

Indicia Knowledge Brief

A Daily Assessment on Indian Defence and Internal/Homeland Security

April 10, 2015.

Primary aims of Indicia Daily Brief are two-fold. First, it distills infinite information into a capsule form, thus saving precious time of its clients. Second, it tries to link micro-events to larger strategic canvas through its analyses, thus providing support knowledge for better understanding and decision-making.

Indicia Analysis of the Day

- The successful test of the nuclear weapons-capable Dhanush missile from a ship off the Odisha coast will give teeth to the Strategic Forces Command and the armed forces as can target both land-based and sea-based targets apart from its ability to carry a nuclear payload of 500 kg.
- Though the French side is expected to raise the long-pending Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft deal during Modi's visit, it is expected that there are a few irritants that is likely to become impediments in the path of the Rafale deal.
- Out of the eight helicopters that the BSF s supposed to get, two modern 'Mi' helicopters, armed with latest avionics to fly in deep jungles and conduct night sorties, were inducted into the elite air wing of the country's largest border guarding force BSF.

I. National Defence and Security:

Dhanush missile successfully test-fired from ship:

India successfully test-fired nuclear weapons-capable Dhanush missile from a ship off the Odisha coast on April 09. The ship-based missile was launched at 11.02 a.m. by personnel of the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) from an Offshore Patrolling Vessel (OPV), which was deep inside the sea, for its full range of 350 km, according to Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) missile scientists. It was a perfect mission and the missile splashed down near the target point with high degree of accuracy, they said. Dhanush, a manoeuvring missile is a naval variant of Prithvi-II, and can carry a nuclear payload of 500 kg. It can target both land-based and sea-based targets. The missile has already been inducted into the armed services and the SFC personnel randomly picked up the missile from the production lot for April 09's trial, which was carried out as part of regular user training. Dhanush was one of the five missiles developed by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

Source: <http://m.thehindu.com/news/national/dhanush-successfully-testfired-by-sfc-team/article7084822.ece/?secid=3044>

*** No major breakthrough expected in Rafale deal during PM Narendra Modi's visit:**

No major breakthrough is expected in the multi-billion dollar Rafale deal during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to France beginning tomorrow. Though the French side is expected to raise the long-pending Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft deal during Modi's visit, defence sources maintained that there are issues which continue to plague the project. Moreover, the Cost Negotiation Committee, which is working out the final contract in negotiation with French firm Dassault Aviation, is yet to submit its report. "Don't link Prime Minister Modi's trip to one particular deal as bilateral relationships are more than that," sources said. They added that no major breakthrough is expected during the visit. Rafale was selected by India from among five bidders in 2012 since it was the lowest bidder. While initially, the deal was expected to be around USD 10 billion, it is now estimated to be over USD 20 billion. India is insisting that Dassault Aviation cannot renege on the Request for Proposal (RFP) clauses, which it had initially agreed to. Even at political level, India has categorically told the French side that it must stick to the RFP, in which Dassault was the lowest bidder and hence was selected for the contract. "The ball is in France's court," an Indian official had told PTI in January insisting that price tag submitted by Dassault has to be adhered to. Dassault wants to raise the price to cover the increased cost of local production. However, Rafale CEO Eric Trappier has said pricing had remained the same....

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/no-major-breakthrough-expected-in-rafale-deal-during-pm-narendra-modis-visit/articleshow/46853665.cms>

*** With Modi arriving in Paris, India and France set to push Rafale deal:**

India is considering direct purchase of two squadrons of the French Rafale fighter plane to avoid the mire of price negotiations that the deal for 126 of these aircraft has been stuck in since January 2012. The Dassault-manufactured Rafale fighter was on January 31, 2012 announced as the preferred bidder in the \$13-billion contract for 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft (MMRCA). India is now seriously considering strategic purchase of up to 40 Rafales for the Indian Air Force (IAF) through the government-to-government (G2G) route on account of operational necessity. The tentative price tag of this deal would be over \$4 billion. New Delhi and Paris remain silent on the new proposal. But, a senior official involved in the deal says the decision to bypass the 2004 MMRCA tender route - on the basis of which Rafale emerged in the lead - was taken as both Dassault and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) were unable to bridge price differences arising out of original request for proposals (RFP). "After detailed analysis of the RFP and the laborious process followed by the previous government, it was evident that the entire deal could not be worked out with serious discrepancies in the negotiations that could lead to litigation in future," said a senior official. The 2012 deal envisages 18 ready-to-fly Rafales supplied to the IAF by this year, and the remaining 108 to be manufactured under licence in India. With the NDA government not willing to let the IAF fighter squadron strength dip into the critical zone in coming years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President François Hollande will on April 10 discuss ways to clinch the Rafale deal. "If the French company is willing to lower the price per aircraft due to recovery of development costs on missiles, ammunition and sale

to other countries, then India could go for outright purchase of the 4.5 generation fighter through the French government route. The deal could be negotiated and signed in 2015 itself but numbers to be purchased depend on offered price. India has purchased the Lockheed Martin C-130 J Super Hercules, Boeing C-17 Globemaster and P-8I Poseidon aircraft from the US on the basis of strategic requirement and operational necessity through the G2G route," a senior official told Hindustan Times.....

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/with-modi-arriving-on-visit-india-france-set-for-push-to-rafale-deal/article1-1335654.aspx>

* **Army releases news, photos of BrahMos test firing, withdraws:**

The Indian Army on April 09 released photographs and a statement concerning "successful" test firing of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, only to withdraw them later without assigning any reasons. The Defence Wing of Press Information Bureau (PIB) first issued two photographs in the afternoon purportedly showing the launch of the missile from Car Nicobar Islands. A little later, a press release was issued about the launch at about 11 AM. However, about an hour later, the Army issued an advisory to the media to withdraw both photos as well as the press release for some inexplicable reason. Efforts to elicit the reasons for the flip-flop were fended off by the Army. The original press release had said the Block III variant of BrahMos with steep dive capability was launched by the Army unit from a Mobile Autonomous Launcher. It had said the missile followed a predetermined trajectory and successfully hit the designated target on Trak Island at an extended range.

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/army-releases-news-photos-of-brahmos-test-firing-withdraws/articleshow/46867786.cms>

* **Set ground rules for Make in India:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has embarked on a three-nation (France, Germany and Canada) visit from April 9 to 16. What caught my eye was not so much his agenda, but the "nao pe charcha" (talks on the boat) where he and French President François Hollande will sail on the river Seine and hopefully find solutions to various pricing issues related to French nuclear power reactors, Rafale jet fighter deal, foreign direct investment, smart cities etc. Many years ago, I had made a memorable boat trip on the river Seine and I do hope that given the scenic setting, the two heads of state arrive at some common meeting point, including an answer as to why the French-designed Scorpene submarines being built in India at tremendous cost are over four years behind schedule. France, Germany and Russia are contenders for the next generation of six Project 75(I) conventional submarines planned to be built under the "Make in India" banner. On April 6, 2015, the electronic media reported that the first of six indigenous conventional French-designed Scorpene-class submarines (designated Project 75) — being built by Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL), Mumbai — was "floated out" of the 90-metre long MDL dry dock, in the presence of defence minister Manohar Parrikar. This 1,750-tonne, 65-metre long submarine will now carry out "harbour equipment fitting out and trials", before commencing sea trials prior to being commissioned by end 2016, as INS Kalvari. The contract for Project 75 was signed in October 2005, and the first submarine was to be delivered by October 2012. Hence, INS Kalvari is delayed by about four years despite the fact that the ageing Indian Navy conventional submarine fleet (10 out of 13 conventional

submarines have exceeded their designed life of 25 years) is in dire need of replacements. Earlier, MDL had built two German-designed type 1,500-tonne conventional submarines, which were commissioned in 1992 (INS Shalki) and in 1994 (INS Shankul). These two Indian-built submarines took MDL 96 months and 108 months respectively to build. Against this, Germany, which was also training the MDL team during submarine construction in Kiel, delivered INS Shishumar and INS Shankush in 1986, within 60 months. Clearly, the possible reasons for delays in submarine building by MDL include poor project management and monitoring and also, in the case of the Scorpenes, additional delay was due to the over three-year delay in placement of orders for French submarine equipment (CKDs), by the MDL because of post-contract price escalation. The story of the strategic nuclear submarine, INS Arihant, which commenced surface sea trials on December 15, 2014, is no better. There is an estimated eight-year delay. However, some allowance should be made for this first of class 6,000-tonne submarine, whose hull fabrication, as per media reports, commenced at Hazira, Gujarat, in 1998, and the hull sections were joined at the Ship Building Centre Visakhapatnam, where in July 2009, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh publicly "floated out" the submarine, and where "harbour equipment fitting out and trials" were carried out. Six years after the Arihant "floating out" of 2009, there is still no news as to when the second Arihant-type submarine will be "floated out", thus indicating more delays in the project comprising four submarines, for a sea-based deterrent. International experience in building nuclear submarines of the SSBN (ship submersible ballistic nuclear) and SSN (ship submersible nuclear) is that it takes five to eight years, from the time steel cutting and submarine construction commences, to the time sea trials begin.....

Source: <http://www.asianage.com/columnists/set-ground-rules-make-india-603>

*** Analysis: India faces crunch decision over Rafale, PAK-FA:**

New Delhi faces a series of decisions on fast jet procurements that will determine the future direction and capabilities of the Indian Air Force's (IAF's) combat aircraft fleet. At the heart of the matter is the Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) programme - for which France's Dassault Rafale was down-selected in January 2012 - and Russia's Sukhoi T-50/PAK-FA fifth-generation fighter. The central difficulty is what analysts in India described to IHS Jane's as a "massive disconnect between the Ministry of Defence [MoD], the IAF, and the political community in India who have to contend with larger diplomatic and industrial issues" on what the future IAF should look like. At the centre of this conflict are those in favour of the Rafale and those who would instead place funds earmarked for that procurement into the development of a version of the T-50/PAK-FA, known in India as the Fifth-Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA). For New Delhi, the issue is that "the money does not exist to have both the Rafale and T-50 programmes and, if you choose one over the other, you are making decisions that have long-ranging effects", an Indian analyst told IHS Jane's. "If you put your resources into the T-50, then the IAF becomes an almost all-Russian fleet, and you are betting your future force structure on an aeroplane that is almost solely on paper at present. If you decide to go with the Rafale, then you are forgetting about having a fifth-generation aeroplane, but at least you

know everything on this platform exists and works pretty much as advertised," he added.....

Source: <http://www.janes.com/article/50530/analysis-india-faces-crunch-decision-over-rafale-pak-fa>

* **Military's voice is missing in national security decision making process:**

Defence minister Manohar Parrikar said recently that the appointment of a Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) 'is a must' and that integration of the ministry of defence with the headquarters of the three Services is necessary. He said he would forward his recommendations to the PM in two to three months. However, that is not all that is wrong with the national security decision-making process — it is fundamentally flawed. A few examples will illustrate shortcomings that may result in yet another military debacle. In May 1998, India conducted five nuclear tests at Pokhran. It emerged later that these were not merely experimental 'devices' to be tested; these were the warheads from India's nuclear stockpile. It transpired that India's nuclear arsenal was held by civilian organisations — jointly by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) — and not by the country's armed forces. Also, the armed forces were not the only ones in for a surprise. George Fernandes, India's then defence minister, also had no prior knowledge of the impending nuclear tests. In 1997, India signed the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and declared at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) that it had a chemical weapons stockpile. India's three Service chiefs learnt about this declaration from the newspapers. These dangerous weapons were held not by the armed forces, but by the DRDO. Ten years before that, at the request of Sri Lankan President JR Jayewardene, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sent an Indian Peace-keeping Force (IPKF) to Sri Lanka. The force had to fight the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) — which it was inadequately prepared for in terms of its mandate, tasking, arms and equipment. K Natwar Singh, the former external affairs minister, disclosed during interviews relating to his book *One Life is Not Enough* that Rajiv Gandhi agreed to dispatch the IPKF during his discussions with Jayewardene at Colombo, without first consulting his own cabinet. General VP Malik, former COAS, has written in his book *India's Military Conflicts and Diplomacy: An Inside View of Decision Making*: 'The request was accepted by Rajiv Gandhi without consultation with the military chiefs.' The Indian intervention resulted in the loss of the lives of 1,155 soldiers and failed to meet our political and military objectives. The ineffective handling of the intervention still rankles in the minds of political and military leaders.....

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/national-security-military-s-voice-missing-in-decision-making-process/article1-1335318.aspx>

* **India to increase production of indigenously developed rocket "Pinaka":**

Pinaka, which is fired from multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL), has a range of 40 kilometres. The system is mounted on a tatra truck for mobility. A battery of Pinaka consists of six launcher systems, six loader-cum-replenishment vehicles, three replenishment vehicles, a command post vehicle with fire control computer and meteorological radar. In 2014, about 5,000 rockets were produced while an advanced variant is being developed with enhanced range and accuracy.

"Definitely, demand from the Indian army for this rocket has increased that is why our ordnance factory in Kanpur has laid so much stress on the quality of `Pinaka` rockets," said Jayant Kumar, an ordnance factory officer. The rocket was first used in the 1999 Kargil war against Pakistan. "The rocket is cable of destroying a target area of 500 metres to 1,000 metres when it hits. This is its biggest quality," Kumar added. Indian scientists began work on Pinaka in 1983. The system has a maximum range of 39-40 km and fires a salvo of 12 HE rockets in under 40 seconds, with a beaten zone of 3.9 square kilometres.

Source: http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/india-to-increase-production-of-indigenously-developed-rocket-pinaka_1573527.html

*** Indian and Chinese Military Officers Could Soon Train Together:**
Weeks before Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit's China, the two countries will discuss whether officers from either side could train at military training academies in each other's country. Indian military training establishments allow mid-level officers from "friendly foreign countries" - like USA, Sri Lanka, Africa, Philippines, Vietnam etc - to train alongside Indian officers in their courses. Indian officers too train at foreign military schools. The move to have Chinese and Indian officers train with each other is seen as effort to foster better understanding between the two armed forces. It will be keenly watched by Moscow, Japan and even the US. The modalities will be discussed during the Annual Defence Dialogue (ADD) that begins in Beijing. The Indian side is led by Defence Secretary R. K Mathur. Besides, the proposal to allow officers to train with each other, officials from the two countries will also finalise setting up four meeting points along the India-China border in Leh to quickly resolve stand-offs. The meeting points identified are - Track Junction, Pangang Tso Lake, Demchock and Chumar. They are also expected to discuss the expansion of the scope the annual military exercise, Hand in Hand, between India and China. Their armies have carried out four such exercises in the past, primarily focused on counter-terrorism. "There is a possibility that the two militaries may exercise looking at different scenarios, which could involve the Navy and Air Force," a top Defence Ministry official told NDTV. Finally, the two sides will also discuss how to better implement the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement or BDCA, which was agreed upon in October 2013 after a series of transgressions by Chinese troops, one of which resulted in a stand-off for over a month leading to heightened tension between the neighbours. The BDCA aims to defuse border flare-ups. China and India had both agreed to curb aggressive patrolling in disputed border areas and also not to tail each other's patrols.

Source: <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/indian-and-chinese-military-officers-could-train-with-each-other-753450>

*** IAF chief tells air warriors to focus on training:**
Indian Air Force chief Arup Raha on April 09 urged air warriors to focus on quality of training and maintenance. "We need to focus on enhancing quality of training and maintenance for improving the infrastructure, preserving air assets during peace time and to build teams through human resource management," Air Chief Marshal Raha told air force station commanders. Raha, who is on a two-day visit to the city for the station commanders' conference, endorsed the command for ingraining IAF's core values of mission, integrity and excellence in air warriors. He also lauded the contribution of the air force personnel in conducting

the 10th edition of the biennial Aero India event at the Yelahanka base on the city's outskirts. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the five-day air show on February 18 in the presence of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, Raha and defence ministers and air force chiefs of a dozen countries. Commanders of flying, technical and non-technical training establishments of the training command are attending the conference. The air chief also presented the honour of best flying training establishment to air force station, Tambaram (near Chennai), best ground training establishment to the Air Force Administrative College at Coimbatore in Tamil Nadu, best airmen training institute to communication training institute at Jalahalli, best maintenance to air force station at Hakimpet in Hyderabad and best administration to air force station in Bengaluru.

Source: <https://in.news.yahoo.com/iaf-chief-tells-air-warriors-focus-training-140618521.html>

II Homeland Security

* **Website 'compromised', Army alerts its personnel:**

Crucial details of Army officers such as their IC numbers — that serve as the identity within the Army — dates of commissioning, birth, individual login IDs and possibly, even the details of locations of postings are likely to have been leaked when the Principal Controller of Defence Accounts PCDA (O) website was “compromised” on March 31. The Army has issued an advisory to its officers to immediately change their email IDs and remain vigilant for the “phishing mails” that they may receive on the “compromised” email IDs. The advisory, which was issued by Army Headquarters on April 08 evening, has been sent to all formations across the country. The PCDA (O) website, which even displayed obscene messages, has been “out of order” since March 31 and the authorities said that an investigation has been ordered. Sources within the Army confirmed that the data has been “missing in parts”. While the Army maintained that it is too early to arrive at any conclusion as to whether the website could have been hacked by anti-national elements, PCDA has not given any official word on the incident. “The reason behind the problem can be ascertained only after due investigation,” said an official. “What we know as of now is that the website is down and cannot be accessed. It needs to be checked with the PCDA(O) authorities to find what exactly is the case,” he said....

Source: <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/website-compromised-army-alerts-its-personnel/>

* **BSF gets two new military choppers for operations:**

Two modern 'Mi' helicopters, armed with latest avionics to fly in deep jungles and conduct night sorties, were inducted into the elite air wing of the country's largest border guarding force BSF. The two Mi-17-V5 choppers are the first batch of the total eight helicopters' fleet which are expected to join the Border Security Force by this year-end. The choppers will be used to bolster anti-Naxal operations and various other tasks conducted by central paramilitary forces in both border areas and the hinterland. Minister of State for Home Kiren Rijiju inducted the two 'birds' into the BSF fleet at a ceremony held at Safdarjung airport. "These two helicopters are very very modern and one of the finest helicopters in the world. These will boost the operational capabilities of BSF and

other paramilitary forces. We will continue to strengthen the air wing of the force," he told reporters after he inducted the choppers into the fleet. The military choppers, embossed with the BSF logo and name, were given a tri-colour water jet salute as soon as they landed at the tarmac. Russian-made choppers are an upgraded version of the existing 'Mi-17' choppers operated by Indian Air Force and BSF in the country. The new flying machines have an all-weather radar which helps them to fly in difficult areas and in the night, a 'bambi bucket' to carry gallons of water for humanitarian aid and help for civil administration, a powerful winch to extricate troops and civilians alike, loud hailer and search lights to undertake extended reconnaissance missions. Rijju, when asked, said it was not immediately decided as to which operational theatre in the country these choppers will be dedicated. "Normally, priority is given to Left Wing Extremism-hit areas as well as difficult border areas. Now, where will they be deployed will be based on necessity from time to time," he said adding the Home Ministry is enhancing the capabilities of BSF to operate the air wing. These helicopters were initially supposed to be handed over to BSF by Russians in September last year but due to some glitches the delivery could not take place.

Source: http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/bsf-gets-two-new-military-choppers-for-operations-115040901259_1.html

*** No choppers for ITBP on borders, funds lie unused:**

The home ministry may have provided for dedicated air support to ITBP to enhance its capabilities on the Sino-Indian border, but it is fast turning out to be of little use. A fund of Rs 40 crore sanctioned for annual wet leasing of choppers is lying unused. The reason is no private operator is able to fulfill the requirements of the force. ITBP needs choppers to fly at around 18,000 feet and carry as much as 1 tonne of load for air maintenance of border outposts (BoPs). This is a requirement which can only be fulfilled by an MI-17 chopper. No private player operating in India has MI-17 helicopters. Consequently, ITBP is now pushing for one of the two BSF MI17 V5 choppers, inducted on April 09, to be left at its service. BSF on April 08 inducted the first batch of two state-of-the-art MI17 V5 choppers in its air wing. These are part of the eight such choppers to be acquired by the force. The new choppers are equipped with latest avionics, night flying capabilities and power-winch facilities among other technology to enhance capabilities of the forces in difficult operational areas. "MHA has sanctioned us Rs 40 crore to hire civil choppers. But no civil operator has choppers that can fly at heights of 17,000-18000 feet where several of our outposts are located. We have until now only found one operator which has choppers that can carry up to half tonne of load. We are thinking of hiring their services, but they will not fulfill our requirements completely. In such a situation, if one of the new BSF choppers can be dedicated to us, it would be very helpful," said a senior ITBP officer. The force at the moment is dependent on Indian Air Force (IAF) for air maintenance (delivery of supplies) of its remote border outposts. A battalion at remote border region requires anywhere between 40-50 tonnes of ration and other essentials to be dropped by air in a year. ITBP has several border outposts in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh which can be maintained only through air support. In Arunachal Pradesh, where roads are virtually absent, it can take several days of walking to reach outposts and weeks to comprehensively patrol borders. Choppers at exclusive disposal of ITBP can

help the force a great deal in not just rescue of the ill and injured and delivery of supplies but even surveillance of the border.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/No-choppers-for-ITBP-on-borders-funds-lie-unused/articleshow/46871054.cms>

* **Maoist splinter group commander killed in Jharkhand:**

An area commander Nicholas Pahan (30) of People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI), a breakaway faction of CPI Maoist, was killed in an encounter with security forces at Kunjla village under Murhu police station in Khunti district, in the wee hours on April 10, Jharkhand police spokesperson Anurag Gupta claimed. A hard-core extremist, Pahan was in-charge of PLFI activities in Murhu, Torpa and Khunti blocks from where he collected levies from contractors to fund the outfit's war against the state. A close aide of PLFI top leader Jidan Gudiya, Pahan had succeeded Murhu-Torpa-Khunti area commander Shiv Gudiya around one year ago when he was killed in an encounter. A source said police had gathered intelligence that Pahan with his men was supposed to come to Kunjla village on April 09 night to kill a villager PLFI considered police informer. "A police team raided the village and encircled Pahan, who was with six armed men, before he could reach his target. He opened fire on policemen when they asked him to surrender. In retaliatory fire Pahan was killed while his men escaped," Gupta claimed. Police arrested one of the extremists who laid down arms during the gun-battle. A police search party found four pistols and a huge cache of live cartridges at the site later. DGP D K Pandey announced a cash reward of Rs 1 lakh for the cops behind the successful encounter. PLFI is among the largest splinter groups of CPI Maoist in Jharkhand. A group of CPI Maoist renegades who claimed the Maoists were unfair to cadres, had formed PLFI in 2006. It has spread from Khunti to Gumla, Simdega, Ranchi, Latehar, Chatra and Palamu. Now police consider it second biggest internal security challenge in Jharkhand after Maoists.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Maoist-splinter-group-commander-killed-in-Jharkhand/articleshow/46872142.cms>

Indicia solicits comments and advice from readers on any aspect of the report. It believes that cross-fertilisation of knowledge invariably leads to better knowledge



Indicia Research & Advisory
Fusion Knowledge in Indian Defence and Strategic Affairs
C - 79, Basement, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110 017
T&F: + 91 11 4579 2922, email: director@indicia.in