

Defence ministry notifies fifth indigenisation list

Consisting of 346 defence items, it aims to boost Aatmanirbharta

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 16 July

With the aim of boosting Aatmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence production and minimising imports by defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs), the Ministry of Defence (MoD) has notified a fifth positive indigenisation list (PIL) comprising 346 defence items. The MoD has ordered that "these items will only be procured from the Indian industry after the timelines of indigenisation as indicated in the list available on the MoD's Srijan portal (<https://srijan.defence.gov.in>)."

A PIL is expected to provide assurance to the domestic defence industry, which has frequently burned its fingers by expending the money and effort on developing a defence product. It led to the MoD importing them from the global market instead.

The MoD has launched the Srijan portal in 2020. It provides a forum for DPSUs and service headquarters (SHQs) to offer defence items for indigenisation to private industries. They include micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and startups. "Our aim is to apprise the Indian defence industry about the anticipated requirements of the armed forces, so that they are better prepared to realise the goal of indigenisation," declared Rajnath Singh at the release of the first list in August 2020.



GOING LOCAL

► The first positive indigenisation list of 101 items was promulgated by the ministry in August 2020

► This was followed by a second list consisting of 108 defence equipment items

► Such a list is expected to provide assurance to domestic industry, which has frequently burned its fingers by expending money and effort on developing a defence product

The items expected to be indigenised include strategically-important line replacement units (LRUs)/systems/sub-systems/assemblies/sub-assemblies/spares and components and raw materials, with import substitution value worth ₹1,048 crore.

The DPSUs involved in the fifth PIL include Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL), Bharat Earth Movers Ltd (BELM),

India Optel Ltd (IOL), Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) and Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL). These have initiated processes for issuing expressions of interests (EOIs)/request for proposals (RFPs) on their respective websites.

The first PIL of 101 items was promulgated by the MoD in August 2020. This was followed by a second PIL, consisting of 108 defence equipment items, taking them to 209. These were the number of items that must be compulsorily procured from Indian companies, the number rising each year up to 2025.

In this incremental manner, four PILs comprising 4,666 items have so far been notified by the MoD for DPSUs.

Of this, 2,972 items, having import substitution value worth ₹3,400 crore, have already been indigenised.

These five lists for DPSUs are in addition to the five PILs of 509 items notified by the Department of Military Affairs (DMA). These lists include highly-complex systems, sensors, weapons and ammunition.

Till June 2024, over 36,000 defence items were offered to the industry for indigenisation by the DPSUs and SHQs. Of them, more than 12,300 items have been indigenised in the last three years. As a result, the DPSUs have placed orders on domestic vendors to the tune of ₹7,572 crore.

4 Army personnel killed in Doda terror attack; search for terrorists underway

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Jammu, 16 July

Four Army personnel, including a Captain, lost their lives in a fierce gunfight with heavily armed terrorists of Pakistan-based banned outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) in Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir.

The fallen soldiers were identified as Captain Brijesh Thapa from Darjeeling, Naik Dokkari Rajesh from Andhra Pradesh, and Sepoys Bijendra and Ajay Kumar Singh from Rajasthan. The encounter, which took place in the dense forests of Doda district late Monday evening, has sparked widespread condemnation and protests in Jammu and other regions.

In New Delhi, the opposition Congress attacked the Centre with Rahul Gandhi asserting that the government should take full responsibility for the repeated security lapses and take strict action against the culprits. Gandhi also said such horrific incidents one after the other are extremely sad and worrying, and that Army soldiers and their families are bearing the brunt of "BJP's wrong policies".

The latest incident marks the third major clash between security forces and terrorists in Jammu region within the past three weeks, highlighting the escalating tensions in the area. It comes a week after terrorists ambushed an Army patrol in the remote Machedi forest belt in Kathua district which claimed the lives of five soldiers and injured as many. Security forces, including troops of the Rashtriya Rifles and Special Operations Group of Jammu and Kashmir Police, swiftly launched a joint cordon and search operation in the Desa forest belt following the encounter.