

REFURBISHMENT OFK puts life into 'life-expired' Pechora missile system

IAF had inducted imported Pechora missiles from Russia in year 1974

■ By Ashish Rajput
JABALPUR, Mar 30

ORDNANCE Factory Khamaria (OFK) has successfully refurbished life-expired warhead of Pechora missile system. Pechora is a Russian origin surface-to-air missile.

The five indigenously refurbished warheads are undergoing trials at the Indian Air Force station in Chandigarh.

Indian Air Force had inducted the imported Pechora missiles from Russia in the year 1974. Pechora is a surface to air weapon system which engages various enemy aerial targets,

including un-manned aerial vehicles, helicopters and fighter aircraft. Pechora missile system remained primary means of air defence of the Indian Air Force for a long period.

EXCLUSIVE

Talking to 'The Hitavada', Chief General Manager of OFK M N

Haldar informed that refurbishment of any life-expired warhead is a challenging task. Indian Air Force had projected a requirement of refurbishment of Pechora warhead with indigenous explosive composition.

Research and Development Branch of OFK accepted the challenging task and indigenously developed five warheads



Pechora Missile System (file photo)

through reverse engineering. The warhead has been developed with better fragmentation and composition. Refurbished warheads are undergoing trials for checking its technical param-

eters. CGM Haldar added that the Indian Air Force has more than 1,000 vintage Pechora missiles. Refurbishment of these missiles will not only improve the strength of IAF but also add

to another indigenously developed weapon in the country. Once the trials of refurbished warheads are over, OFK may have bulk production order from the Indian Air Force.

M
W
JH
w
ar
Jh
po
he
ille
so
tri

Wholesalers, retailers, processors told to declare wheat stock: Govt

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (PTI)

WITH stock limit on wheat expiring on Sunday, the Government on Friday directed wholesalers, retailers, and processors to declare their stock position of wheat as part of its efforts to prevent hoarding and keep prices under check. The stock limits on wheat were imposed on June 12 last year and was applicable till March 31, 2024 to manage the overall food security and to prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation.

With effect from April 1, traders/wholesalers, retailers, including big chain retailers, and processors in all states and Union Territories (UTs), will have to declare their stocks on a portal. Thereafter, they have



to declare every Friday.

Traders have already been told to declare rice stocks on the portal.

In a statement, the Department of Food and Public Distribution said it is maintaining a close watch on the stock position of wheat and rice to control prices and ensure easy availability of these grains in the domestic market.

To prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, the

department said the "Government has decided that traders/wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers and processors in all states and UTs have to declare their stock position of wheat on the portal (<https://evegoils.Nic.In/wheat/login.html>) with effect from April 1 and then, on every Friday till further orders".

All the respective legal entities to ensure that stock are regularly and correctly disclosed on the portal, it added.

"Further, wheat stock limit is expiring on March 31, 2024 for all categories of entities in states and UTs. Thereafter, the entities have to disclose the wheat stock on portal," said the department, which is under the food and Consumer Affairs Ministry.

CII

Aligning policies, regulations by India and Europe key to mutual growth

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (ANI)

INDIA and Europe have forged a multifaceted partnership which reflects the recognition of mutual benefits and the imperative for collaborative solutions in an increasingly interconnected world and a journey ahead from here would necessitate a deeper level of collaboration, including aligning policies and regulations while recognising the unique economic and social contexts of each region, said Sunjay Kapur, Chairman, CII Europe Committee and Chairman, Sona Comstar.

The evolving relationship between India and Europe reflects the recognition of mutual benefits and the imperative for collaborative solutions, Kapur argued in an article published in the latest edi-



tion of the industry body CII's journal.

Bilateral trade between India and Europe expanded significantly over the last decade, rising to USD 189.27 billion in 2022-23.

India's exports to Europe increased to USD 98.27 billion in 2022-23, while imports went up to USD 98.27 billion. India saw a trade surplus of USD 1.92 billion with the European economy during 2022-23 and trade

has been evenly balanced. Bilateral investments too have remained robust.

In the last two years, Indian investments flowed into the United Kingdom, attracting 27 per cent of all Indian investment in Europe, followed by Germany (20 per cent) and the Netherlands (9 per cent), while France, in fourth place, received 7 per cent.

Similarly, the Netherlands was among the top five investors in India, followed by the UK at 6th rank. Germany and France were also among the major investors in India from Europe.

"One notable collaboration that has emerged in recent years is the partnership between India and Europe in the realm of the circular economy," Kapur said in the article.

International Year of Millets comes to a close

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (ANI)

THE Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) organised the closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 on Friday to take stock of the accomplishments of, and lessons learned from, IYM 2023 and identify priorities for future investments, particularly to address identified constraints and strengthen millets value chains, the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare said.

The closing ceremony was held at FAO headquarters in the Italian capital, Rome, in a

hybrid set-up that allowed many dignitaries from across the world to join both in-person and virtually.

Representing the Indian side, the event was attended by Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Maninder Kaur Dwivedi.

The Additional Secretary, Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, underscored the significance of India's thriving millet ecosystem, comprising various start-ups, industries, and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), in increasing the promotion and adoption of mil-

lets. Additionally, Director-General, FAO, QU Dongyu in his opening remarks at the official closing ceremony, commended the international community for their commitment to advancing millet-related initiatives and emphasised the crucial role of millets in achieving food security and nutrition for all.

Minister and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to FAO, Yaya Adisa Olaitan Olaniran shed light on the significance of millets and outlined strategies for integrating millet cultivation into sustainable agricultural

practices in Nigeria.

Further in the ceremony, attendees were treated to a captivating video showcasing the diverse range of activities and events organised under the International Year of Millets 2023 across different regions, fostering the global reach and impact of the initiative.

The ceremony came to a close with the concluding remarks of Deputy Director-General FAO Beth Bechdol who expressed gratitude to all participants for their unwavering commitment and dedication to success of the International Year of Millets 2023.

President confers Bharat Ratna on Narasimha Rao, Charan Singh, M S Swaminathan, Karpoori Thakur posthumously

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Saturday conferred Bharat Ratna on former Prime Ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, agriculture scientist M S Swaminathan and two-time former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur, posthumously at the Rashtrapati Bhawan here.

The country's highest civilian honour to Rao, Singh, Swaminathan and Thakur were received by their kin at a ceremony attended by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries.

"As the ninth Prime Minister of India, P V Narasimha Rao led far-reaching economic reforms. Earlier, in his youth, he had taken an active part in the freedom struggle, especially against the misrule and oppression in the Nizam-ruled Hyderabad. He was known for his command over several languages and literature," the Rashtrapati Bhawan said in a post on X.

On behalf of Rao, Bharat Ratna was received by P V Prabhakar Rao, his son, it added. P V Narasimha Rao was Prime Minister from 1991 to 1996. Often referred to as the Chanakya of Indian politics, he is known for initiating far-reaching economic reforms
(Contd on page 5)



Ex-Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao



Ex-Prime Minister Chaudhary C Singh



Agriculture scientist M S Swaminathan



Ex-Bihar CM Karpoori Thakur



Ex-PM Narasimha Rao's son P V Prabhakar Rao



Ex-PM Chaudhary Singh's grandson Jayant Chaudhary



Dr Swaminathan's daughter Dr. Nitya Rao



Karpoori Thakur's son Ram Nath Thakur

(Clockwise) President Droupadi Murmu confers Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, on former Prime Ministers P V Narasimha Rao and Chaudhary Charan Singh, Agriculture scientist M S Swaminathan, former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur, posthumously during a ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi on Saturday. (PTI)



Bharat Ratna to be conferred on Advani today

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (ANI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu is slated to confer the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian honour, on veteran politician Lal Krishna Advani on Sunday, sources said.

PM Modi pays rich tributes to Bharat Ratna awardees



PM Narendra Modi greets Ram Nath Thakur, son of former Bihar Chief Minister Karpoori Thakur at Rashtrapati Bhawan, in New Delhi on Saturday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Mar 30 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi lauded the contributions of those conferred the

Bharat Ratna on Saturday by President Droupadi Murmu, paying rich tributes to former Prime Ministers P V
(Contd on page 5)