

SECURITY REPORT



India to acquire 5000 drones in the next one decade

A recent report has indicated that India is going to make unprecedented moves to secure its territory through more enhanced aerial surveillance. It states that over the next one decade, India is expected to acquire around 5000 UAVs. While most of these are expected to be acquired by the Indian Armed Forces, there is no denial of the fact that Central Police Forces too would be acquiring a large number of UAVs in the times to come. Indian Armed Forces already have a considerable number of UAVs for surveillance purpose but the figure of 5000 proposed acquisitions no doubt dwarfs the size of the existing fleet.

In all probability the proposed acquisition of an estimated 5000 drones would be a combination of mini drones and large drones as well as armed unmanned combat vehicles and unarmed surveillance vehicles. Further, along with the Central Police Forces, many of the city level police forces have also started mini drones or rather quadcopters for surveillance purpose on a pilot basis. The increasing demand for drones is surely going to be a major booster for the drone manufacturers. Many Indian companies are expected to become major drone manufacturers in the times to come.



India successfully tests Interceptor Missile

Going one more step ahead in its quest to create a credible ballistic missile defence system or an Anti Ballistic Missile System, India successfully test fired the indigenously developed interceptor missile also known as Advanced Air Defence (AAD) missile. The successful test is a vindication of the proficiency of the missile system developed by DRDO. Given the increasing volatility in South Asia and rising challenges from across the border, the development of a credible missile shield is of critical importance for India.

High-end SUVs in ITBP kitty

To give more mobility to ITBP personnel stationed in remote border locations, the Government has started a new initiative by equipping them with high-end SUVs. Recent news reports state that Government of India has acquired four high-end SUVs, namely two Toyota Fortuners and two Ford Endeavors exclusively for patrolling by ITBP personnel in forward locations of



Burtse and Dungle in Ladakh. Such heavy duty SUVs invariably help in better mobility and it is expected that in the future more such high end SUVs would be availed by ITBP. Over the last two years ITBP has been given much attention by the Government especially because of the alarming rate of intrusion by Chinese personnel into India. With more battalions and the regional headquarter being shifted from Shillong to Itanagar, and now equipping it with high end SUVs only vindicate the level of importance that the Government is giving to the Indo-China border.



Rifles then can concentrate more on counter insurgency operations in northeast. However, the final word on this issue is still awaited.



ITBP may get to secure Indo-Myanmar border

A Times of India report has indicated that the Government of India may finally take the decision of handing over the security of the Indo-Myanmar border to ITBP. The issue of who should finally secure the Myanmar border has been hanging in balance for quite some time now especially after the ambush on an Indian Army convoy last year in Manipur. While Assam Rifles is presently mandated to take care of Myanmar border, the porosity of the border remains a core issue which has often been exploited by insurgent groups and drug syndicates. In between a proposal had also been mooted of handing over the Myanmar border to BSF. But now with news of ITBP getting the mandate gaining momentum, it would be interesting to see how things finally shape up. If eventually the Myanmar border is handed over ITBP, it would relieve Assam Rifles of the task and Assam

CRPF to send first batch of woman commandos to fight Maoists

In a first, CRPF has decided to send a contingent of 560 women CRPF commandos to fight Maoists. A contingent of 560 such female combatants is now being readied for the job. Over the last few years, Central Police Forces have increased their strength of women personnel. After BSF, ITBP has also taken a decision to post female combatants in forward locations. A year back the Government had taken an in principle decision to have 33% vacancies in Central Police Forces at Constable posts filled by women.

Editor:

Pathikrit Payne (pathikrit.life@gmail.com)

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www.securitywatchindia.org.in

or email us at
info@securitywatchindia.org.in