise, and will support UK-based capabilities in space exploration and access. It will also explore new technologies from small businesses and academia. Current areas of focus include environmental monitoring, space exploration, global security and small communications satellites.

## Airbus tactical moves

While the Airbus A380 and the A350 XWB hogged the limelight at the flying display, Airbus Defence and Space presented the A400M on the ground and in the air. Equipped with state-of-the-art technologies, the A400M is not just suited to tactical and strategic/logistical missions, but also for special operations such as air-to-air refuelling. The first A400M for the UK's Royal Air Force is due to be delivered in the autumn of 2014, with the second due in the UK towards the end of the year.

On static display, Airbus had two C295s, new generation, highly versatile tactical airlifters. The C295 is able to carry up to nine tonnes of payload or up to 71 personnel, at a maximum cruise speed of 260 kt / 480 kmph. Airbus also presented the “Atlante” UAS (unmanned aerial system), a medium altitude long endurance (MALE) tactical multi-payload unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), designed to carry out target identification, shoot correction, and damage evaluation operations, among other ISTAR missions (intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance).

## Textron brings Scorpion

The aviation and defence community in Europe got a first look at Textron's Scorpion, multi-mission aircraft. It was Scorpion's first flight outside the US, covering 4,700 nautical miles from Wichita to the airshow. Scorpion is a light attack intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft. Another Textron company, Bell Helicopters, had a fruitful outing signing a purchase agreement with INAER France an Avincis Group operator for a Bell 429 in Helicopter Emergency Medical Service (HEMS) configuration.

## Thales showcases range

Thales had several products and solutions on display and it released details of the new Thales Optronique targeting pod ‘Talios’ for the French Air Force. Designed as a follow-on to its Damocles targeting pod, the open architecture and sensor payload allow Talios to oper-

ate as a multi-function pod, dealing with target acquisition and designation through to non-traditional ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) tasks.

At the stall, the Stephane Lavigne, Vice President, NATO Business Development, ThalesRaytheon Systems, talked about the NATO's air command and control system (ACCS). He was hopeful that Britain would be part of the NATO ACCS programme. NATO's ACCS is now delivering a system that networks air command and control systems across 17 locations in NATA Europe using the same system of hardware and software, and sharing operational data over a high-speed communications network. The highlight of the ACCS programme, he said, is to build a command ‘air picture’ and to detect any missile launch in the region. It is the biggest cloud operation in the world.

## Rafael's concept talk

The Israeli giant Rafael for the first time talked about TopLite multi-high definition electro-optical system (EOS), the most advanced version of the TopLite family of ISR and targeting systems for airborne, maritime, ground, homeland security and defence applications. It allows unique operational capabilities supplemented by




Textron's Scorpion

additional state-of-the-art advanced image processing algorithms and applications.

## Raytheon's range

Precision weapons, advanced gunfire detectors, tiny jammers, and a bus-size radar that tracks missiles as they hurtle through space were all part of Raytheon Company's technology showcase. Raytheon equipment on display included: avionics and weapons; with recent major contract awards, such as the US Navy's Air and Missile Defense Radar and the Navy's Next Generation Jammer.

“Developing a common understanding of the complexity of the security challenges in today's global environment is the first step towards building a strong customer relationship,” explains Thomas A. Kennedy, CEO, Raytheon Company. “The Farnborough International Airshow has historically provided us with an ideal opportunity to showcase our technology and product portfolio to customers from around the world. Defining the right mix of cost-effective solutions to support our customers' needs drives solid business partnership and shared success.” 



## Tata Advanced Systems to manufacture Dornier 228 fuselage and wings

**R**uag Aviation has entered into a partnership with Tata Advanced Systems for the manufacture of fuselages and wings for the Dornier 228-212 NG, which is marketed as an advanced commuter (AC) or multi-role (MR) aircraft by its OEM, Ruag Aviation.

Under this agreement, Tata Advanced Systems will provide Ruag Aviation with fully assembled fuselage and wing structures out of their Hyderabad facilities in India. Tata Advanced Systems will undertake the complete scope of part manufacturing and assembly required, including managing the entire range of engineering and complex tooling and jigs development.

Owners and operators of the Dornier 228 across the globe will benefit from this enhancement in Ruag Aviation's supply chain. As a leader in the aerostructures industry in India, Tata Advanced Systems has been successfully audited by the FAA and possesses certifications including AS9100, NADCAP and ISO 14000. Tata Advances Systems has been recognised for its outstanding product quality by



the American Helicopter Society, the premier organisation for Vertical Flight, and has been awarded their prestigious International Fellowship Award. The company employs modern tools including Six Sigma and Lean Manufacturing, and has a successfully undertaken complex global transition programmes for Lockheed Martin and Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation.

The official ground-breaking ceremony took place in Hyderabad, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Telangana, senior Government officials as well as senior leaders from Ruag Aviation and the Tata Group.

Ruag Aviation's Vice President of Supply Chain Management Martin Buhlmann cited Tata's strong track record in similar programmes as a primary factor in their choice of partner. "Their ambition to become among the world's leading manufacturers in the aviation sector gives us confidence that our partnership will be a successful and mutually beneficial one. Tata is a company that has proven itself time and again in diverse industries."

This positive conviction is shared by S. Ramadorai, Chairman of Tata Advanced Systems. "The Tata-Ruag partnership is a glowing example of cooperation between India and Europe, with Tata being entrusted with manufacturing aircraft components to Swiss standards of precision and quality." **SP**

## Air Marshal Anil Khosla takes over as Senior Air Staff Officer of Central Air Command

**A**ir Marshal Anil Khosla took over as the Senior Air Staff Officer (SASO) of the Central Air Command (CAC) at Bamrauli on July 1, 2014. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he was commissioned in the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force in December 1979. He has over 4,000 hours of flying experience having flown the Jaguar and MiG-21. He is equally experienced on both ground attack and air defence roles with specialisation on maritime role.



He is a post-graduate from Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) and holds two M.Phil degrees in military studies. He is an 'A2' category flying instructor and a fighter strike leader. He is also an alumnus of National Defence College.

Air Marshal Anil Khosla has held vari-

ous staff and instructional appointments including as Principal Director at Directorate of Information and Electronic Warfare, Director in Personnel Branch and Joint Director at Directorate of Concept Studies, directing staff at Tactics and Combat Development Establishment (TACDE) and Flying Instructor School (FIS). He has commanded a Jaguar Squadron and frontline IAF bases of Jaisalmer and Ambala. He was Air Officer Commanding, HQ Maritime Air Operations, IAF and his last appointment was as Air Officer Commanding J&K Area.

He is decorated with Presidential award Vayusena Medal (VM). **SP**

## Boeing delivers 14th P-8A aircraft to US Navy

**B**oeing recently helped expand the US Navy's maritime patrol capabilities with delivery of the 14th P-8A Poseidon aircraft. The P-8A, delivered on schedule, is now with its squadron at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. Boeing will deliver seven more of the maritime patrol aircraft this year.

"We're putting P-8A aircraft through their paces out in the field and appreciate all the reliability, capabilities and improvements the Poseidon brings to the table," said US Navy



Commander Tony Rossi, P-8A Deputy Program Manager. "The next squadron is trained, ready to go and will begin conducting missions in the near future."

Based on the Boeing Next-Generation 737-800 commercial airplane, the P-8A provides anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, and intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

The Navy plans to purchase the versatile multi-mission aircraft to replace its P-3 Orion fleet. Boeing is currently under contract for 53 P-8As. The most recent delivery is the first from the third low-rate initial production contract awarded in 2012. Boeing's industry team includes CFM International, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, Spirit AeroSystems, BAE Systems and GE Aviation. **SP**

## Textron AirLand's Scorpion prepares for first flight to Europe

**T**extron AirLand, LLC, a joint venture between Textron Inc. and AirLand Enterprises, LLC, has announced that its Scorpion aircraft is progressing on schedule towards a July departure from McConnell Air Force Base in Kansas.

The aircraft's first flight outside the US is planned to cover about 4,700 nautical miles from Wichita to RAF Fairford-Gloucestershire, 117 kilometres outside of London. Scorpion will participate in The Royal International Air Tattoo from July 11 to 13, immediately followed by Farnborough International Air Show from July 14 to 20.

Scorpion may be configured to accommodate various infrared air-to-air missiles and wing-mounted gun pods. The aircraft will be on display outside the Textron Chalet, alongside Textron Aviation's Beechcraft AT-6 light attack turbo prop, T-6 training platform, King Air 350ER—with the Cessna Grand Caravan EX joining the lineup at Farnborough. **SP**



## Tiger Typhoon prowls the skies



**A** Eurofighter Typhoon belonging to the Bavarian Tigers, part of the Luftwaffe Eurofighter fleet, has been awarded the top prize for 'Best Painted Aircraft' at this year's NATO Tiger Meet in Germany.

The stunning 'Tiger Typhoon' clinched the international award at the event in Schleswig, North Germany. In total over 60 aircraft from 12 different nations attended the Tiger Meet which is a regular event aimed at encouraging nations to freely explore interoperability and joint operations in an informal and flexible environment.

The Typhoon Tiger is one of several Eurofighter Typhoon aircraft in the Luftwaffe's 74th Tactical Fighter Wing, formerly known as JG 74. The Bavarian Tigers first formed in March 2013 following the restructuring of the Luftwaffe that year. The Fighter Wing is based at Neuburg and Lechfeld Air Base in Bavaria. The tiger tradition was handed over from former Fighter Bomber Wing 32 in Lechfeld to Fighter Wing 74.

Kommodore Frank Graefe, who heads the Fighter Wing, said: "Everywhere we go the Tiger Typhoon has been getting a fantastic reaction. There is no doubt that it is an incredible looking aircraft. We were honoured to have been awarded this prize – especially since we were competing against the world's best."

"Although the award may have its light-hearted side, the NATO Tiger Meets serve a serious purpose in ensuring pilots from across the organisation can hone their skills to perfection as they practice a number of scenarios in testing and demanding operational exercises. We were delighted with the way the event went and we were proud to represent a continuing and strong tradition."

Alberto Gutierrez, Chief Executive Officer of Eurofighter GmbH, said: "All of us in Eurofighter were amazed and delighted when we saw what the Bavarian Tigers had done with this aircraft. It looks amazing. Our congratulations to the Tigers on a successful Tiger Meet and in deservedly winning this prize for an exceptional job." **SP**

## Alenia Aermacchi: First two M-346 delivered to Israeli Air Force

**T**he first two advanced trainer M-346 produced for the Israeli Air Force (IAF) have been delivered to the Hatzorim Israeli Air Force Base, which will gradually replace the TA-4s currently operated by the IAF.

In July 2012, Alenia Aermacchi, a Finmeccanica company, was awarded a contract from the Israeli Ministry of Defence



(IMOD) to supply 30 M-346 advanced jet trainer aircraft and to include ground-based training systems in collaboration with other Israeli and International companies.

"This is an important milestone for Alenia Aermacchi which, in less than two years, has signed the contract, performed the roll-out of the first aircraft last March and delivered the first two M-346s, on time with the programme. A result which marks the excellent team job achieved in strict collaboration with Alenia Aermacchi's industrial counterparts, TOR and Honeywell", the company declared.

Meanwhile Alenia Aermacchi's site of Venegono (near Milan) continues the production activities: in addition to the two aircraft delivered, other six M-346s for the IAF are completing final assembly whereas five others are in the process of structural part assembly. All 30 aircraft are expected to be delivered by the end of 2016.

The M-346 has won then the most important international bids, with a total of 56 aircraft ordered to date. The aircraft is already in service with the Italian and the Republic of Singapore Air Forces. **SP**



## Harfang MALE UAS remote-controlled from 5,000 km

**A** Harfang UAS belonging to the French Air Force (FAF) controlled by a crew from the French Military Flight Test Centre (Centre d'Expérience Aérienne Militaire), the UAS Squadron "Belfort" (ED 1/33) and the UAS detachment stationed in the Sahel-Sahara region has successfully undergone testing to prove that once it has taken off from its overseas deployment base it can be controlled from a cockpit located in France.

The flight represents a first and proves the "Reachback" concept. With a flight time of around one hour, the experimental flight carried out under operational conditions proved that the UAS piloting functions could be transferred from the cockpit in Niger, where the UAV took off from, to the cockpit in Cognac almost 5,000 km away, and that the main sensor of the UAV could be activated.

This new capability enables an increased ISR (Intelligence, Surveillance, Reconnaissance) capacity without leaving national territory, should it be required in the theatre of operations.

The current Harfang fleet consists of four UAVs and three ground stations. Harfang (the French word for "arctic snowy owl") is a medium altitude long endurance (MALE) UAS developed for the FAF.

It is equipped with optronic sensors and radar, which ensure that missions can be carried out around the clock in all-weather conditions. Thanks to its long endurance capability, the UAS is capable of transmitting data in real time to national and international joint



command structures. The programme is led by Airbus Defence and Space in close cooperation with IAI, which developed and constructed the aerial platform as well as a number of subsystems. **SP**

## IAI Heron secures Rio de Janeiro during World Cup



**I**srael Aerospace Industries' (IAI) Heron unmanned aerial system (UAS) is taking part in securing Rio de Janeiro and its surrounding area during the 2014 FIFA World Cup championship in Brazil.

The Heron system is being operationally deployed in the Rio de Janeiro area by the Brazilian Federal Police in close cooperation with the Brazilian Navy. This, as part of a comprehensive array of security measures during the World Cup games.

Heron performs ongoing reconnaissance missions in order to monitor any unusual or suspicious activity around Rio, including its periphery and coastal areas.

Heron UAS is used operationally by the Brazilian Federal Police since 2010. The Federal Police have accumulated a substantial amount of operational experience with the Heron UAS which allows it to operate the system in a variety of complex scenarios. The system is operated on a daily basis in the Parana state for law-enforcement missions such as border security, and the prevention of smuggling and drug trafficking.

IAI said: "We are proud of Heron's activity with the Brazilian Federal Police, and honoured that Heron is taking part in securing Rio during the World Cup games. While the eyes of billions of people worldwide are on the World Cup, it is reassuring to know that Heron's eye in the sky is contributing to Rio's safety."

Dr. José de Freitas Iegas, Director of Intelligence for the Brazil Federal Police, said: "The Federal Police, through its Intelligence Directorate, promotes operational efforts such as prevention and repression of terrorism and organised crime in order to secure the 2014 FIFA World Cup games. To support these operations, the Federal Police's UAS Heron, known as VANT, is being deployed. The VANT's main missions are to gather and provide data and information, to support the use of operational means against criminal and terrorist organisations that may disturb the community peace throughout the World Cup." **SP**

## Royal Navy's new eyes in the sky

**J**ust seven months after the Ministry of Defence ordered the system from Boeing Defence UK, footage released on June 22, shows ScanEagle taking flight from HMS Somerset in the Gulf. The system, which can be launched by a pneumatic catapult from Royal Navy and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels, is unarmed and used for real-time intelligence-gathering and reconnaissance only.



Pilots in a specialist team on board the ship plan ScanEagle's missions and control its flight. Once its mission is over it returns to the ship where the information, gathered by its state-of-the-art sensors, is then monitored and analysed.

ScanEagle comes with many features beneficial to the Royal Navy including flying at speeds of up to 80 knots and staying airborne for around 10 hours, covering areas of around 100 km from launch.

The multi-million-pound capability can also be used both in the day and at night thanks to a high resolution camera which can see in the dark and when there is poor visibility. **SP**

## Government announces support to North Eastern region

The Committee under the Chairmanship of M.P. Bezbaruah, Member, North Eastern Council, and other members submitted its report to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Kiren Rijiju, the Minister of State for Home Affairs received the report on behalf of the Ministry and mentioned that the report will be processed on priority.

The Committee was constituted in February 2014 to look into the various concerns of persons hailing from the North Eastern States who are living in different parts of the country, especially the Metropolitan areas, and to suggest suitable remedial measures which could be taken by the Government.

The Committee was chaired by M.P. Bezbaruah, IAS (Retd), H.W.T. Syeim, IAS (Retd), Alemtemshi Jamir, IAS (Retd), Tape Bagra, IAS (Retd) and P. Bharat Singh, IAS (Retd) as members. Robin Hibru, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, Delhi was also in the team of the Ministry of Home Affairs to assist the Committee. **SP**

## Quantum jump

There is a quantum jump in allocation of funds from over ₹56,500 crore to ₹63,585 crore in the current financial year as compared to the last year which is 12.53 per cent more. The major increase is in the areas of internal security, border management and Delhi Police.

The police grant which deals with the Central Armed Police Forces is also considerably increased as the Ministry of Home Affairs is planning to raise more battalions during the current financial year. The increase under this head is from ₹52,264 crore to ₹59,450 crore which is 13.75 per cent higher. An amount of ₹50 crore has been earmarked for National Police Memorial to acknowledge the contribution of the officers and jawans of police forces.

An amount of ₹500 crore has been earmarked in the current financial year as special support for rehabilitation of the Kashmiri migrants. An amount of ₹150 crore has been provided to establish a proper communication network for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands with the mainland. **SP**

## Home Minister reviews policy planning division

During the meeting, the performance of different states in counter-insurgency measures was discussed. Among other issues, anti-LWE operations, road connectivity and installation of mobile towers were also discussed.

The functioning of the Policy Planning Division in the Ministry of Home Affairs was reviewed by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi. The Home Minister was apprised of the security arrangements for VVIPs/VIPs.

Rajnath Singh desired that these security arrangements may be reviewed and suitably strengthened, wherever required. The Home Minister further directed that the security audit of vital installations, wherever due, may be carried out and additional forces deployed, if found necessary, so as to ensure that adequate security arrangements are in place for such installations. Singh also desired that the budget provisions earmarked for making security arrangements may be reviewed and suitably enhanced.



The Home Minister further desired that the avenues for strengthening bilateral security relations with the neighbouring countries be explored. He desired that efforts be made to ensure that mutual legal assistance treaty in criminal matters are entered into with as many countries as possible, and specifically with the neighbouring countries. Singh further mentioned that issues and innovative ideas for the forthcoming SAARC Conference of Home Ministers be identified so that the same can be deliberated and consensus is evolved during the Conference.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju and the Union Home Secretary Anil Goswami were also present. **SP**

## US Secret Service arrests most prolific traffickers of stolen financial information

On July 5, 2014, the US Secret Service arrested Roman Valerevich Seleznev, a Russian national, Seleznev was indicted in the Western District of Washington in March 2011 for hacking into point of sale systems at retailers throughout the United States between October 2009 and February 2011.

"This important arrest sends a clear message: despite the increasingly borderless nature of transitional organised crime, the long arm of justice and this Department - will continue to disrupt and dismantle sophisticated criminal organisations," said Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson. "This arrest reflects the hard work by the US Secret Service and our interagency and international partners, and we must continue close collaboration with the law enforcement community to counter this ever evolving threat."

According to the indictment, Seleznev hacked into point of sale systems throughout the United States and operated servers and international carding forum websites to facilitate the theft and sale of stolen credit card data. Seleznev, known as "Track2" in the criminal carding underground, remains in custody pending trial. **SP**

## Chinese hack into US security

Chinese Government hackers last March broke into the computer networks of the US Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the agency which keeps the personal information of all federal employees. The hackers targeted the information of tens of thousands of employees who had applied for top-secret security clearances.

Experts note that the hacking of OPM files containing information about federal employees applying for security clearance is especially disturbing since federal employees applying for security clearances enter their most personal information. **SP**

## Cobham appoints new Managing Director for India Operations

**C**obham has appointed Colonel (Retd) H. Shankar as the Managing Director (MD) of the company's Indian subsidiary, Cobham India Private Limited. He will be based in New Delhi.

He replaces Lee Griffiths, the outgoing MD, who will be returning to UK after six years of service to the company in India.

Shankar is an electronics engineering graduate and served for 20 years in the Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (EME) branch of the Indian Army. He held a wide range of appointments during his Army career, including command of a battalion and aviation Maintenance Flight. Retiring early as a full Colonel, Shankar headed the aerospace and defence business unit of an Indian private company before joining Cobham India in February 2011.



Cobham India has close working relationships with key customers and partners such as the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Bharat Electronics Limited and the Indian armed forces. Focusing on long-term strategic partnerships that create sustainable value to Indian industry, Cobham is also actively engaged in pursuing technical and business partnerships with private Indian companies.

Cobham offers an innovative range of technologies and services to solve challenging problems across commercial, defence and security markets, from deep space to the depths of the ocean. It has market leading positions in air-to-air refuelling; aviation services; audio, video and data communications, including satellite communications; defence electronics; life support and mission equipment. The company has four sectors employing more than 10,000 people on five continents, with customers and partners in over 100 countries and annual revenue of £1.79 billion in 2013. **SP**

## MBDA inaugurates French Complex munitions facility

**O**n July 2, 2014, Antoine Bouvier, MBDA's Chief Executive Officer, in the presence of civil and military authorities, inaugurated France's complex munitions demilitarisation facility at MBDA's Bourges Subdray site in the Centre region of France.

Having set up this facility in only two years, MBDA is in line with the schedule aimed at allowing France to fulfill the commitment it made in signing the Oslo Convention in July 2009. The Convention prohibits the use and stockpile of cluster bombs and calls for all signatories to have destroyed their stock of such military hardware by 2018.

Notified in November 2011 by the NATO Support Agency, NATO's Integrated Logistics and Services Provider Agency, on behalf of the French Ministry of Defence, the contract awarded to MBDA covers the destruction of 36,000 complex munitions and the establishment of a French industrial capability for munitions demilitarisation.

The new facility represents an investment of around 12 million euros and the creation of 20 new, direct jobs in the Centre region of France. It also represents MBDA's response to the French Government's desire to set up an end of life munitions dismantling capability on home territory in order to guarantee the confidentiality of its products, the safety standards associated with pyrotechnic operations and the protection of the environment. **SP**

## DCNS Toulon facility to manage Saudi Arabian military fleet

**O**ver 400 management and design trainees - selected through stringent procedures amid lakhs of applicants - have formally been inducted in the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) as officers at a convocation programme held on June 21, 2014. Some of them have graduated from NITs, IITs and other premier engineering and management institutes.

Dr R.K. Tyagi, Chairman HAL, urged them to start contributing their mite in the company's progress. "This is a defining moment for

the country and you have all the opportunity to make your presence felt in India's defence preparedness," he said. Dr Tyagi called upon them to translate their individual talent into meaningful achievements by being a part of large HAL family.

The trainees belong to 41st batch of HAL and are posted to Korwa, Lucknow, Kanpur, Koraput, Nasik, Hyderabad, Barrackpore and Bengaluru. A comprehensive one-year training programme included industry orientation and management programmes. Eminent speakers from institutions and industries interacted with them. The training also included experimental learning through various activities such as group projects, theatre work, visits to charitable institutions and art classes. **SP**

## Saab Advanced Maritime Systems Centre opened

**T**he Minister for Defence Senator the David Johnston officially opened Saab's Advanced Maritime Systems Centre in Adelaide recently. The Centre brings together all of the resources, skills and expertise which has made Saab Australia a world leader in naval combat systems. The Centre will be an important node within Saab's global naval systems integration programme.

"I am very pleased to officially open the Advanced Maritime Systems Centre. It has been fantastic to see the world-leading technology which Saab is developing right here in Adelaide. For example, the next generation of the Australian-developed 9LV combat management system, which has performed exceptionally as part of the anti-ship missile defence upgrade on the Navy's ANZAC class frigates, will be developed here at this facility," Minister Johnston said.

The Advanced Maritime Systems Centre will employ over 100 home-grown Australian combat systems engineers, project managers, and software engineers. This is planned to expand to over 200 employees by 2020. The Advanced Maritime System Centre will make a significant contribution in terms of revenue to the South Australian economy over the next decade. **SP**



## Lax security at New Delhi Railway Station

**I**t is one of the most busiest railway stations – the New Delhi Railway Station but its security is lax. It has 16 platforms, six entry and exit points where 290 trains arrive daily with over five lakh passengers using the service everyday. During a status check conducted by a media house, it is seen that even though a slew of measures have been announced to secure the station from terror strikes, the stations remain as vulnerable as ever.

While the baggage scanner at the Ajmeri Gate platform number 16 was not functional, the police constable stationed with a hand-held metal detector check passengers but only half-heartedly. A lot of people move past the checking counters without getting their bags checked. At another entry point, an entire cart full of luggage is easily brought into the station unscanned. Most porters don't bother to put the luggage inside scanning machines. There could be anything inside these boxes but security personnel remain oblivious.

The New Delhi Railway Station has several unmanned entry points with no security cover and no CCTV cameras in the vicinity. Sneaking into the station in full view of the security personnel, people can even cross a police barricade without being stopped. At a time when railway trains have become an easy target for both miscreants and terrorists alike, concrete steps need to be taken to bring the lax authorities to get their act together. **SP**



## Inadequate security in Hyderabad malls



**T**ask Force sleuths recently conducted decoy operations at various shopping malls and multiplexes, and exposed security lapses at City Centre mall in Banjara Hills and Big Bazaar in Ameerpet. Two constables carrying 9mm pistols managed to enter City Centre mall and Big Bazaar with ease. "The security personnel at these two places did not frisk the decoy teams properly. We also noticed that metal detectors were not working properly. Notices have been issued to the managers to rectify the problems quickly,"

PHOTOGRAPHS: Wikipedia

the Task Force police said.

In another incident, a Task Force team nabbed narcotics smuggler S. Subhash near Karmika Nagar bus stop in Jubilee Hills and seized eight kilograms of ganja from his possession. The accused was handed over to the Jubilee Hills police for further investigation. **SP**

## TSA misses loaded gun, knife on London-bound flights

**A** TSA agent blamed for letting one man carrying a loaded handgun and another with a flip knife board Phoenix to London flights on the same day last month is out of a job.

Both passengers flew more than 10 hour flights to London with the weapons in their carry-on bags, according to FoxNews.com. Neither passenger tried to use the weapons while aboard the flights, though the shocking security lapse raises obvious questions about whether passengers with bad intentions might slip through security. Both weapons were found by security officials at London's Heathrow Airport as they attempted to transfer onto connecting flights.

In the more serious of the two June 22 incidents, William Joseph Richardson was going through transfer screening at Heathrow Airport to board a British Airways flight to Paris when airport security discovered his loaded Glock handgun.

London Special Police responded, confiscated the firearm and ammunition and detained Richardson, 34, for further investigation. Checks with two law enforcement databases revealed that Richardson has a criminal record, according to the document.

Seven hours later, British airport security discovered the knife on another passenger going through transfer screening to board a British Airways flight. That passenger had arrived on a different flight from Phoenix and had travelled with a 3.9-inch flip knife, which London Aviation Police confiscated, the document said. **SP**

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