

Control Arms India Update

A Monthly Newsletter from Control Arms Foundation of India (CAFI)

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Control Arms Foundation of India, formerly known as India Working Group on Arms Control was established on 10th September 2004 in New Delhi. The Foundation functions at an all India level and consists of noted academics, lawyers, journalists, former military personnel and human rights activists. The aim of the Foundation is to address issues of control arms, small arms light weapons proliferation, women and disarmament and conducting research on India's defence policies and military expenditure. The Foundation aspires to create a movement in the sub-continent where defence and military issues no longer remains a department where the public has no say.

The Control Arms India Update brings news, views and analyses on issues pertaining to SALWIEDS - meaning small arms, light weapons and IEDS and will also cover issues on gun running, human rights violations due to arms by both state and non-state actors, arms transfers, military expenditure and defence policies pertaining to Indian sub-continent. This is the third issue of the newsletter. The first was launched in the Week of Action on 12th June 2005

GUN KILLINGS & IED DEATHS IN VARIOUS PARTS OF INDIA DURING AUGUST 2005.

Gun Killing of a Woman in Jammu & Kashmir

A woman, identified as Aisha Bi, was reportedly shot dead by two unidentified terrorists inside her residence at village Nandyali in the Surankote area of Poonch district on August 2. Another civilian, Sain Gujjar, was abducted from his house at village Sarwan in the Kishtwar area of Doda district and subsequently killed in captivity. Further, a civilian, identified as Bashir Ahmed Wani, was killed by the terrorists in his paddy fields in Pulwama district.

Meanwhile, two terrorists of the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), including Abu Shahid, an 'area commander', were killed and another was arrested during a search operation by the security forces (SFs) at Jamsalan in the Mahore area of Udhampur district. A fourth LeT cadre, however, managed to escape from the incident site, from where the SF personnel also recovered two AK-47 rifles and an unspecified quantity of ammunition. A Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM) 'commander', Mushtaq Ahmed Khan alias Shahnawaz, is alleged to have been killed during a group clash with cadres of the Lashkar-e-Toiba at Acchabal in the Kokernag area of Anantnag district. Elsewhere in the State, a terrorist lobbed a grenade targeting two Army vehicles at Sarh in the Mahore area of Udhampur district. The grenade, however, missed the intended target and exploded harmlessly. Separately, SFs defused an Improvised Explosive Device, planted by the terrorists, on Thathri road in Doda

ULFA Grenade Attack in Assam

One person was killed and at least 14 others, including a police officer, were injured when suspected United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) militants exploded two grenades at Chang-Chari near Guwahati on August 27 night. The militants hurled the grenades at a police party checking vehicles on the national highway and escaped following the blasts.

Gun Killing in Manipur

Unidentified terrorists are reported to have killed a youth at Sangaiprou area along the Tiddim road on August 5. According to eyewitnesses, the youth was chased by some motorcycle-borne assailants and subsequently shot dead.

Bomb Explosion in Assam

On August 6, suspected United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) militants triggered a blast at the Paltanbazar area in Guwahati city at 5.30 p.m.(IST). According to police, the bomb exploded at a taxi stand which is attached to the Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) bus stand and the Guwahati Railway Station, injuring a person.

Bomb Explosion in Jharkhand

According to police reports, an unidentified left wing extremist (also known as Naxalite) was killed in a bomb explosion, which was targeted at security personnel in the Gudabanda jungles of East Singhbhum district on August 26. Police also recovered two can bombs, detonators and some live wires during a combing operation following the blast.

Gun Killings in Jammu and Kashmir

Troops of the Rashtriya Rifles are reported to have killed a 'battalion commander' of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), Irshad Ahmed Dar alias Bitta alias Khalid, during an encounter near Sirigufwara in the Anantnag district on July 31. A loaded pistol and a mobile phone were recovered from his possession. Elsewhere in the same district, another Hizb cadre, Abdul Waheed Bhat alias Nikka, was shot dead by the security forces (SFs) at Kulgam. Separately, SF personnel killed a terrorist at Budnumbal in the Kupwara district. Meanwhile, a group of unidentified terrorists shot dead a civilian, Ghulam Mohammad Ganai, in his residence at Badarkot in the Tangmarg area of Baramulla district. Further, a civilian was shot at and wounded by terrorists in the Kulgam town of Anantnag district. Elsewhere in the State, suspected terrorists lobbed a hand grenade targeting a SF camp at Malikpora in the Pulwama town. A 60-year-old woman, identified as Ayesha, was wounded in the incident.

Gun Shots as Punishment

Separately, the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) cadres shot the pradhan (chief) of the Mantrikhong naorem Leikai Gram Panchayat in his thigh for alleged fraudulent withdrawal of public money misusing the militant outfit's name. The pradhan, identified as Sagolsem Surendrakumar, was paraded before journalists at an unspecified place in the Ukhrul district on July 31 where he reportedly confessed his 'misconduct'.

Bomb Explosion on Train

The proscribed Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) could be involved in the July 28, 2005-explosion on board the Shramjeevi Express train that killed 12 people and injured 52, preliminary investigations have reportedly revealed. According to the Additional Director-General of Government Railway Police, B.K. Bhalla, the police have secured leads on four men who had forced their entry into a coach of the Patna-New Delhi train in which the explosion occurred in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur district. "From the description given to us, the youths appeared to be from north India and our assessment indicates they could be activists of SIMI, which was suspected to have been involved in a similar train blast near Ayodhya in 2000," said Bhalla. "Some surviving passengers have told us that four unidentified youth, who boarded the train at Jaunpur, pulled the emergency chain and disembarked barely half-an-hour later, minutes before the explosion took place," he added. Bhalla also said ammonium nitrate could have been used as the explosive, contrary to earlier official claims about the use of RDX.

Gun Killings in Jammu & Kashmir

Two cadres of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen (HM), identified as 'district commander' Mohammad Rafeeq Piswal alias Fighter Khan and Mohammad Abbas Khan, were killed by the security forces (SFs) during a cordon-and-search operation at Arah village in the Kulgam area of Anantnag district on August 1. In another incident, three more Hizb cadres, including 'district financial chief' Ghulam Hassan Mir alias Arshid, were killed by the SFs who had laid an ambush in the Handwara area of Kupwara district. A 'sector commander' of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), identified as Adil, was shot dead by the troops in the Phagala area of Poonch district. One AK rifle, 190 rounds, seven magazines, one radio set and Rupees 20,000 were recovered from the incident site.

Meanwhile, a group of unidentified terrorists are reported to have lobbed a hand grenade targeting an Army camp in the Sopore area of Baramulla district. However, it fell short of the intended target and exploded without causing any damage. In the capital city of Srinagar, Border Security Force personnel arrested a motorcycle borne terrorist near Kahkashan Hotel in the Khanyar area. One loaded pistol and two hand grenades were subsequently recovered from the vehicle.

Elsewhere in the State, a terrorist hideout was neutralised by the SFs in Rajouri district. Recoveries from the site included five grenades, two kg of explosive, three AK magazines, 76 rounds, 10 Pika rounds, five detonators, five improvised explosive devices (IEDs), 15 pencil cells and two Riyals. Troops also recovered 630 rounds, five pistols, four AK rifles, four wireless sets, 210 sniper rounds and 18 pistol rounds from the Sultan Gould area of Poonch district. Separately, SF personnel seized two hand grenades, 150 AK rounds, three chargers and some explosive material from another hide-out in the same district.

Gun Killing of Security Force Personnel in Assam

A security force (SF) personnel was killed and five of his colleagues sustained injuries on August 2 in an ambush by the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) at Sadiya in the Tinsukia district. Official sources said that the SFs were on routine patrol duty when they came under fire from the terrorists hiding inside the Halowagaon reserve forest.

Gun Killings in Jammu & Kashmir

Three soldiers and three terrorists among seven persons killed in Jammu and Kashmir . The Army foiled an infiltration attempt on August 3 killing two terrorists, reportedly Afghan nationals, at Pindi Gali on the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district. While a third infiltrator retrieved to Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK), the security forces (SFs) recovered three AK rifles, five hand grenades, 299 rounds and 10 magazines from the incident site. In another incident, troops from the Rashtriya Rifles are reported to have killed an unidentified terrorist during a gun-battle at Bawan Watsar in the Handwara area of Kupwara district. One soldier also died during this incident.

Meanwhile, a Special Police Officer, identified as Khadim Hussain, was abducted and later killed by a group of two terrorists at village Palyari in the Darhal area of Rajouri district. The same group of terrorists reportedly slit the throat of a civilian, Mohammed Sharief, at Hubbi in the Koteranka area of Rajouri district. Separately, a soldier attached to the 10th Battalion of Rashtriya Rifles at Bheaderwah was abducted by terrorists from village Gadd in the Doda district and subsequently killed in captivity.

Further, an Army officer, Lt. Durga Chetri of Pioneer Platoon, attached to the Assam Rifles, was wounded when he stepped over a landmine, leading to an explosion in the Keri sector of Rajouri district. Elsewhere in the State, the Border Security Force personnel neutralised two terrorist hide-outs at Gulabgarh and Lalu Khetar forests in the Kalakote area of Rajouri district and recovered three grenades, three detonators, three single bore cartridges, one AK magazine with 30 rounds, 20 Pika rounds, 38 empty fired cases of AK-47, 20 pencil cells, some cassettes and first aid material. Further, SFs neutralised another hide-out in the Zinhal forest area at Banihal in Doda district and seized one pistol, 17 AK rounds and 10 pistol rounds.

Gun Killing in Nagaland

According to Shillong Times, unidentified gunmen shot dead a suspected National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) cadre, identified as Tiayanger, at Aradura colony in Nagaland's capital Kohima on August 1. An empty case of 9 mm pistol and a scissor was recovered from the spot.

Gun Killing in Uttar Pradesh

On August 3, Naxalites reportedly shot dead a former colleague, identified as Hiralal, at the Khodela jungle of Sonebhadra district in Uttar Pradesh, after branding him as a police informer.

Gun Killing in Andhra Pradesh

Four left-wing extremists (also known as Naxalites) belonging to the CPI-ML Janashakti outfit were killed in an exchange of fire with the police at Addagutta forest in the Venkatapur mandal (administrative division) of Warangal district on August 4. The police recovered a local-made gun, one service revolver, one SBBL, four 8 mm rifles and eight kitbags from the incident site. The deceased belonged to the Madhu dalam (squad) of the Janashakti group and according to unconfirmed reports, the Janashakti 'District Committee secretary' Gurrala Hamsa Reddy alias Naganna and several senior cadres of the Praja Prathighatana outfit and 25 other Naxalites escaped from the incident site. According to the Superintendent of Police, M. S. Ravindra, documents recovered from the site indicated that the Naxalites were planning to attack police stations at Venkatapur and Mulug mandal headquarters. Meanwhile, six suspected Maoists, including a woman who was involved in the attack on the Chilakaluripet police station, surrendered before the Superintendent of Police V.C. Sajjanar in the Guntur district on August 4.

Woman killed in Jammu and Kashmir Grenade Attack

A 22-year old woman, identified as Saira Khatoon, is reported to have died and three persons, including Saira's infant, sustained injuries when a terrorist lobbed a grenade inside the Gujjar Girls Hostel located at the Bus Stand in Doda town on August 6.

A former cadre of the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, Bashir Ahmed Lisu, was reportedly killed by a group of suspected terrorists in the Sopore town of Baramulla district. According to official sources, terrorists had been suspecting Bashir to be an informer for the security forces. Three civilians, including a girl, sustained injuries in the incident.

A six-year old boy, Mohammed Shaffi, was wounded during an encounter between the terrorists and security forces at Dhakki Kot in the Udampur district. The terrorists, however, managed to escape from the incident site. Elsewhere in Udampur, another group of terrorists attacked the Salabala police post in the Gool area. Consequent to police retaliation, the terrorists escaped. Elsewhere in the State, SFs recovered six RPG rockets, 33 UBGL grenade, four RPG chargers, 374 AK rounds, three Pika rounds, 26 switch pins, three fuses, one codex, two time set pencils, two AL magazines and four improvised explosive devices during a search operation at Lal Tekri in the Rajouri district.

Four Persons Killed in ULFA-engineered bomb explosion in Assam

On August 7, four persons were killed in an explosion detonated by suspected terrorists of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) at a bus stand at Boko in the Kamrup district. Official sources said plastic explosives were used in the incident, which also injured 12 persons.

Separately, the ULFA carried out a number of explosions in other districts of Assam. A bomb targeting the Dhamdhama Army camp in Nalbari district missed its intended target and exploded inside a telephone exchange campus damaging the exchange on August 6. There was no report of any casualty. In the Sibsagar district, ULFA cadres used a remote-controlled device to blow up a pipeline of the Oil Indian Limited (OIL) carrying crude oil, running over the Disang River at Baksu Konwargaon under Serekapar police station. The explosion caused fire, gutting nearby houses, which was subsequently brought under control. The explosion has reportedly disrupted crude oil supply to the refineries in Numaligarh and Sibsagar. On the same day, another pipeline carrying gas was blown up at an

unspecified place near Duliajan in the Dibrugarh district disrupting supply to the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation plant at Kothalguri. Separately, an electricity supply transformer was blown up near Lakhimpur town on August 7.

Further, a police patrol party was ambushed by suspected ULFA terrorists at an unspecified place under Dhaligaon police station in the Bongaigaon district on August 7. However, no casualty was reported. Separately, a youth was killed as police personnel, on the look out for ULFA terrorists, opened fire in the Bhangagarh locality of Guwahati city. A revolver and three cartridges were recovered from the slain person, two of whose accomplices, however, managed to escape. In another incident, the police recovered 1.5 kg of RDX, eight battery cells and 200 metres wire from a railway track near Lanka in the Nagaon district on August 7.

Meanwhile, Telegraph has reported that the Central Reserve Police Force personnel recovered six locally made guns, a sten gun and large amount of cartridges belonging to the **Indian Tiger Force**, a new outfit operating at Kulicherra in the Cachar district.

3 Girls Killed in IED Explosions in Jammu & Kashmir

Three girls were reportedly killed in a blast at Batalik in the Kargil district on August 8. Official sources in Kargil said the girls were examining an explosive device when it suddenly exploded killing all three. In another incident, a civilian was killed and a soldier sustained injuries in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast at Awantipore in the Pulwama district. The blast also damaged at least 10 shops at the incident site

Two Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) cadres, identified as Hillal Ahmed Ghanai and Mohammed Amin Khanday, were killed in an encounter with the security forces (SFs) at Dogripora village in the Pulwama district on August 8. A civilian, Ghulam Mohammed Dar, is also reported to have died in the cross fire. Elsewhere in the State, suspected terrorists shot dead a traffic police Sub Inspector, Mohammed Yousuf Khanday, at Qazigund in the Anantnag district on August 7.

Joint Production of MiG-29

Russia has informed of its intention for licensed production of MiG-29 M/M2 fighter in India. No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard. This information was given by the Defence Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee in a written reply to Shri Balashowry Vallabhaneni in Lok Sabha on 25 August.

Illegal Gun Manufacturing Unit Unearthed in Bihar

According to Patna Daily, the police raided a house in the Naxalite-affected Naubatpur village under Sheikhpura police station of Patna district on August 6 and unearthed a gun manufacturing unit and also arrested four people. According to Senior Superintendent of Police, N. H. Khan, besides tools and machines required for manufacturing guns, they recovered 16 country-made pistols and five rifles.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Gunbattle

Three suspected Myanmarese arrested with arms and ammunition from Bandarban district According to Daily Star, three suspected Myanmarese nationals were arrested subsequent to a four-hour gunfight with the Bangladesh Rifles personnel from Alekhhong in the Naikkhangchhari sub-district of Bandarban district. One M-16 rifle, one light machinegun, 400 bullets, few combat uniforms and documents were recovered from the arrested persons, identified as Aung Thui Ching, Kew Ching and Aung Zhai.

Two Claymore Mines Recovered in Jharkhand

According to Telegraph, the police recovered two claymore mines, 200 metre wires and six batteries from Vishnugarh in the Hazaribagh district of Jharkhand. Police have suspected that the mines were planted by left-wing extremists on a tree to blow any vehicle that passed by on the occasion of Independence Day on August 15.

Weapons Recovered from Northeast India

Two National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) terrorists, identified as Charanjoy Debbarma and Kachya Reang, surrendered at the capital Agartala before the Assam Rifles authorities on August 26 along with a 51 mm mortar, four Chinese grenades and 60 rounds of ammunition.

A day earlier, two NLFT cadres, Rati Mohan Debbarma and Anil Debbarma, surrendered before the Commanding Officer of sixth battalion of Tripura State Rifles (TSR) at Tulasikhar camp under Champahawor police station in the West Tripura district. They deposited one SLR, one magazine of 7.62 rifles with 110 rounds of live bullets, one Chinese grenade and 65 rounds of AK-47 rifle. On the same day, TSR personnel arrested Bipul Debbarma, a collaborator of an unspecified militant outfit, from Manik Chowdhury Para under Champahawor police station.

Forest Minister Survives Gun Attack in Jammu and Kashmir

On August 27, Forest Minister Sofi Ghulam Mohiuddin escaped unhurt when terrorists fired at his motorcade at Laribal in Handwara area of Kupwara district. Mohiuddin was returning to Handwara, his constituency, from Wudderbala village when the terrorists attacked his motorcade. Two Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorists identified as Saifullah and Shabir Ahmad alias Zubair were killed in an encounter with security forces at Dardpora-Chaklipora village in Anantnag district on August 26 night. An army personnel was also injured in the gunbattle. An AK rifle, a carbine and some ammunition were recovered from the slain LeT cadres.

Meanwhile, on August 26 night, Army personnel defused two powerful Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) under a culvert on Krishna Ghati-Mendhar road in Poonch district. Separately, Manjakote police in Rajouri district carried out a search operation in Kotli Kalaban forest on August 27 afternoon and recovered 15 packets of RDX, each weighing one kg. Besides RDX, police also recovered three batteries during the searches. However, no terrorists could be arrested during the searches which continued till late evening.

A Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami (HUJI) cadre, Mohd Amin Chopan surrendered before troops of 12 Rashtriya Rifles and police in Kaskoot area of Ramban tehsil on August 27. Separately, security forces arrested a suspected terrorist from village Harni in Mendhar tehsil and recovered a consignment of explosive devices. Six detonators, six pieces of wire, three pencil cells and explosive like substance were recovered. Also, one I Com radio set and 405 rounds of AK ammunition were recovered by an Army patrol party from Kakgiyan forests in Krishna Ghat area of Mendhar on August 26 night.

An army spokesman said that security forces recovered six quintals of assorted explosives from the basement of a building in Anantnag. One person was arrested while the owner of the building from where the explosives were recovered is absconding, the spokesman added.

A terrorist hideout was neutralised at Habda-Kamalkote in Uri sector of Baramulla district on August 27 morning which led to the recovery of a pistol, two magazines and 60 rounds.

Weapons Recovered in Assam

According to Sentinel, security forces arrested two linkmen of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) from Jabrajan area subsequent to an encounter with a group of ULFA cadres. The ULFA cadres, however, managed to escape. Security forces recovered an AK-56 rifle with magazine and a bayonet, 30 live rounds of bullets, extortion letter pads and many incriminating documents from the incident site.

Explosives in Jammu and Kashmir

On August 5, the police recovered 2.5 kilograms of RDX from the Amarnath pilgrimage route at Pahalgam in the Anantnag district. The explosive was recovered from a public toilet of the hill resort, according to Daily Excelsior. Meanwhile, addressing a press conference in Srinagar on August 5, the Director General of Police, Gopal Sharma, said that with the arrest of six terrorists, the Jammu and Kashmir Police (JKP) had solved the cases regarding the car bomb explosions of May 11 and July 10,

2005 at Jawahar Nagar and Sonwar in the capital city. He also stated that as many as 798 terrorists, including 46 top 'commanders', had been killed by the security forces in the last seven months.

Source : The information above was taken from various newspapers and websites and analysed by CAFI

STORIES OF STRENGTH AGAINST ARMED VIOLENCE

Why Gunfire Can't Drown This Voice ?

The blue Tata Sumo moved slowly as the driver hummed, following a song on his car stereo. Khurram Pervaiz and his friend and colleague Asiya Jeelani (29) sat silently. It was April, 20, 2004: election day in Kashmir and they were out in the remote villages of Lolab, monitoring the proceedings. And as the car followed a right curve of the potholed road, there was a sudden bang. A hidden mine had hit the car, throwing it up like a ball of fire.

"Everything went dark," Khurram recalled. "And when they finally took Asiya out of the debris, I could only see blood. There was a big hole in my leg. Shrapnel had ripped the entire bone beneath the knee. My foot was hanging." The first help came 45 minutes later, and then the ambulance. Asiya never made it. "I did," said Khurram.

"Asiya had come with me. I had motivated all the other student volunteers for this work. I felt scared, responsible for everyone's safety," he said. Khurram knew his leg was gone. But the only thing he could think about was how the work they were doing was important. "We wanted civil society to be restored in Kashmir. We wanted the culture of debate to return. I promised myself that I would never succumb to personal pain." He lost his limb and was bedridden for almost four months, but Khurram kept his promise.

Coalition of Civil Society (CCS)—a voluntary group established to break the monotony of mistrust and initiate constructive debate in Kashmiri society—recently brought separatist leader Yasin Malik and mainstream politician Omar Abdullah together to talk about their vision of Kashmir and answer questions of a large group of Kashmiri students.

It was only the first of a series of such open debates. CCS was founded by a noted Kashmiri human rights lawyer and Khurram's mentor Pervez Imroz. "This is our dream," said Khurram. "We want to create an atmosphere where Kashmiris, subscribing to any ideology or political opinion, can sit together and talk. We want to end this culture of mistrust," he said.

Khurram (28) is also associated with human rights work in the Valley. The group has been conducting the first ever non-governmental survey of the victims of violence and documenting the conflict on a day-to-day basis, thus creating a credible databank that can be used for reconstruction and reconciliation missions.

"We are also doing a lot of work in organising students for this work. Our aim is to restore democratic values at the grassroots. Only young people can bring a change and we are all young," said Khurram. Asiya used to edit *Voices Unheard*—a magazine run by Kashmiri Women's Initiative for Peace and Disarmament and a wing of CCS—where she documented the stories of the struggles of ordinary Kashmiri women.

"We have kept that magazine alive," he said. The organisation has 40 permanent volunteers and hundreds who are on call across the state. Khurram is also involved with Public Commission on Human Rights that fights for the rights of victims and publishes the monthly *Missive* magazine, documenting rights violations in the state.

A graduate from Media Education Research Centre, Khurram has also helped set up *Global Vision*—a voluntary group of media students. "We have been making documentary films," he said. "We made *Chandov*—the Search which documented the sufferings of the parents of the men who disappeared

during this conflict. Then we did a film on Asiya too.” And on the occasions when Khurram loses hope, he just thinks of the colleague and friend he lost that day.

Source : India Explained, India Empowered: a special series published at Indian Express, 28 August 2005

UNDERSTANDING INDIA’S DEFENCE POLICIES

India’s Department of Defence Production

The Department of Defence Production was set up in 1962, in the aftermath of the Chinese aggression to create a self-reliant and self-sufficient indigenous defence production base. In November, 1965, Department of Defence Supplies was created to forge linkages between the civil industries and defence production units. The two departments were merged in December, 1984 into the Department of Defence Production and Supplies. The Department of Defence Production and Supplies has been renamed as Department of Defence Production w.e.f. January, 2004.

Since 1962, 16 new Ordnance Factories have been set up. Their capacities have been augmented and modernised selectively keeping in mind the emerging requirements of the Armed Forces. All the Ordnance Factories and Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSUs) are engaged in the task of manufacture of equipment and stores for Defence Services. One more Ordnance Factory is being setup in Nalanda, Bihar. In addition, capacities of civil sectors are also utilised for the purpose.

With a view to achieving self-reliance in the vital sector of Defence, the Department has been endeavouring to indigenise defence equipment wherever technologically feasible and economically viable. It has been a part of our indigenisation effort to locate and develop broad-based indigenous supply sources both in the public sector as well as in the civil trade for many sophisticated and complex equipment. There has been a significant change in the role of private sector/civil trade in the field of indigenisation i.e., from the role of supplier of raw-materials, components, sub-systems, they have now become partners in the manufacture of complete defence equipment/ systems. The defence industry sector, which was so far reserved for the public sector, has now been opened up for participation by the Indian Private sector. The Indian companies are now eligible to apply for license to set up defence industry for manufacture of all types of defence equipment. Such companies can also have foreign direct investment, upto 26% of their equity. This is a watershed in the history of Defence Production. Detailed guidelines have already been issued by the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) in consultation with the Ministry of Defence setting out the modalities for consideration of applications for grant of license. From the inception of the scheme during 2001-02, 27 applications have been received upto 30.09.2003 and 13 letters of indent have been issued.

For indigenisation of spares of defence equipment, an institutional framework has been in existence in the form of 8 Technical Committees, comprising officers from the Directorate General of Quality Assurance. Each Committee is headed by a Technical officer of the rank of Major General/Brigadier or equivalent. These committees maintain a compendium of civil industries capable of undertaking the task of indigenisation of defence equipment / stores after conducting surveys and assessing their capabilities. After identifying items in consultation with the user services for indigenisation and keeping in view the commercial viability and the strategic needs, these Committees take up indigenisation activities and ensure timely supply of defence equipment/stores. Government has taken a decision in February, 2002 that in future indigenisation work would be the responsibility of Production Agencies like Ordnance Factories & Defence PSUs and Service Headquarters.

Source : Ministry of Defence, Government of India

India to Set Up a Defence University

The Committee on National Defence University recommended the establishment of an Indian National Defence University (INDU) as a fully autonomous institution awarding educational Degrees, Diplomas and Credits. The existing institutions namely National Defence College (New Delhi), Institute of Defence Management (Secunderabad), Defence Services Staff College (Wellington) and National Defence

Academy (Khadakvasala) and new institutions namely College of National Security Policy, National Institute of Security Studies and Institute for Advanced Technology Studies will be under the ambit of the INDU.

The Government has not signed any Memorandum of Understanding with any University in this regard. This information was given by the Defence Minister Shri Pranab Mukherjee in a written reply to Shri Prabodh Panda in Lok Sabha on August 25

Source : satp

CONFERENCE ON SMALL ARMS PROLIFERATION & ITS CONTROL,
New Delhi 17 August 2005

On 17 August, New Delhi based Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) successfully organized a one day National Conference on "Small Arms Proliferation in India and Their Control". The Conference was inaugurated by Union Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil and was attended by a series of officials from Ministry of External Affairs, Police, Home, Border Security Force, academics, journalists and other think tanks etc. It is for the first time that a small arms conference has been supported by one of the highest offices of the Government of India. At the meeting a unanimous decision was taken to form a national level Small Arms Control Board. CSIS was asked to submit its recommendations to the Government within three months. This indeed is a major victory for many of the people in India who have been working on small arms mitigation. A book based on the conference and further findings on larger issues of small arms proliferation is being published by CSIS within a couple of months time.

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