

Indicia Knowledge Brief

*A Daily Assessment on Indian Defence and Internal/Homeland Security
October 23, 2014.*

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

- A number of "significant" issues are likely to come up for discussion in the meeting on October 25 when Defence Minister Arun Jaitley will chair a crucial meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), a high-level body that decides on procurements for the armed forces. Clearance of pending procurements is likely to be the dominant agenda. The meeting holds importance as the government is all set to take a call on two critical but long-delayed projects to plug operational military gaps in conventional diesel-electric submarines and anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs), which together will cost well upwards of Rs 70,000 crore over the next decade.
- Crucial questions pertaining to the safety of the aircraft have once again been raised, as India has grounded its entire Sukhoi-30 fleet after a recent crash because it doesn't want to put its pilots in harm's way. The fighters have not flown for a week after a Su-30 MKI of the Indian Air Force crashed near Pune. The Russian team's promised cooperation in the safety check augurs well.
- When everybody thought that Afghanistan might have given up its desire to procure weapons from India, The Afghan minister of interior Mohammad Umar Daudzai has said that the government of Afghanistan will renew request for the supply of arms and military hardware from India.

I. National Defence and Security:

Crucial Defence Acquisition Council meeting on October 25:

Defence Minister Arun Jaitley will on October 25 chair a crucial meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), a high-level body that decides on procurements for the armed forces. A number of "significant" issues are likely to come up for discussion in the meeting, sources said. Jaitley had told a conference of top commanders of the armed forces last week that the process of military acquisitions, which had slowed down due to "some controversies", will be sped up with at least one meeting per month of DAC. DAC is headed by the Defence

Minister and includes the Defence Secretary, the Chiefs of all three services, DRDO Chief and other senior officials. It was set up in 2001 as part of the post-Kargil reforms in defence sector. The Council approves the long-term integrated perspective plan for the forces, accords acceptance of necessity (AON) to begin acquisition proposals, and has to grant its approval to all major deals through all their important phases. It also has the power to approve any deviations in an acquisition, and recommends all big purchases for approval of the Cabinet Committee on Security.

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/crucial-defence-acquisition-council-meeting-on-saturday/articleshow/44910196.cms>

*** Govt to take call on key defence deals worth Rs 70,000 crore:**

The government is all set to take a call on two critical but long-delayed projects to plug operational military gaps in conventional diesel-electric submarines and anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs), which together will cost well upwards of Rs 70,000 crore over the next decade or so. Defence ministry sources said the two projects would be discussed by the defence acquisitions council (DAC) to be chaired by Arun Jaitley on October 25. "Though there will be other items on the agenda, including the order for another 12 Dornier aircraft, the submarine and ATGM projects are likely to be the big-ticket ones," said a source. Both the long-term projects will involve indigenous production with foreign collaboration in tune with PM Narendra Modi's "Make in India" policy. All the six new advanced stealth submarines, armed with both land-attack missile capabilities and air-independent propulsion for greater underwater endurance, will now be built in India, as was first reported by TOI last month. Similarly, the Army project involves a direct acquisition of around 900 launchers and 3,200 missiles of third-generation ATGMs or "tank-killers", followed by transfer of technology (ToT) to defence PSU Bharat Dynamics for large-scale manufacture. In all, at least 1,914 launchers and 37,860 missiles will be required to equip the Army's 382 infantry battalions and 44 mechanised infantry units. Significantly, MoD sources said the Army has pitched for the Israeli "Spike" ATGM over the American "Javelin" missile in the DAC. The US has been hard-selling the Javelin in recent months, with defence secretary Chuck Hagel in August offering not only to "co-produce" the ATGMs but also "co-develop" its fourth-generation version with India. But it was the earlier reluctance of the US for full ToT which led India to consider and extensively test the Israeli Spike ATGM. "The Army feels the latest US offer to co-produce and co-develop the Javelin is not very clear and not likely to meet our ToT requirements. The Israeli Spike, in turn, has already undergone our trials. It's also cheaper than the Javelin," said the source. The global tender for the Navy's project to build the six new-generation stealth submarines, in turn, is yet to be even floated despite getting "acceptance of necessity" way back in November 2007 due to political apathy and bureaucratic bottlenecks. The original plan was that the first two submarines would be imported to save time, given the country's rapidly-depleting underwater combat arm, with the next three being constructed at Mazagon Docks (Mumbai) and one at Hindustan Shipyard (Visakhapatnam) with ToT from the foreign company eventually selected...

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Govt-to-take-call-on-key-defence-deals-worth-Rs-70000-crore/articleshow/44913802.cms>

* **India plays safe, grounds entire Sukhoi-30 fleet:**

India has grounded its entire Sukhoi-30 fleet after a recent crash because it doesn't want to put its pilots in harm's way. The fighters have not flown for a week after a Su-30 MKI of the Indian Air Force crashed near Pune, raising questions about the safety record of the fighter. With the IAF operating close to 200 twin-engine Su-30s, the grounded planes represent almost a third of the country's fighter fleet. India is due to get 72 more of these planes, each worth over Rs. 200 crore. The IAF is down to 34 combat squadrons, as against an authorised strength of 44. Each squadron has up to 18 fighter planes. An IAF official said safety checks with "special focus on ejection seats" were being conducted and flight operations would resume only after each plane was cleared. A highly-placed source said the pilots of the plane that crashed on October 14 near Pune had reported "automatic seat ejection." One of the two pilots was involved in a previous Su-30 crash too. Five Su-30 fighters have crashed during the last five years, setting off alarm bells in the IAF. The Su-30 fleet has been grounded at least twice in the past. Former IAF chief Air Chief Marshal Fali Major told HT, "A fleet is grounded when you have no clue as to what brought the plane down. It's serious." Asked if buying Su-30s was a doubtful choice, Major said the planes were splendid but IAF needed to get to the bottom of the problem. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited assembles and repairs these planes in India. IAF chief Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha had told reporters on October 4 that the Su-30 fleet was facing certain problems, but he refused to elaborate. The IAF's Su-30 fleet has faced a high number of mid-air engine failures during the last two years, said another official.

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-grounds-entire-sukhoi-30-fleet/article1-1277968.aspx>

* **Army hands back firing range to J&K government:**

The Army has handed over the Tosha Maidan firing range in central Kashmir to the state government for its redevelopment as a tourist destination. Chief minister Omar Abdullah said this on October 22 while complimenting the Army for clearing the area from dangerous materials and unexploded ammunition within a record time. "The area would be developed as one of the choosiest tourist resorts," he told a gathering of Army officers and civilians. He said it would generate employment, trade and business opportunities. "The people of the area want Tosha Maidan to be a tourist attraction like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg, etc and their cherished desire would be fulfilled now." The chief minister later told reporters the Army presence is required in the area for security reasons. "They would not use the area for training purposes." The lease period of the 96 sq km firing range expired in April and the state government did not extend it after a minor girl was killed and her brother lost his legs when they were hit during a firing exercise in a nearby village in Budgam in May. At least 65 people have died since 1962 in the area due to accidental firing while another estimate puts the toll at 150. Hundreds have lost their hearing and eyesight. Doctors say cancer cases have been on the rise in the area as contaminants like mercury, lead, copper, lithium, manganese, depleted uranium, which are highly carcinogenic, were released due to the firing practice.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Army-hands-back-firing-range-to-JK-government/articleshow/44913677.cms>

*** No compromise with China on country's territorial interests, NSA Ajit Doval says:**

NSA Ajit Doval on October 21 said that while India was going to use any opportunity to develop relations with "very important" neighbour China, it would not compromise on its territorial interests and sovereignty. Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Doval said India had found space for economic cooperation with China despite "some bad experience" in 1962. "I would like to develop our relations to such an extent till the time our territorial and integral sovereignty ... we would not be able to compromise on it. We should sit together and resolve our boundary dispute amicably," said Doval, adding that China was a very important neighbour with which India had had good relations for centuries. Doval also spoke about Pakistan saying that India would like to address all outstanding issues with the neighbouring country through dialogue and at the same time ensure that an "effective deterrence" is in place for terror emerging from that country. "We would like to resolve our problems through negotiations, through talks. I don't think of any problem that cannot be resolved through negotiations," he said. "But on the other hand, India would like to have an effective deterrence to deal with terrorism," Doval said. Both countries lost a number of civilians in the recent ceasefire violations across LoC and international border which witnessed heavy cross-firing by both sides. Talking about the problem of terrorism, the NSA pushed for early fructification of the long-pending UN Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT), which, he said, is being stalled by countries like Pakistan. India has made it clear that it is ready to improve ties with China, but will not compromise on its territorial interests. "On international front, nothing has happened except conferences. UN resolution is pending. We don't have UN Convention of Terrorism," he said, adding "People could not define terrorism. Pakistan said 'freedom fighters' should not be treated as terrorists." Questioning why there cannot be a UN convention on terrorism, he said such a measure would make states more responsible as to what actions a state has to take and how there can be a collective response to it. "Can we think of extradition laws that that can help us in the process? It is a fast-moving pattern and action should be taken in 24 to 48 hours. Otherwise it will not serve any purpose," he said.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/No-compromise-with-China-on-countrys-territorial-interests-NSA-Ajit-Doval-says/articleshow/44904022.cms>

*** India ready for nuclear no-first-use agreements :**

Reiterating its traditional policy of not using nuclear weapons first and not targeting non-nuclear weapons nations, India has offered to enter into agreements incorporating the two principles while ruling out joining the non-proliferation treaty. "As a responsible nuclear power India has a policy of credible minimum deterrence based on a No First Use posture and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapon states," Ambassador DB Venkatesh Varma said on October 20. "We are prepared to convert these into bilateral or multilateral legally binding arrangements." Varma, the Indian Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, was speaking at a meeting of the UN General Assembly Committee on Disarmament and International Peace. While New Delhi is "unwavering in its commitment to universal, non-discriminatory, verifiable nuclear disarmament", he said, "there is no question of India joining the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) as prepared to

convert these into bilateral or multilateral legally binding arrangements." Varma, the Indian Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, was speaking at a meeting of the UN General Assembly Committee on Disarmament and International Peace. While New Delhi is "unwavering in its commitment to universal, non-discriminatory, verifiable nuclear disarmament", he said, "there is no question of India joining the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty) as a non-nuclear ..

Source: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-ready-for-nuclear-no-first-use-agreements/articleshow/44906766.cms>

*** Sword, Not Just Shield, in India's Hand, Defence Minister Warns Pakistan:**

India warned Pakistan on October 21 of "pain" if it continues to violate the ceasefire along the Kashmir border. Defence Minister Arun Jaitley told NDTV it's up to Islamabad to create the conditions for a resumption of talks. "Our conventional strength is far more than theirs. So if they persist with this, they'll feel the pain of this adventurism," the Defence Minister said to NDTV. "When Pakistan used to fire, we always had a shield in our hand. This time we also had a sword," he added, emphasizing that India has asked its armed forces to retaliate forcefully to ceasefire violations. In the worst violence in over a decade, at least 20 civilians have been killed this month on both sides of the border; dozens more were injured. While the firing has abated, tension remains high along the border. India's top Army officials and the government said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the defence forces a free hand on handling the tension and violence at the Kashmir border. Mr Modi invited his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, to his swearing-in ceremony in May. After that, talks between Foreign Secretaries of the two countries were scheduled for August but India opted out after Pakistan's ambassador to Delhi met with Kashmiri separatists ahead of the meeting.

Source: <http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/sword-not-just-shield-in-india-s-hand-defence-minister-warns-pakistan-610109>

*** India warns Pakistan of more pain in Kashmir fighting:**

India warned Pakistan on October 21 of more "pain" if it continued to violate a ceasefire on their disputed border in Kashmir and said it was up to Islamabad to create the conditions for a resumption of peace talks. The two sides exchanged mortars and intense gunfire this month, killing at least 20 civilians and wounding dozens in the worst violation to date of a 2003 ceasefire. While the firing has abated, tension remains high along a 200-km stretch of the border dividing the nuclear-armed rivals. "Our conventional strength is far more than theirs. So if they persist with this, they'll feel the pain of this adventurism," Defence Minister Arun Jaitley told NDTV in an interview. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government came to power in May promising a tough response to violence in the Himalayan territory. It accuses Pakistan of helping Islamist militants cross into its side to keep alive a 25-year armed revolt in India's only Muslim-majority state. Military officers on both sides say Indian border commanders adopted a more aggressive stance in the clashes this month, firing 1,000 mortars on one day this month. It was not clear what triggered the fighting. Pakistani army officials said the trouble began with India's decision to beef up border defences, in violation of the ceasefire pact. Indian army commanders, for their part, were incensed by the killing of a soldier on their side of the Line of Control in Kashmir

in a remote-controlled explosion that they blamed on militants backed by Pakistani army regulars. "When Pakistan used to fire, we always had a shield in our hand. This time we also had a sword," said Jaitley, a close associate of Modi who is also finance minister. Modi invited his Pakistani counterpart, Nawaz Sharif, to his inauguration as part of a push to rebuild trust with neighbours. But while relations with the smaller neighbours are improving, Pakistan has remained a stumbling block. In August, the Modi government abruptly called off talks between the two countries' top diplomats, objecting to Pakistan's ambassador to New Delhi holding talks with Kashmiri separatists ahead of the meeting.

Source: <http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/10/21/india-pakistan-idINKCN0IA17320141021>

* **Afghanistan to renew request for arms, military hardware from India:**

The Afghan minister of interior Mohammad Umar Daudzai has said that the government of Afghanistan will renew request for the supply of arms and military hardware from India. Daudzai has visited India to attend a security conference in new Delhi. According to the Indian media agencies, Daudzai is expected to have informal talks with the Indian establishment during visit to New Delhi. According to reports, a delegation of high level Indian security officials are also expected to visit Kabul in the near future, apparently to hold talks on security cooperation between the two nations. This comes as the former Afghan President Hamid Karzai had requested India for over 230 types of military equipment, including helicopters and field guns in April this year. Karzai also handed over a list of military equipment to India during his two-visit late in the month of December last year. However, India rejected the supply of lethal weapons to Afghanistan security forces amid fears that the supply of weapons could upset Pakistan. In the meantime, Daudzai has said the government of Afghanistan expects that the request to supply arms to Afghan forces by will be acted upon by India.

Source: <http://www.khaama.com/afghanistan-to-renew-request-for-arms-military-hardware-from-india-8861>

* **Army Chief tells commanders to assess security situation:**

Army Chief Gen Dalbir Singh Suhag asked his commanders to "continuously assess" the situation in view of the security transition taking place in the neighbourhood and directed them to maintain relentless pressure on terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir to ensure peaceful polls. In his address on culmination of the Army Commanders Conference, Gen Singh also expressed satisfaction over the situation in North East and stressed upon all stakeholders to be made a part of the conflict resolution mechanism. While addressing the external security concerns, he asked the commanders to continuously assess the situation in the sub-continent with respect to the force and security transition taking place and its concomitant effect on the nation's security, Army sources said. His remarks came in the backdrop of NATO forces starting the process of withdrawing from war-torn Afghanistan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while on a visit to the US in September, had cautioned the American government against hasty withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan, citing the mistakes committed while pulling out from Iraq. On the internal security plane, the Army chief stressed on the need to maintain relentless pressure in Jammu and Kashmir so that terrorists could not

carry out any meaningful operations to interrupt the forthcoming elections. He also expressed satisfaction on the situation in North East and stressed upon all stakeholders to be made a part of the conflict resolution mechanism. Gen Singh praised the Northern and Western commands for their exemplary response to the floods in Jammu and Kashmir which saw spontaneous mobilisation of Army resources, both manpower and equipment, without waiting for any formal requisition....

Source: http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/army-chief-tells-commanders-to-assess-security-situation_1486600.html

* **Modi Visits Siachen to Meet Soldiers on Diwali:**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 23 visited Siachen to spend some time with soldiers on Diwali and convey the message there that every Indian stands shoulder-to-shoulder with them. He went to Siachen before travelling to Srinagar to spend time with the flood-affected people on the festival of lights. "Friends, I am leaving for Siachen Glacier. It's my good fortune that I will be able to spend time with our brave soldiers on this special day," Modi tweeted, before embarking on the visit. "Am going to Siachen with a message from each and every Indian to our soldiers- that we stand shoulder to shoulder with you," he said. Praising the country's sentinels, Modi said, "Be it the altitude or bitter cold, nothing deters our soldiers. They stand there, serving our Nation. They make us truly proud." After his brief visit to Siachen, Modi will travel to Srinagar to meet the flood victims. "After the Siachen visit I will continue with my scheduled visit to Srinagar to spend time with those affected due to the recent floods," Modi said on the micro-blogging site. He further said, "Everyone is aware of the extreme conditions at Siachen. Overcoming every challenge our soldiers stand firm, protecting our Motherland."

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Modi-Visits-Siachen-to-Meet-Soldiers-on-Diwali/2014/10/23/article2489924.ece1>

* **Ex-Army chief's aide Shambhu Prasad Singh no stranger to controversy:**

Cabinet minister Gen VK Singh captured public imagination through his strong stand against corruption in public life, but his close aide Shambhu Prasad Singh cannot claim to have contributed much to those efforts. Rather, SP Singh is turning out to be a severe challenge for the former army chief's political life, and claims to probity. Until recently, SP Singh was a controversial military contractor, blacklisted by Assam Rifles and booked by the Delhi Police, who had spent a few days in Tihar jail. But none of it prevented Gen Singh from appointing SP Singh as his political attache to look after the affairs of his Lok Sabha constituency of Ghaziabad. On October 22, CBI named SP Singh's wife and his family company Sai Baba Builders in its FIR on irregularities in the purchase of pre-fabricated shelters for the Special Frontier Force. This is not the first time SP Singh has landed right in the middle of a controversy. On June 21, 2011, Syndicate Bank branch in Nehru Place, New Delhi wrote to Assam Rifles that five bank guarantees, together worth Rs 38,83,000/- provided by Dynamic Shells and Sai Baba Builders, both owned by SP Singh, were fake. Assam Rifles blacklisted the two companies on November 2, 2011. The decision was conveyed to the home ministry, but strangely no further legal action was taken for months. ...

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Ex-Army-chiefs-aide-Shambhu-Prasad-Singh-no-stranger-to-controversy/articleshow/44913863.cms>

II Homeland Security

* **ITBP: Chinese Incursion 'Uncommon':**

Indo-Tibetan Border Police DG, Subhas Goswami on October 22 said the fortnight-long India-China face off at Chumur in Ladakh last month was unusual and uncommon. The incursion at two places happened during Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to India. "It was uncommon as normally such incidents do not last for more than 10-15 minutes after the banner drill, as per established procedure. When they come, we show them a banner telling them that the territory belongs to India and ask them to go back. They normally do. But this time the incident lasted much longer," Goswami added. He said most of the transgression is due to perception of boundary since there is no clear demarcation. Goswami said the ITBP is giving Mandarin lessons to its jawans to effectively communicate with the China's People's Liberation Army in case of face off at the borders in the future. An ITBP officer said the language training is going on for the past seven-eight years "This year 12 jawans are learning Mandarin," he said.

Source: <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/ITBP-Chinese-Incursion-%E2%80%98Uncommon%E2%80%99/2014/10/23/article2489871.ece>

* **BSF to reciprocate Pak Rangers's antagonistic gesture:**

As the ceasefire violation continues by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir, the Border Security Force (BSF) in Punjab has decided to not greet their counterparts of Pakistan Rangers on occasion of Diwali. Earlier, breaking the border ritual, the Pakistan Rangers on October 6th, had deliberately avoided exchanging greetings and sweets on the occasion of Eid from Attari land border. Confirming that BSF wouldn't be exchanging pleasantries and sweets with Pakistan Rangers from Attari land border on the occasion of Diwali, BSF, Inspector General, Frontier, Ashok Kumar told TOI on October 22 "We have decided to not greet or give sweets to Pakistan Rangers". Sources told TOI that BSF's decision was another Indian gesture of refusing to soft down on terror attacks and ceasefire violation by Pakistan. Earlier in August India had called off scheduled foreign secretary level talks with Pakistan after Pakistan's high commissioner in India Abdul Basit had met Kashmiri separatists.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/BSF-to-reciprocate-Pak-Rangerss-antagonistic-gesture/articleshow/44910269.cms>

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