

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा

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**Parrikar: Will try to indigenise 40 percent of military needs**

DELHI: The NDA government aims to ensure that 40% of the country's military hardware and software requirements are procured indigenously under the 'Make in India' initiative, with the eventual plan being to ramp it up to 70% in the next five years, defence minister Manohar Parrikar said on Monday. India currently has the dubious distinction of being the world's largest arms importer, sourcing as it does around 70% of its defence equipment from abroad. While DRDO and its 52 labs, five defence PSUs, four shipyards and 39 ordnance factories have largely failed to deliver the goods, the country's private sector is yet to really get going in the defence production arena in a major way. While launching a new Make in India website in the defence sector on Monday, Parrikar promised that the long-delayed new defence procurement procedure (DPP) will finally be ready by January. As was earlier reported by **TOI**, the new DPP will have several measures to promote the domestic private sector to enter defence production with a level playing field under the Make in India policy, as also liberalised norms for arms agents and blacklisting of armament companies, among other things. Holding that entire defence acquisitions process would be made simpler and transparent through the new DPP, Parrikar said it was an "uphill" task to change mindsets. "The last 10 years have seen that the procedure has become more important than the target. The target is to provide modern equipment to the armed forces in a timely manner," he said, adding that he had inherited a ministry "full of mistrust". In the run-up to the new DPP, the Dhirendra Singh committee had made a series of recommendations ranging from nomination of selected private sector defence firms as "strategic partners" on par with defence PSUs to pre-audit of deals by the CAG instead of objections being raised at a later stage. It has also held that arms companies should not be indiscriminately blacklisted if some irregularities arise. since such bans often prove counter-productive by derailing military modernisation projects. Instead, there should be graduated response to penalise the company or individuals involved without impinging on the weapon system or platform chosen after a long selection process. As was first reported by **TOI**, after implementing nuanced blacklisting norms, the MoD is now also going to liberalise the hiring of agents or "authorised Indian representatives" by foreign arms companies.

**Coast is clear: Navy's ops force Gulf of Aden pirates to shift base**

MBAI: Over the past three decades, the INS Godavari class warship has been successfully deployed in numerous international operations since it was inducted into the fleet. After its decommissioning, the Indian Navy will decide on the three aspects of the future of the warship. A Navy source said: "At present, the Navy has not decided on its fate. However the three aspects after it is decommissioned will be that it will either be preserved and stored as a museum because it is the first indigenous warship built at Mumbai's Mazgaon Dock, or a tender can be issued for scrapping it, and it can be used for target practice for other Indian frigate warships as it will help in knowing whether armament loaded in the current fleet of vessels has the capacity to aim properly and create a hole in the ship's steel." INS Godavari has successfully been deployed in numerous operations including 'Operation Jupiter' - 1988 (Sri Lanka), 'Operation Shield' and 'Operation Bolster' - 1994 (de-induction of Indian Army from Somalia) and 'Patrol of Gulf of Aden' - 2009, 2011 (anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden). In 1988, in an operation called 'Operation Cactus', India successfully thwarted a coup d'etat against Maldivian president Maumoon Abdul Gayoom. Godavari and Betwa intercepted and arrested the mercenaries, who tried to flee Male onboard the merchant vessel Progress Light. On the day Godavari was scheduled to depart from Male, after handing over the mercenaries and their hostages, President Gayoom made an impromptu visit to the ship. In an address to the ship's company, he paid rich tributes to the Indian Armed Forces and expressed his nation's gratitude for their timely assistance. The Western Naval Command (WNC), which controls anti-piracy operations from the city, says it has achieved a major success in combating the menace. The Navy announced that intensive patrolling in Gulf of Aden and off the Somalia coast has led to pirates shifting bases. The two locations are important sea lanes for trade. Currently, INS Trishul, extensively patrols the seas at these locations and is the pivot of the anti-piracy missions. On December 3, aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya along with several other warships took part in patrolling Gulf of Aden and the Somalia coast. Last year, there were four attacks by pirates in Gulf of Aden and three off Somalia coast. The Navy has so far escorted 3,000 merchant vessels to safety and foiled piracy attacks on 46 ships at other locations. A report by the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) showed a decrease in piracy cases

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**The Times of India**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Coast is clear: Navy's ops force Gulf of Aden pirates to shift base**

reported across the world. While 245 cases took place last year, the figure for 2015 is 223. The IMB, which is based in the United Kingdom, said a crackdown by the Navy has reduced serious attacks in southeast Asia. However, IMB urges vessels to maintain vigilance while travelling in Somalia waters as the threat has not been eliminated completely. A day prior to the Navy Day celebrations, the WNC Vice Admiral SPS Cheema said the economy is directly linked to the growth in commerce and most of India's voluminous trade is carried out using the sea route for import and export. "The Middle East remains a key source of the country's crude oil imports. The Navy ensures that the trade via the sea is safe at all times thereby guaranteeing unhindered growth of our economy. Our efforts have resulted in zero piracy this year in Gulf of Aden and Somalia," said Cheema. He said good coordination with all agencies and stakeholders--Coast Guard, Marine Police, Customs, the fishing boats--is encouraged to prevent threats emanating from the sea. The pirates have been kept on their toes since 2011 when the Navy and the Coast Guard officials caught 120 of them from Somalia in three different attacks. Given India's location, the Navy is required to continuously monitor eight major shipping lanes, with a large number of foreign warships being present round the clock. More than one lakh ships pass through the waters along India's coast annually. "If this trade were to be disrupted, then it would not only be India's but the world economy's loss," said Cheema.

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**The Times of India**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Soon, 'hydricity' may generate 24x7 power**



WASHINGTON: Scientists, including those of Indian-origin, have proposed a new "hydricity" concept for round-the-clock power by not only generating electricity from solar energy but also producing and storing hydrogen from superheated water. "The proposed hydricity concept represents a potential breakthrough solution for continuous and efficient power generation," said Rakesh Agrawal from Purdue University in US. "The concept provides an exciting opportunity to envision and create a sustainable economy to meet all the human needs including food, chemicals transportation, heating and electricity," he said. Hydrogen can be combined with carbon from agricultural biomass to produce fuel, fertilizer and other products. "If you can borrow carbon from sustainably available biomass you can produce anything: electricity, chemicals, heating, food and fuel," said Agrawal. Hydricity uses solar concentrators to focus sunlight producing high temperatures and superheating water to operate a series of electricity-generating steam turbines and reactors for splitting water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen would be stored for use overnight to superheat water and run the steam turbines, or it could be used for other applications, producing zero greenhouse-gas emissions, researchers said. In superheating, water is heated well beyond its boiling point - in this case from 1,000 to 1,300 degrees Celsius - producing high-temperature steam to run turbines and also to operate solar reactors to split the water into hydrogen and oxygen. "In the round-the-clock process we produce hydrogen and electricity during daylight, store hydrogen and oxygen, and then when solar energy is not available we use hydrogen to produce electricity using a turbine-based hydrogen-power cycle," said Mohit Tawarmalani, professor at Purdue. "Because we could operate around the clock, the steam turbines run continuously and shutdowns and restarts are not required."

**The Times of India**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Virtual reality to help Nasa steer robonauts?**

WASHINGTON: Virtual reality could be used for more than just entertainment, it may also help scientists to control robots in space, according to Nasa. Nasa researchers are using virtual reality to help human operators to practice controlling a humanoid helper outside earth's atmosphere. Although Nasa has sent humanoid-like robots into space before, controlling the robonauts all the way from earth remains a problem, scientists said. The US space agency is now exploring the Mighty Morphenaut - a programme that puts an operator in the shoes of a robot in space, the Tech Times reported. In the demo, the robot is aboard a space shuttle and the operator is given the opportunity to learn how to get the robonaut to complete a task, like flipping a switch or manoeuvre around floating obstacles at a safe distance. To do these activities, operators strap a virtual reality headset on their heads, which allows them to see what the robot would "see" and take hold of a pair of controllers that enable them to take over the robonaut's hands.

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**The Indian Express**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**India Inc heads to be part of PM Modi's team in Russia**

18 captains of Indian industry will interact with 34 Russian CEOs; defence ties on agenda  
Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani, Godrej Industries chairman Adi Godrej, Bharat Forge Limited CMD Baba Kalyani are set to accompany Prime Minister Narendra Modi as part of a high-powered delegation when he meets Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on December 24. A team of 18 captains of the Indian industry will interact with 34 Russian CEOs on the sidelines of the 16th India-Russia annual summit. Sources said the defence delegation will focus on Russian cooperation on maintenance repair and overhaul (MRO) of military equipment besides 'Make in India' collaborations. "India-Russia defence ties go back decades. With the government's boost to Make in India in defence, there is tremendous scope for defence cooperation between Russian and Indian companies for joint development of military hardware," said an industry insider. "Further, the Indian armed forces are not too pleased with the after-sales support from the Russian side and have been facing shortage of spares for Russian-origin aircraft and tanks. The Indian delegation will be pitching for collaborations with Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for post-sale contracts," said the source. According to sources, the major deals that are likely to be taken up include the purchase of 200 Kamov Ka-226 T choppers, which are crucial for replacing the ageing Cheetah and Chetak helicopters, and the construction of four frigates for the Indian Navy. Last week, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) had cleared a proposal to buy five units of S-400 air defence missiles from Russia at an approximate Rs 30,000 crore. "The S-400 deal is also top priority," said a source. Among the others who are set to accompany Modi are: Ravi Ruia of Essar Group, T Suvarna Raju, chairman of state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) which has been carrying out licence production of Russian Sukhoi-30 MKI jets, Sukaran Singh of Tata Advanced Systems and Adar Poonawalla of Serum Institute. "The delegation will leave on December 23 and return by December 26. We are hoping for a fruitful visit," said the source. Russia has been the backbone of India's defence build-up for decades. According to details shared in Parliament, the US, for the first time, overtook Russia as the biggest supplier of military hardware last August. Of the Rs 83,500 crore worth of defence equipment ordered by India in 2014, Rs 32,600 crore went to the US and Rs 25,364 crore to Russia.

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**The Hindustan Times**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Defence, nuke deal hopes ride high**

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaves for Moscow on Wednesday on a two-day visit to attend the 16th India-Russia annual summit, expectations will be riding high with major agreements expected in the defence and nuclear sector. The last edition of the summit, held in New Delhi in December 2014, was a roaring success, evident in the fact that 20 deals worth over \$100 billion were signed in less than 24 hours. "India's partnership with Russia is incomparable," Modi had tweeted then. This time on the defence front, a deal on the joint-production of 200 Kamov-226T helicopters may be the highlight. This will be a major boost to Modi's Make in India initiative. The purchase of five Russian S-400 air defence systems, approved by the Defence Acquisition Council, will also be keenly watched. On the nuclear energy front, a deal is expected on the fifth and sixth units of the Koodankulam nuclear reactors. And there are talks about a deal for Russia to build six nuclear reactors in Andhra Pradesh. Modi is scheduled to address a cultural event for 'Friends of India' at the Expocentre in Moscow on December 24. The prime minister is expected to return to New Delhi after the event. The defence sector is perhaps the strongest component in India-Russia ties. "India's defence production industry has a large Russian component to it, and during this visit that will increase," says Anuradha Chenoy, professor at the Centre for Russian and Central Asian studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. The economic trade, however, do not reflect the intensity of the ties. Export from India saw a marginal rise in 2014 vis-a-vis the previous year, but overall trade dipped — from \$10.11 billion in 2013 to \$9.51 billion in 2014. While export from India rose 2.6% during this period, import slipped by 9.2%. "To put it in a nutshell, the strongest element of India-Russia partnership is defence, and the weakest element is our economic relationship. I think there will be an attempt by Modi to try and address this weakness through some of the strengths (in the ties)," says Nandan Unnikrishnan, a Russia expert and vice-president and senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. The lull in Russia-Turkey ties, after Turkey downed a Russian Su-24 in Syria in November, presents an opportunity for India to boost trade ties. Kanwal Sibal, India's ambassador to Russia from 2004 to 2007, feels that the visit should focus on "boosting economic and trade ties, especially after the collapse of ties between Russia and Turkey. Russia is keen on strengthening trade ties with India." Terrorism  
**contd. On next page**

**The Hindustan Times**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Defence, nuke deal hopes ride high**

will also be discussed by both the leaders. The former ambassador was of the opinion that Russia might discuss Syria with India, but the spotlight “would be on what is happening in the Af-Pak region. The presence of the Islamic State (IS) in Afghanistan is of concern for Russia. It is also a concern for India as destabilisation of Afghanistan and extremist activity there is a problem for us.” Other than these, talks on fertilisers and hydrocarbons are also expected. In recent years, growing India-US ties have seemingly taken the sheen off India-Russia bilateral ties, but it is just a temporary lull that appears in any friendship that goes back decades.

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**The Hindustan Times**

**Dated – 22 Dec,**

**2015**

**As PM Modi visits Moscow, time to go beyond nostalgia**

Nostalgia is a very powerful emotion. Jawaharlal Nehru’s visit to the erstwhile Soviet Union accompanied by his daughter Indira Gandhi for 16 days in June 1955 has long been an enduring part of dog-eared foreign policy scrapbooks. Russia stood by India in the 1962 war against communist China, in two wars with Pakistan thereafter and refused to join sanctions imposed against New Delhi after it conducted nuclear tests in 1974 and 1998. It remained a steady supplier of arms to India and helped the country on the path of industrialisation. For many, those days, world literature began, and possibly also ended, with Russian books translated in regional Indian languages. In 2005, more than a decade after the fall of Soviet Union, the Russian cultural Centre in Thiruvananthapuram had organised a meeting of people with Russian names from Moscow village in the state of Kerala. The village is in the Madapally Taluk of Kottayam district. Lenin, Stalin, Brezhnev and Khrushchev gathered along with Natasha, Tereshkova and Anastasya and there were thirty of them at the meeting. The BBC website had aptly headlined the meeting as “Stalin and Lenins reunite in India.” Nostalgia, by its very nature, lingers on. Nearly six decades after Nehru’s visit to Russia and amid many sepia-tinted images of friendships in the intervening period, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met President Vladimir Putin in Brazil in July 2014. “If you ask anyone among the more than one billion people living in India, who is our country’s best friend, every person, every child knows that it is Russia,” Modi told Putin. It was another triumphant moment for nostalgia. But it also neatly summed up how India values its most trusted veto-empowered friend in the United Nations Security Council. Modi will be in Russia for the annual India-Russia summit from December 23 to 24. Now it’s time to look hard at the relationship, and not through dewy eyes. Russia is unique in many ways, and so is the partnership. Those who rattle off trade figures to underline the strength of bilateral ties should not forget Russia, unlike the U.K. in the 19th century or the U.S. in the 20th century, became a superpower on different terms. The Soviet Union was never a global economic power before it became a global superpower, unlike the U.S. or the U.K. The USSR became a global superpower on the strength of its military prowess. Russia still remains the only challenger to the U.S. as a military power. So, the meagre \$9 billion annual trade, though pathetic, should be seen differently. The Centre needs to recast the ties beyond the government-to-government relationship. The prospect of investing in Russia needs to be demystified, and various barriers need to be removed including those linked to language and legal investment protection frameworks. Japan is the only country other than Russia that India has an annual summit with. The way the public-private partnership on investments is shaping with Japan could be an ideal template to work with in the case of Russia too. There are new opportunities in the wake of Russia-Turkey ties touching a new low. There are 90,000 Turkish nationals working in Russia; Russia is Turkey’s second largest trading partner and two countries were planning to take bilateral trade to \$100 billion in the next eight years. Now, various Turkish investments are being frozen. The Russians are not about to let the first NATO country to down one of its aircraft in the last five decades go scot-free. Russia, as PM Modi said, can be an important partner in the Make in India flagship scheme in the defence sector. But the two sides need to recognise that India will expand its search for military equipments beyond Russia, and that the way Russia sees India will also change. Modi can find a great partner in Russian in the global fight against terrorism. For long, the West has been fighting a selective war on terror; and with President Barack Obama in retreat mode on the global stage, Russia has now become the key player. Clearly, the time has come to realise that nostalgia isn’t what it used to be.

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**The Hindu**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Creating a library out of retirement benefits**

BY B. KOLAPPAN

It is common for a person to invest retirement benefits for a secure future. However, V. Arasu, former head of the Tamil Department of University of Madras, has spent Rs. 15 lakh to create an academic library for the benefit of research students at his residence in Perungudi in Chennai. The library has 15,000 Tamil books and 5,000 English books, particularly books on Tamil literature and culture. "Keeping the collection in good condition has always been a challenge, especially when you live in a rented house and shift frequently. We used to keep them under the cot. Now they have found a safe place," said Mr. Arasu, who started collecting books since his college days in the 1970s. He has all the dictionaries published in Tamil, over a thousand books on Eelam literature, 3,000 literary magazines that created new trends in Tamil literature, souvenirs on great Tamil scholars, including U.V. Swaminatha Iyer, R.P. Sethu Pillai and theatre personality Pammal Sambanda Mudaliar. Mr. Arasu acknowledged the help rendered by architect Mahesh Radhakrishnan who designed the library on the second floor of the house with adequate aeration. The racks were created with wood used for packing materials, treated in chemicals to keep away insects. "The library is open to all serious and committed students. They can even stay there and work. They can share the food we prepare. Even while I was teaching in the university, we had always had one student or the other staying with us," said Mr. Arasu, who has created a separate room for students in the library.

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**The Hindu**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**India, Russia likely to sign deal for 4 stealth frigates**

BY DINAKAR PERI

After a long hiatus, Russia is once again set to emerge as India's top military hardware supplier with a slew of big ticket defence deals set to be announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit starting on Thursday. Collectively, the defence deals to be announced during Modi's visit would be worth upwards of \$10 billion. According to official sources, India is likely to sign a multi-billion dollar deal for four improved Krivak or Talwar class stealth frigates with Russia — expected to cost upwards of USD 3 billion — during the PM's visit. This will be in addition to the two helicopter deals expected to be signed and the announcement on purchase of five S-400 Triumf air defence systems. With these deals Russia is likely to emerge once again as the top supplier of military hardware to India which in the last few years was taken over by the U.S. India had earlier procured six frigates of the same class in two different batches and has been very pleased with the performance of the 4,000 tonne state of the art frigates which pack a lot of firepower in comparison to their size. Like the earlier ships, these will also be built by Yantar shipyard but will additionally involve an Indian partner in line with the government's 'Make in India' push. Officials said Pipavav shipyard owned by Anil Ambani's Reliance group is likely to be the Indian partner in the deal. Incidentally Russian Navy too has recently ordered these ships for its Baltic fleet. Both sides have been in discussions for the additional frigates for some time but the deal was delayed as India insisted on building it through the 'Make in India' route. The deal was also partly delayed due to the engine issue. The engines are built by Zorya Nashproekt of Ukraine and after the crisis in Crimea, Ukraine has refused to supply engines to Russia. However, officials said the issue has been sorted and Ukraine has no reservations in supplying engines to India.

**CEO team** The 18-member Indian CEO delegation accompanying Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Russia includes four company heads from defence companies. These include Anil Ambani, Chairman of Reliance group; Baba Kalyani, Chairman and MD of Bahart Forge; Sukaran Singh, CEO of Tata Advanced Systems; and Suvarna Raju, Chairman of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Reliance is likely to partner Russian helicopters to build Kamov-226T utility helicopters in India and is also a contender for the ship project. Tata is in advanced stage of talks with Sukhoi to set up a Joint Venture to manufacture spares for Sukhoi fighters in India.

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**The Hindu**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Researchers gain insight into human intelligence**

BY TIM RADFORD

British scientists believe they have made a huge step forward in the understanding of the mechanisms of human intelligence. That genetic inheritance must play some part has never been disputed. Despite occasional claims later dismissed, no one has yet produced a single gene that controls intelligence. But Michael Johnson of Imperial College London, a consultant neurologist and colleagues report in *Nature Neuroscience* that they may have discovered a very different answer: two networks of genes, perhaps controlled by some master regulatory system, lie behind the human gift for lateral thinking, mental arithmetic, pub quizzes, strategic planning, cryptic crosswords and the ability to laugh at limericks. As usual, such research raises potentially politically—loaded questions about the nature of intelligence. “Intelligence is a composite measure of different cognitive abilities and how they are distributed in a population. It doesn’t measure any one thing. But it is measurable,” Dr Johnson said. About 40 per cent of the variation in intelligence is explained by inheritance. The other factors are not yet certain. But the scientists raise the distant possibility that armed with the new information they may be able to devise ways to modify human intelligence. “The idea of ultimately using drugs to affect cognitive performance is not in any way new. We all drink coffee to improve our cognitive performance,” Dr Johnson said. “It’s about understanding the pathways that are related to cognitive ability both in health and disease, especially disease so one day we could help people with learning disabilities fulfil their potential. That is very important.” The two networks, known just as M1 and M3, one with roughly 1000 genes, the other with more than a 100, also play a role in neurodevelopmental illnesses such as epilepsy, schizophrenia and autism spectrum disorder. “We know that genetics plays a major role in intelligence but until now haven’t known which genes are relevant. This research highlights some of the genes involved in human intelligence and how they interact with each other,” Dr Johnson said. “What’s exciting about this is that the genes we have found are likely to share a common regulation, which means that potentially we can manipulate a whole set of genes whose activity is linked to human intelligence.” The Imperial College scientists started with evidence from 100 mouse brains, 122 samples of human brain, and 102 whole human brains preserved postmortem. Such indicators of a genetic connection between neurodevelopmental problems or memory and understanding were then checked against records of 6,732 people in the “Generation Scotland” family health study, which tracks the life history of thousands of volunteers, and repeated in 1,003 healthy people who had volunteered to take part in a study called the Lothian Birth Cohort 1936. — © **Guardian Newspapers Limited, 2015**

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**The Pioneer**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**CHINA REJECTS UN ARBITRATION ON DISPUTED SOUTH CHINA SEA**

China on Monday rejected a UN tribunal’s arbitration on the disputed South China Sea saying it had no jurisdiction over the case even as Beijing asserted it would not accept any third-party settlement of territorial disputes. “China’s territorial sovereignty should be decided by all the Chinese people, and no other people or organisation has the right to handle it,” Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei told media here. He was replying to a question on the recent release of a court hearing record by an international tribunal in the Hague lodged by the Philippines as China brushed aside the UN tribunal arbitrating the case saying that it will not accept its verdict in the matter. Hong said China’s position on the South China Sea stands on a solid international legal base and will remain unchanged.

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**The Asian Age**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Government plan to offer Russia Andhra Pradesh site for 2 N-units**

India is likely to offer a site in Andhra Pradesh to set up Units five and six of the Kudankulam nuclear power plant by Russia in sync with broad principles of Make in India initiative and a decision in this regard is expected to be finalised during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Moscow this week. The two countries are likely to sign an agreement for the two units with provisions for involvement of India’s private sector in the project, including in supply of various components. “We will follow the principles of ‘localisation’ as per the Make in India initiative for setting up Kudankulam nuclear power plant five and six,” sources were quoted as telling news agency PTI, adding that a site in Andhra Pradesh has been finalised for the project in line with the government’s policy for ensuring optimum use of the available nuclear sites in various states to accommodate more atomic reactors. Incidentally, the Centre has already shortlisted the Kovvada site to build a project with the

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**The Asian Age**

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**Government plan to offer Russia Andhra Pradesh site for 2 N-units**

assistance of US-based nuclear vendor, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy. Mr Modi is scheduled to visit Russia from December 23-24 to hold an annual summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Russia has been a key partner of India in the civil nuclear energy sector. In the last summit between Mr Modi and Mr Putin, it was decided that Russia will build at least 12 nuclear reactors in India by 2035. In April last year, India and Russia had signed an agreement to build units 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam project at a cost of Rs 33,000 crore. However, work on the ground is yet to start. The Units 3 and 4 are be coming up in Tamil Nadu's coastal district of Tirunelveli. unterpart of the India's Department of Atomic Energy, visited India and he is believed have discussed with the DAE brass about various aspect of the proposed pact for Kudankulam 5 and 6. Units 5 and 6 of VVER technology are expected to be of the same MW like units 1-4, but the cost details of the project are yet to be finalised.

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**The Asian Age**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**US Congress passes cybersecurity bill**

Congress has passed legislation to fight cyberthreats, pushing the measure through by tucking it into a sprawling government funding bill, after earlier failed attempts. The so-called "omnibus" funding bill, which easily passed in the Senate, also in the process gave congressional approval to the landmark Cybersecurity Act. The measure was approved with blessings from the White House, over objections of privacy activists. Officials with the House Homeland Security Committee said in a statement that the bill would protect America's private sector and federal networks "which are under continuous threat from foreign hackers and cyberterrorists." Separate versions of the bill were approved earlier this year by the Senate and House of Representatives. Passage of the measure "ensures our federal cyber networks are able to defend against nation-states like China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea and terrorist threats," said Congressman Michael McCaul, chairman of the homeland security panel. "This streamlines the federal government's ability to more effectively identify and thwart cyberattacks," he said. President Barack Obama would get a victory with the approval after several years of seeking legislation to boost cybersecurity. Previous efforts were bogged down by opposition from activists who feared it would result in excessive government intrusion, and conservatives who argue it would create a new bureaucracy. Obama welcomed the measure, a senior US official said. "The president has long called on Congress to pass cybersecurity information-sharing legislation that will help the private sector and government share more cyberthreat information by providing for targeted liability protections while carefully safeguarding privacy, confidentiality, and civil liberties," the official said. House intelligence committee chairman Devin Nunes said the measure was "vital for protecting America's digital networks," and added that it was part of a broader effort "giving our intelligence community the tools it needs to identify, disrupt, and defeat threats to the homeland and our infrastructure." A key element in the legislation would shield private companies from liability if they report or share information about cyber threats.

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**The Asian Age**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Kudankulam Unit 5 & 6 may come up in Andhra**

**Russia will build at least 12 nuclear reactors in India by 2035.**

**New Delhi:** India is expected to offer a site in Andhra Pradesh to set up units five and six of Kudankulam nuclear power plant by Russia in sync with broad principles of 'Make in India' initiative and a decision in this regard is likely to be finalised during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow this week. The two countries are likely to sign an agreement for the two units with provisions for involvement of India's private sector in the project including in supply of various components. "We will follow principles of 'localisation' as per Make in India initiative for setting up Kudankulam nuclear power plant five and six," sources told PTI. It in line with government's policy for ensuring optimum use of the available nuclear sites in various states to accommodate more atomic reactors. Incidentally, Centre has already shortlisted the Kovvada site to build a roject with the assistance of US-based nuclear vendor, GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy. Modi is scheduled to visit Russia from December 23-24 to hold an annual summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow. Russia has been a key partner of India in the civil nuclear energy sector. In the last summit between Modi and Putin, it was decided that Russia will build at least 12 nuclear reactors in India by 2035. In April last year, India and Russia had signed an agreement to build units 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam project at a cost of Rs 33,000 crore. However, work on the ground is yet to start. The units 3 and 4 are be coming up in Tamil Nadu's coastal district of Tirunelveli. Earlier this month, Nikolai Spasskiy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of Rosatom, the Russian counterpart of the India's Department of Atomic Energy, visited India and he is believed have discussed with DAE brass about various aspect of the proposed pact for Kudankulam 5 and 6. Units 5 and 6 of VVER

technology are expected to be of the same MW like units 1-4, but the cost details of the project are yet to be finalised.

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**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

### **‘Nuclear city’ blueprints have Modi approval**

Among the many presentations made for Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he visited the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, in February 2015, the most interesting was an overview of the facility at Challakere, which has long been seen as the “Science City” that will rival Bengaluru as a science, technology and defence hub. Except, the buzz among insiders, who concur with the top-secret “Nuclear City” label given by Foreign Policy, is that Challakere is more than that and it’s being set up with one aim only to provide India an extra stockpile of enriched uranium fuel that could be used in new hydrogen bombs. Mr Modi reportedly heard of how dilapidated buildings of an abandoned sheep farm were renovated to house the Talent Development Centre (TDC) by IISc to train science teachers at all levels, and to accommodate them during a ten-day residential training session. He instantly sanctioned a couple of crores of rupees and backed the conversion of TDC into the first centre of excellence in science and mathematics under Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Mission on Teachers and Teaching, of the ministry of human resource development. With the help of the MHRD, IISc will construct a new lecture hall, and has already built two check-dams in order to recharge groundwater in the barren campus which would, in due course, receive water from the Vani Vilas dam built by the late Bharat Ratna Sir M. Visvesvaraya more than a century ago. The veil of secrecy over the facility being built by Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), however, has stopped even scientists of IISc, who drive to Challakere every month to train teachers or keep an eye on new labs under construction, from gaining access to the atomic research facilities, atomic power station or one that will house nuclear centrifuges under construction at Dodda Ullavathi, a village near Challakere. “We have seen houses being built for BARC engineers and scientists, but they are a couple of kilometres away from their facility. They do not let us cross the barrier to look at these buildings, though they are still under construction,” rued one of them. Sources close to the BARC project said it would take a couple of years for commissioning of either the atomic power plant or the centrifuges, countering the report in Foreign Policy magazine that the facility would be ready by 2017. The same goes for the modern test facility being built by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) for its Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles (UCAV) project and other advanced programmes in aerospace and missile technology. A couple of hangars are almost ready, as also the runway, which has been designed to cater to fighter jets or large transport aircraft. Among those likely to be inaugurated in 2016 is the climate research centre of IISc, and funded by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), says H.S. Jagadeesh, special officer, TDC, Kudapura. “The research centre should be ready in six months. Construction of the new skill development centre will commence in January, and could take about two-and-half years for completion. Work on some buildings supported by the ministry of IT & BT of the state government will also commence in 2016,” he said. The Army, too, would commence work on its commando training centre, on a couple of hundred acres allotted as part of this 9,000 acre campus. With many key facilities coming up at Challakere, the government will ensure foolproof protection by armed commandos, said sources in the ministry of defence.

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**The Asian Age**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

### **Defence ministry launches New Website**

Seeking to make defence acquisition process simpler and transparent, Government on Monday launched a new ‘Make in India’ website that will provide an interface with industry and promised to finalise the new revised defence procurement procedure by January. Stating that it is an “uphill” task to change mindset, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar rued that “process” has become more important than the goal itself and asserted that the government is in the process of creating a level playing field with more transparency. “The last 10 years have seen that the procedure has become more important than the target. The target is to provide modern equipment to the armed forces in a timely manner,” he said. The Minister said that the Ministry he had inherited was “full of mistrust” but the situation has changed to a large extent. He hoped that the website ([www.makeinindiadefence.com](http://www.makeinindiadefence.com)) would act as an enabler for the industry to get the latest news and notification regarding various aspects of the defence production. “They (officials) should ensure that the portal works,” he said. The portal provides information related to all policy and procedural issues relevant for defence manufacturing industry. It provides link to industrial promotion policies and programmes of various states and union territories. The portal also gives an opportunity to an individual company to seek clarifications or ask questions, which according to the Defence Ministry officials would be answered within three working days.

**Deccan Herald**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

### **Defence procurement policy to be delayed**

The much-awaited defence procurement policy is unlikely to be announced in 2015, extending the wait for the industry, which has been encouraged by the NDA government to enter the defence manufacturing space. The delay is because of a key ministerial panel's inability to submit its report in time on how to pick a particular company as a strategic partner for manufacturing important military hardware like aircraft, warships, submarines, armoured vehicles, electronics and materials. The panel, headed by former Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) director general V K Aatre, is to suggest the parameters for identifying a particular company for a specific project. Set up in September, the panel was to submit its report within three weeks. But it has not done it so far and may take some more time, Defence Ministry sources said. On Monday, Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said the defence procurement policy was in the final stages of finalisation. The DPP document will have a special focus on Make in India, under which the aim is to have 40 per cent of defence procurement under "Make in India" initiative from the current 30 per cent and raising it to 70 per cent indigenisation in the next five years. Parrikar said, "The last 10 years have seen that procedure has become more important than the target. The target is to provide modern equipment to the armed forces in a timely manner. The ministry I inherited was full of mistrust but the situation has changed to a large extent." Formation of the Aatre panel was necessitated by the recommendations of the Dhirendra Singh Committee that suggested important changes to DPP-2013 to make it more industry friendly for ushering in the Make in India scheme for defence manufacturing. The NDA government opened up the defence sector for the private industry within months of coming to the power almost 18 months ago. One of the important recommendations was to deviate from the defence public sector units and ordnance factory board route to create a defence manufacturing base in the private sector, which would be chosen as strategic partner. The Aatre panel would suggest the selection criterion. Several parliament members asked Parrikar to let defence PSUs remain in the competition. Along with DPP, the Defence Procurement Manual is under the process of internal vetting and is expected to be finalised by end of June, 2016.

**Deccan Herald**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

### **A new sun is rising on Indo-Japanese ties**

In the chessboard of geo-politics in Asia, the India-Japan relationship is becoming increasingly important. Japan has always been a significant economic partner to India, but not a strategic one. Now the India-Japan relationship is being transformed on both the economic and strategic fronts, as Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to India from December 11 to 13 has further underscored. The nuclear agreement signed by Narendra Modi and Abe is the most important outcome of the visit from a strategic viewpoint. Even after the India-US nuclear deal, the NSG exemption accorded to India, and the normalisation of India's ties with Canada and Australia, Japan has dragged its feet on the nuclear question.

#### **The great potential of the India-Japan relationship is finally being realised**

When Modi visited Japan in September 2014 and Abe came as chief guest to our 2015 Republic Day celebrations, the nuclear knot could not be untied despite expectations. The failure to do so again would have been strategically deflating.



#### **Agreement**

This time the two prime ministers have sealed the deal. Its text has been negotiated and issues of concern to Japan have been resolved within the template of similar agreements negotiated by us with the US, Canada and Australia. The legal and technical work that remains to be done essentially relates to Japan's internal procedures and local considerations of political timing. Elements of the Joint Strategic Vision for Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions signed with the US in 2014 are propelling our understandings with Japan. Disregarding Chinese sensitivities in view of its policies in our neighbourhood that ignore our concerns, we have further underscored quite robustly

during Abe's visit that peace, stability and development in the Indo-Pacific region are indispensable to our national security and prosperity, and that close cooperation between Japan and India is the key to achieving it. With China's challenge in the East and South China Seas in mind, Modi and Abe have underscored certain

principles: the importance of international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea; peaceful resolution of disputes without use or threat of use of force; freedom of navigation and overflight; and

**Contd. On next Page**

**Deccan Herald**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

### **A new sun is rising on Indo-Japanese ties**

unimpeded lawful commerce in international waters. Modi and Abe have called on all states to avoid unilateral actions in the South China Sea that could lead to tensions in the region. We have signed two foundational defence-related agreements, one relating to the Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology and the other on Security Measures for the Protection of Classified Military Information. Given Japan's cautious defence policies and internal political discomfort with constitutional changes initiated by Abe to permit a more expansive Japanese role in defence matters, these agreements with India are politically significant, even if actual progress in defence technology cooperation, co-development and co-production is likely to be slow. In the immediate, India has to take a decision on the US-2 amphibian aircraft being offered by Japan.

#### **Defence**

As part of expanding India-Japan defence ties, Japan will now participate regularly in the India-US Malabar exercises in order to "help create stronger capabilities to deal with maritime challenges in the Indo-Pacific region" - a candidly-expressed rationale for this decision. The full utilisation of '2+2 Dialogue', Defence Policy Dialogue, Air Force-to-Air Force Talks and Coastguard-to-Coastguard cooperation is envisaged. The trilateral dialogues mentioned in the US-India Joint Vision document are taking shape, with the trilateral Japan- India-US dialogue at foreign ministers' level in September this year and the inaugural Japan-India-Australia dialogue at secretary-level, both seen as part of a stable security architecture in the Indo-Pacific region. Other important political deliverables from the Abe visit are full Japanese endorsement of our position on terrorism, and Japanese support for our membership of the four export control regimes.

#### **Economy**

On the economic side, the great potential of the India-Japan partnership in areas of infrastructure, manufacturing and high technology, including advanced transportation systems, civil nuclear energy, solar power generation, space, biotechnology, rare earths and advanced materials, has been noted during Abe's visit. Both sides are seeking a synergy between India's 'Act East' policy and Japan's 'Partnership for Quality Infrastructure', that could help develop connectivity within India and regionally. In this context, the path-breaking Memorandum of Cooperation on the hi-speed Shinkansen rail system between Mumbai and Ahmedabad to be financed with a highly concessional yen loan has been signed. Japan will create a \$12 billion facility to support Japanese companies investing in India to further our Make in India objective. The two sides are looking at 13 big infrastructure projects to be financed by ODA loans such as Metro projects both in Chennai and Ahmedabad and road network connectivity in our Northeastern states. Besides this, there is an understanding that 10,000 Indians will be visiting Japan as students and trainees in the next five years. India has decided that Japanese visitors in all categories would get visas on arrival from March 2016, the first country to be offered this facility. Abe has appreciated the creation of 'Core Group' chaired by Cabinet Secretary to ensure that investments from Japan as envisaged in the India-Japan Investment Promotion Partnership are facilitated. All in all, the great potential of the India-Japan relationship is being realised, with India playing its strategic cards with greater self-confidence and clarity and building a more favourable balance for itself in its external relations.

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### **The Indian Express**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

#### **Afghanistan: Motorcycle-borne suicide attacker kills six NATO soldiers in Bagram**

A suicide attacker rammed an explosives-laden motorcycle into a joint NATO-Afghan patrol Monday, killing six American troops in the deadliest attack on international forces since August. Two US troops and an Afghan were wounded. The attack happened as Taliban fighters overran a strategic district in southern Helmand province, the scene of some of the deadliest fighting between the Taliban and international combat forces prior to the 2014 withdrawal, adding weight to Pentagon predictions that the insurgency is gaining strength. The soldiers were targeted as they moved through a village near Bagram Airfield, the largest US military facility in Afghanistan, NATO and Afghan officials said. The Taliban claimed responsibility. A US official confirmed that six American troops were killed and two wounded. An Afghan was also wounded. The official was not authorized to discuss the incident publicly so spoke on condition of anonymity. "Our heartfelt sympathies go out to the families and friends of those affected in this tragic incident, especially during this holiday season," US Army Brig. Gen. William Shoffner, head of public affairs at NATO's Resolute Support base in the Afghan capital Kabul, said in a statement. In Washington, White House press secretary Josh Earnest said the nation's thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families and their loved ones, and that the US will continue to work jointly with Afghans to promote peace and stability in their country. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter in statement called the attack "a painful reminder of the dangers our troops face every day in Afghanistan."

It was the deadliest attack on foreign troops in four months. On August 22, three American contractors with the RS base were killed in a suicide attack in Kabul. On August 7 and 8, Kabul was the scene of three insurgent attacks within 24 hours that left at least 35 people dead. One of the attacks, on a US special operations forces base outside Kabul, killed one US soldier and eight Afghan civilian contractors. In the year since the international drawdown, the Taliban insurgency has intensified. Although the combat mission ended last year, around 9,800 US troops and almost 4,000 NATO forces remain in Afghanistan. They have a mandate to “train, assist and advise” their Afghan counterparts, who are now effectively fighting a battle-hardened Taliban alone.

Monday’s attack came as Taliban fighters and government forces battled for control of a strategic district in the southern province of Helmand after it was overrun by insurgents, delivering a serious blow to the government’s thinly spread and exhausted forces. Mohammad Jan Rasulyar, Helmand’s deputy governor, said insurgents took control of Sangin district late Sunday. Rasulyar had taken the unusual step of alerting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to the dire security situation and requesting urgent reinforcements through an open letter posted on Facebook on Sunday, saying that he had not been able to make contact through other means.

“We had to take to social media to reach you as Helmand is falling into the hands of the enemy and it requires your immediate attention,” Rasulyar wrote in his Facebook post to Ghani. On Monday, Defense Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said Afghan Army commandoes and special forces had arrived in Sangin to push a counter-offensive. He told reporters the Afghan air force had conducted 160 combat and transport flights over Sangin in the past 48 hours. Helmand is an important Taliban base as it produces most of the world’s opium, a crop that helps fund the insurgency. Sangin district has bounced in and out of Taliban control for some years, and fighting there has produced some of the highest casualty counts among Afghan and international forces in 14 years of war. British forces saw intensive fighting there at the height of the war in 2006 and 2007. Among the 450 British troops killed during the country’s combat mission in Afghanistan, more than 100 died in Sangin. In 2008, a battalion of US Marines arrived in Helmand, followed a year later by the first wave of President [Barack Obama](#)’s “surge” effort against the Taliban, comprising 11,000 Marines who conducted operations across the province. The head of Helmand’s provincial council, Muhammad Kareem Atal, said about 65 percent of Helmand is now under Taliban control. “In every district either we are stepping back or we are handing territory over to Taliban, but still, until now, no serious action has been taken,” he said, referring to a perceived lack of support from the capital. Districts across Helmand, including Nad Ali, Kajaki, Musa Qala, Naw Zad, Gershik and Garmser, have all been threatened by Taliban takeover in recent months. Insurgents are also believed to be dug in on the outskirts of the provincial capital, [Lashkar](#) Gah. Taliban fighters, sometimes working with other insurgent groups like the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, have managed to overrun many districts across the country this year, and also staged a three-day takeover of the major northern city of Kunduz. They rarely hold territory for more than a few hours or days, but the impact on the morale of Afghan forces, and people, is substantial. Atal said more than 2,000 security forces personnel had been killed fighting in Helmand in 2015. He said a major reason Afghan forces were “losing” was the large number of soldiers and police deserting their posts in the face of the Taliban onslaught. Fighting in Afghanistan has intensified since the announcement in late July that the founder and leader of the Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Omar, had been dead for more than two years. His deputy, Mullah Akhtar Mansoor, succeeded him, causing internal ructions and delaying the likelihood that a peace dialogue with the Afghan government, halted after the announcement of Mullah Omar’s death, will restart in the foreseeable future. The expected winter lull in fighting has not yet taken place in the warmer southern provinces. US and Afghan military leaders say they are expecting a hot winter, followed by a tough fight throughout 2016. The Pentagon released a report last week warning that the security situation in Afghanistan would deteriorate as a “resilient Taliban-led insurgency remains an enduring threat to US, coalition, and Afghan forces, as well as to the Afghan people.”

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**Indian Express**

**Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**

**Procedures were more important than target in last 10 yrs: Mnaohar Parrikar**

**Parrikar added that the situation of mistrust within the ministry had changed under his command.**

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar Monday said that over the past 10 years, the procedures had become more important than the target in the functioning of the defence ministry. Launching a ‘Make in India’ portal of the defence production department, Parrikar added that his target was to provide modern equipment to the armed forces in a timely manner. “The last 10 years have seen that procedure has become more important than the target. The target is to provide modern equipment in a timely manner,” he said. Parrikar added that the situation of mistrust within the ministry had changed under his command. He said the Defence Acquisition Council would meet soon to finalise the defence procurement policy.

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**The Pioneer** **Dated – 22 Dec, 2015**  
**AFTER 32 YRS OF SERVICE, INS GODAVARI TO BE DECOMMISSIONED**  
**TOMORROW**

India's first indigenously designed and built warship Indian Naval Ship Godavari — which was long showcased around the world as a symbol of India's growing military might and self-reliance — will be decommissioned on December 23. With her decommissioning 32 years after it was inducted into the Indian Navy, INS Godavari (F-20) will complete its full life cycle, meeting all responsibilities and duties assigned, proving the success of Indian ship design and construction. While its keel was laid by Adm J Cursetji, CNS on November 3, 1978 and was launched on May 15, 1980, INS was formally commissioned into the Indian Navy on December 10, 1983. She was the first of three Godavari Class Frigates others being Ganga and Gomati. Three Brahmaputra class frigates were follow on ships to the successful Godavari class design. Replete with achievements and glory, INS Godavari has — over the past three decades — successfully been deployed in numerous operations, including 'Operation Jupiter' – 1988 (Sri Lanka), 'Operation Shield' and 'Operation Bolster' - 1994 (de-induction of Indian Army from Somalia) and 'Patrol of Gulf of Aden' (PoG) – 2009, 2011 (anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden). In 1988, in an operation called 'Operation Cactus', INS Godavari played a key role when India successfully thwarted a coup d'état against Maldivian Government. Godavari and Betwa intercepted and arrested the mercenaries, who tried to flee Male onboard the Merchant Vessel Progress Light. The mercenaries were later handed over to Male, earning great respect and goodwill for India in the international community. Being the first indigenously designed and constructed ship she was showcased around the world as a symbol of India's growing military might and self-reliance. Over the past three decades, she has shown country's flag far and wide. She has participated in numerous operations and deployments, across the expanse of the Indian Ocean and beyond. INS Godavari came about from the realization among naval planners that self reliance in design and shipbuilding was essential to build a strong navy. The Leander Frigate Project of the 1960-70s, resulted in not only the construction of six 'Giri Class' frigates (based on the Leander design and in collaboration with the UK) at Mazagon Docks Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), but also in boosting indigenous naval design and shipbuilding capability. As the project was nearing completion, the Directorate of Naval Design at IHQ MoD (Navy), evolved a design for a new generation frigate. MDL was entrusted with the construction of this indigenous frigate, which would essentially retain the steam propulsion of the 'Giri' class frigates. However, she was not merely, 'a Leander in new skin', but was much faster and with far superior firepower. Whilst the Giris were gunships, the Godavari class frigates were armed with potent surface to surface and surface to air guided missiles. INS Godavari was also among of the first frigates capable of carrying two Sea King helicopters (well known as the 'Flying Frigate', because of its integral firepower and sensor suite).

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