



Defence News – January

Israeli Air Force Receives First Anti-Missile Interceptors for Arrow 3 System

- i. The **first anti-missile interceptors** for the **Arrow 3 Missile Defense System** was inducted into the **Israel Defense Forces** on January 18, 2017 by both Israel's Defense Ministry and the US Missile Defense Agency during a ceremony held on the Palmachim Air Base.
- ii. Each Arrow 3 Missile is estimated to cost about **\$2.2 million**. They have been designed to enable interception of ballistic missiles **beyond the earth's atmosphere**. Interception at that altitude enables missiles carrying nuclear warheads to be blocked farther from Israel and stops the enemy missile to harm the territory.
- iii. The Arrow-3 interceptor is a part of Israel's Arrow weapon system (AWS) and has been jointly developed by **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), U.S. Department of Defense's Missile Defense Agency and Boeing**.

BSF launches operation 'SardHawa' at Rajasthan border

- i. Border Security Force (BSF) has launched its 14 day operation **SardHawa** at the western international border of Rajasthan on January 15, 2017 to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog in the area.
- ii. **Aim:** To keep a hawk's eye on the international border, where vigil has been beefed-up and officers have also been asked to be part of operation to motivate jawans.
- iii. The operation will end on January 28, 2017.

Pakistan Navy Receives Two Ships From China to Ensure Security along Gwadar Port

- i. **China** has handed over two ships to **Pakistan Navy** on January 15, 2017 in order to ensure joint security along the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** and the **Gwadar port**.
- ii. The two ships were received by the **Pakistan Navy Vice Admiral Arifullah Hussaini** at a ceremony held at Gwadar port.
- iii. The ships named **Hingol and Basol** get their names from nearby rivers in Pakistan. China will provide two more ships to Pakistan Navy named **Dasht and Zhob** after two districts in Balochistan.

INS Khanderi, Second Scorpene Class Submarine Launched in Mumbai

- i. **INS Khanderi**, India's second French-designed **Scorpene-class diesel-electric attack submarine** was launched in Mumbai on January 12, 2017 at the **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**.

ii. The Submarine was launched by BinaBhamre, wife of the Union Minister of State (MoS) for Defence, SubhashBhamre in the presence of Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba.

Chinese Navy Commissions Sophisticated Ship CNS Kaiyangxing into its Fleet

- i. The **China's Navy** commissioned a sophisticated electronic reconnaissance ship **CNS Kaiyangxing** or Mizar to **North Sea Fleet** in Qingdao, Shandong province on January 10, 2017.
- ii. The new ship with **hull code 856** is capable of conducting all-weather, round-the-clock observation on multiple targets. The ship is so sophisticated that only a few countries, such as the US and Russia, are capable of developing it.
- iii. The Kaiyangxing is a **Type 815A electronic reconnaissance ship**, with displacement of 6,000 metric tons and a maximum speed of 20 knots or 37 kilometers per hour.

Guided Pinaka Rocket Successfully Test-Fired by India

- i. India successfully test-fired the **Guided Pinaka Rocket** from Launch Complex-III of the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)** launch pad at Chandipur off coast Odisha.
- ii. With the test-firing all the mission objectives were successfully met. All the radars, electro optical and telemetry systems at Chandipur tracked and monitored the weapon all through the flight path.
- iii. The Guided Pinaka is a modified version of the **Pinaka rocket mark-II** which has evolved from **Pinaka Mark-I**. Pinaka rocket mark-II is equipped with a navigation, guidance and control kit. The modified version has considerably enhanced the strike range and accuracy of Pinaka.
- iv. The Guided Pinaka is developed jointly by **Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE)**, **Research Centre Imarat (RCI)** and **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)**.

Indian Navy's Theatre Level Exercise, TROPEX 17 Begins

- i. The **Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX)**, an annual Indian Navy exercise kicked started on January 24, 2017 off the **Western Seaboard**. The last edition of the exercise was conducted in January 2015.
- ii. The exercise will be conducted in phased manner both in harbour and at sea to undertake tasks of war-fighting and combat operations. The exercise will strengthen the inter-operability and joint operations of the Indian Navy in a complex environment.
- iii. The month long exercise will see the participation of ships and aircraft of both the Western and Eastern Naval Commands and assets from the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard exercising together.

INS Vikramaditya Becomes India's First Warship to Have ATM Onboard

- i. **INS Vikramaditya**, India's biggest aircraft carrier ship has become the country's first warship

to have an **Automated Teller Machine (ATM)** onboard the vessel.

ii. The ATM has been installed by the **State Bank of India (SBI)** and will become operational from **January 21, 2017**. It will be operated through **satellite link**.

China Commissions its 31st Stealth Warship

i. In a move to rapidly expand its naval fleet, China's **People's Liberation Army Navy** commissioned its **31st stealth warship** on January 22, 2017.

ii. With the commissioning of the 31st Type—056 class corvette warship, **CNS Ezhou**, China has become the world's largest fleet of modern corvettes.

iii. The CNS Ezhou with a **hull number of 513** was delivered to the **East Sea Fleet** in a naval base in **East China's Fujian** province on January 18, 2017. It is **89 meters long and 11 m wide** and has a full displacement of **1,254 metric tons**.

Guided Pinaka test fired successfully again

i. The **Guided Pinaka** was successfully test fired from the Launch Complex-III, **ITR, Chandipur** for a further enhanced range.

ii. The **Pinaka Rocket Mark-II**, equipped with Navigation, guidance and control kit, was transformed into a guided Pinaka.

iii. The conversion has facilitated to enhance the range and improve the accuracy of Pinaka.

Pakistan Successfully Conducts First Flight Test of N- Capable Ababeel Missile

i. **Pakistan** successfully conducted the first test flight of the surface-to-surface ballistic missile (SSM), '**Ababeel**' on January 24, 2017.

ii. The radar-evading Ababeel has the capability of carrying a nuclear warhead up to 2,200 kms and deliver multiple warheads using Multiple Independent Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology.

Whatsapp helpline Lunched by Army Chief Gen. Bipin Rawat launches to Address grievances of Army personnel

i. The Chief of Army staff **Gen Bipin Rawat** launched a **Whatsapp helpline** number on January 27, 2017 to receive grievances of army personnel.

ii. Several soldiers posted their grievances on social media about the food that was being served to them and the conditions that they were put in as a result the army chief took the decision of launching the whatsapp service.

iii. The Whatsapp number where soldiers can post their complaints is +91 9643300008. The number will be shared with all soldiers and the number will remain at Rawat's office.

Indian Navy Issues RFI to procure 57 Carrier-Borne Fighter Jets

i. According to **IHS Jane's Defense Weekly**, the Indian Navy has officially issued a Request for Information (RFI) on January 17, 2017 to procure **new carrier-based multirole warplane**.

ii. The Navy intends to **procure 57 naval fighter aircraft** from a foreign supplier for its rapidly



growing fleet of aircraft carriers. The government also wants to manufacture these planes in India under Indian Prime Minister's Modi's Make in India initiative and tender has asked the original equipment manufacturers to respond to it.

iii. Responses are due by May 24, 2017. Delivery of the first aircraft is expected to begin three years following the inking of a contract and completed within three additional years.

India Successfully Test Fires Agni IV Ballistic Missile off Odisha Coast

India successfully conducted the test firing of the nuclear-capable strategic ballistic missile, **Agni IV** from the **Abdul Kalam Island, Balasore**, off the **Odisha coast** on January 2, 2017 at about 11.50 a.m.

i. Agni IV is a **two-stage solid-propelled, surface-to-surface** ballistic missile which is designed to carry a payload of 1-tonne up to a distance of **4,000 km**.

ii. Designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) the missile is **20 meters in length and weighs 17 tonnes**.

Pakistan Successfully Test-Fires Submarine-Launched Nuclear-Capable Missile'

i. **Pakistan** successfully test-fired its **first Submarine-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM)**, Babur-3, on January 9, 2017 from **Indian Ocean**.

ii. The missile **Babur-3** which was fired from an underwater, mobile platform, hit the target with precise accuracy. It is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead up to **450km**

iii. Babur-3 is a sea-based variant of Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) Babur-2, which was successfully tested earlier in December 2016.

Indian Army conducted trials of Indigenous Artillery Gun System Dhanush in the Himalayas

i. The Indian Army is successfully conducted the user-validation trials of indigenous artillery gun **Dhanush** in the Himalayas so that they are ready to be inducted into the Army.

ii. The exercise is being conducted under the aegis of the **Srinagar-based 15 Corps** and the **Leh-based 14 Corps**. The 15 Corps is tasked to face Pakistan while the 14 Corps is tasked to face Pakistan as well as China.

Ministry of Defence to Set up Rs 1500 cr Defence Unit in Madhya Pradesh

i. The Union Minister for Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, Narendra Singh Tomar announced on January 31, 2017 that the **Ministry of Defence** is set to open its **Defence Unit** in **Morena district of Madhya Pradesh**.

ii. The unit would be set up in Kailaras and Sabalgarh tehsil areas and span over **969.735 hectare** of land at a cost of **Rs. 1500 crore**.

Reliance Defence Signs Contract with Ministry of Defence to Construct 14 Fast patrol Vessels for Indian Coast Guard

i. **Reliance Defence and Engineering Ltd (RDEL)**, a wholly owned arm of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra), has signed a contract worth **Rs. 916 crore** with the **Ministry of Defence** on January 30, 2017 to design and construct **14 Fast Patrol Vessels** for the Indian Coast Guard.

ii. The medium range, high speed vessels would be deployed for patrolling within the exclusive economic zone, costal surveillance, anti-smuggling, anti-piracy, search and rescue operations. It will also provide support as front-line warships during emergencies.

iii. RDEL is the first private sector shipyard which has been awarded a contract of designing and building such ships for Indian Armed Force

Defence News – February

China tests missile DF-5C with 10 nuclear warheads

i. China has tested successfully a new version of a missile **Dongfeng-5C missile** which can carry up to **10 nuclear warheads** from the Taiyuan Space Launch Centre in Shanxi province, and flew to a desert in western China

ii. The flight test of the DF-5C missile was carried out in **January 2017** using 10 multiple independently targetable reentry vehicles, or MIRVs. Earlier versions of the DF-5 have either a single warhead or from six to eight MIRVs.

iii. It is an intercontinental ballistic missile that first went into service in the early 1980's.

Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence & Surveillance System Launched in Mumbai

i. Vice Admiral **GirishLuthra**, Flag Officer Commanding- in-Chief, Western Naval Command inaugurated the Integrated Underwater Harbour Defence and Surveillance System (**IUHDSS**) on February 3, 2017 in Mumbai.

ii. The system has been developed to strengthen **Harbour Defence and Security** at Mumbai. It will enhance the security of the valuable assets against surface and underwater threat.

iii. IUHDSS has been designed and developed by **Israeli Aerospace Industries (IAI) ELTA**. It consists of integrated radars, electro-optic cameras and sonars.

Multinational Naval Drill Aman-17 Begins in Karachi

i. The five days multinational **Aman-17 naval exercise** kicked off in Karachi on February 10, 2017 where 37 countries took part.

ii. The aim of this multi-national exercise is to display **united resolve** of the countries

against **terrorism and crimes in maritime domain**. The exercise will also help in enhancing Pakistan Navy's interoperability with regional and extra-regional navies.

iii. Aman-17 was inaugurated by Commander of the Pakistani naval fleet Vice **Admiral Arifullah Hussaini**.

iv .Out of 37 countries participating in 'Aman 17', 9 countries are participating with naval assets including Australia, China, Indonesia, Turkey, Sri Lanka, UK, USA, Japan and Russia.

v. The Aman-17 is the fifth such exercise hosted by Pakistan every alternate year since 2007.

2017 Cobra Gold Exercise Begins in Thailand

i. The **2017 Cobra Gold Military Exercise** kicked off at the Sattahip Royal Thai Marine Corps Base in Chonburi Province, **Thailand** on February 14, 2017.

ii .Cobra Gold 2017 is the **36th edition** of the multinational drill and is co-organized by United States and Thailand. It will expand regional cooperation and collaboration for disaster relief.

iii .The ten day exercise would continue till **February 24, 2017** and the closing ceremony of the event will take place in Phu Lamyai Training area in Nakhon Ratchasima Province.

iv. As many as **30 nations** are participating in the drill including China, India, Singapore, South Korea and Malaysia, who are either involved in or are observing the exercises.

India Successfully Test-Fires Home Grown Interceptor Missile in Odisha coast

i. India successfully test-fired its **Advanced Air Defence (AAD)** interceptor missile from launching complex-IV of Dhamara Abdul Kalam defence base off **Odisha coast** on February 11, 2017 under its **Ballistic Missile Defence Programme**

ii. The successful testing leads India towards achieving a robust **two layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system**. It will strengthen India's position in the exclusive club of US, Russia and Israel.

iii. The Advanced Air Defence interceptor named as **Ashwin** has the capability to destroy the incoming enemy missile in the endo-atmospheric region at a low altitude of less than 30 kilometres.

iv. The AAD interceptor is a **7.5-metre-long single stage solid rocket** propelled guided missile equipped with a **navigation system** and a high tech computer and electro-mechanical activator totally under command by the data uplinked from the ground-based radar.

INS Sarvekshak Becomes India's First Ship to be Installed with Solar Power System

i. Indian Navy's survey class vessel **INS Sarvekshak** has become the first ship in India to be fitted with **solar power system** on board.

ii .The ship has been equipped with **18 sheets** of solar panel of **300 Watt** which is capable of generating **5.4 kW power**.

iii .As per the Navy, if the system is used even for 25 days in one year, it can repay its costs in



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less than 10 years. The estimated profit generated by the system during the ship service life of 25 years is Rs. 2.7 crore.

Sailboat INSV Tarini Inducted into Indian Navy on 18 February 2017

The second ocean going sailboat of Indian Navy “**Tarini**” was successfully inducted by the Navy on February 18, 2017 at a ceremony held at the **INS Mandovi Boat Pool** in presence of Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of Naval Staff.

- It is the **second sailboat** after **INS Mhadei** of Indian Navy. INSV Tarini had been conceptualized to promote ocean sailing activities and to encourage women empowerment.
- Tarini provides a platform for the first Indian circumnavigation of the globe by **all women team of the Indian Navy**.
- INSV Tarini has been built by M/s Aquarius Shipyard Pvt Ltd at Divar, Goa. The trials of the newly built INSV Tarini were successfully completed on 30 January 2017.
- The Defence Minister, **Shri Manohar Parrikar** laid the keel of the vessel on 27 March 2016 at the Aquarius Shipyard.

Fast Patrol Vessel of Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS AYUSH Commissioned at Kochi

i. Fast Patrol Vessel **ICGS AYUSH** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** was commissioned at the **Naval Base in Kochi** on February 18, 2017 by the AVSM Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Naval Command, **Vice-Admiral A R Karve**.

ii. The ICGS AYUSH is intended to help in **anti-smuggling and search and rescue operations** to secure the Indian waters by patrolling within the Exclusive Economic Zone and also help in fisheries protection.

iii. With this, the CSL Shipyard has completed construction of **20 Fast Patrol Vessel series for the Coast Guard**.

Pakistan Army Launches Military Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad to Eliminate Terrorism

i. A nationwide military operation ‘**Radd-ul-Fasaad**’ was launched by **Pakistan Army** on February 22, 2017 to eliminate terrorists and ensure security of Pakistan’s borders.

ii. As per the Director-General of the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) wing of the Pakistan Army, the operation aims to **eliminate threat of terrorism**, consolidate gains of operations made so far and ensure strengthened **security of Pakistan’s borders**.

iii. To eliminate the menace of terrorism from the country, the Pakistan Air Force, Pakistan Navy,

Civil Armed Forces as well as other security and law enforcement agencies will work actively to support the efforts of the Pakistan Army.

iv .Operation Radd-ul-Fasaad will include **Broad Spectrum Security** and counter-terrorism operations by Rangers in Punjab, continuation of ongoing operations across the country and focus on more effective border security management.

v .The operation will also include a countrywide **de-weaponisation and explosive control programme**.

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