

VAYU on-the-spot report

Army 2024 at Patriot Centre, Moscow

On the sunny morning of 11 August 2024, we (select Indian media) touched down at Sheremetyevo Airport, Moscow, ready to begin our coverage of the International Military Technical Forum “Army 2024”. The first day was reserved for rest, preparing us for the thrilling days ahead at the Patriot Expo at Moscow Oblast.

Day 1: August 12th

Our first day began with an impressive display of Russian ground vehicles, including main battle tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, and armoured personnel carriers. The massive fleet of nuclear missile carrying Transporter Erector Launchers (TELs) stood out as we navigated the vast campus of Patriot Expo. After a brief photography session, we attended the Rosoboronexport Conference, where the Lancet-E Complex, an export oriented family of ZALA Lancet 3 loitering munitions and UAVs, was unveiled.

Next, we visited the United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) pavillion, where we were briefed on new surface vessels and submarine concepts. Lunch at the USC pavillion was thoughtfully arranged, catering to both vegetarians and non-vegetarians in the media team.

Post lunch, we explored the Tactical Missiles Corporation pavillion, getting a firsthand look at their latest missiles, including air-to-air, air-to-surface and anti-ship platforms. The pavillion also showcased submarine launched torpedoes and hypersonic missiles. At the Kalashnikov pavillion, we were introduced to a range of firearms and gear, from legacy systems to future innovations. Our day concluded at the Rostec pavillion, where Uralvagonzavod representatives shared insights into the Russian tank fleet, highlighting enhancements made since the war began.

Day 2: August 13th

The second day began with a refreshing rain and a smooth entry into the venue. We started by exploring the Chinese and Iranian pavillions, which showcased export oriented flagship products. The Indo-Russian joint venture firm BrahMos also had a distinctive stand.

We soon headed to the High Precision Systems shooting range, where, after a brief informative session, we had the exhilarating opportunity to test various firearms, including anti-materiel rifles, designated marksman rifles, carbines, pistols, and grenade launchers. The hands-on experience spiked our adrenaline, making it one of the highlights of the day.

After a delightful Russian lunch, we returned to the High Precision Systems pavillion for a briefing on their displayed products, including anti-air and anti-tank systems, UAVs, fire control stations, and armoured vehicles like the Sprut and BMP-3. We then visited the Almaz-Antey pavillion, where we viewed state-of-the-art air defence systems like the Antey 4000, S-400 and Viking 1.

Our day concluded with an hour long meeting with Rubin’s Deputy CEO, Mr. Andrei Baranov, at the USC pavillion. This informative session provided us with valuable insights into Rubin’s vision and strategies, which we will feature later in this series of reports from Army 24.


Day 3: August 14th

The final day started with a bit of a delay due to heavy traffic caused by increased security, but we only missed a few minutes of the Rosoboronexport conference. The company presented its successes, strategies and various products including firearms, communication systems, individual protection systems, armoured vehicles, electronic warfare equipment and export ready missiles like the Iskander-E.

At the Kronshtadt pavillion, we were introduced to the new supersonic Unmanned Combat Vehicle GROM-U and the Orion E MALE UCAV, both available for export and partnerships. Then, a short breakfast break was followed by a visit to the Russian Helicopters display, featuring export variants of the Mi-28 and Ka-52 attack helicopters.

One of the most exciting moments was witnessing a spectacular demonstration of robotic dogs performing in sync, mesmerising the audience. Our next stop was the United Aircraft Corporation pavillion, where we saw the launch of the Sukhoi C76 heavy cargo UAV. After lunch, we toured the Yak-130, now integrated with new technologies to meet advanced combat training needs.

Our final visit of the day involved viewing war trophies, where captured vehicles from the Russia-Ukraine conflict, including those donated by NATO countries, were displayed. Detailed explanations of how they were captured added depth to our understanding. This wrapped up not just our day but also our coverage of Army 2024 where we witnessed the grand display of Russian firepower, key innovations in defence and optimism for continued strategic cooperation with allied countries, including India.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our wonderful coordinator, Alice Gritskova from Rubin Design Bureau, and also our hosts and coordinators from United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) and Rosoboronexport for their continuous support throughout the media tour, enabling us to gather comprehensive insights on dedicated subjects. Thank you again and much appreciated! 

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