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India, Russia ink \$500-mn deal

India and Russia on Tuesday inked a 500-million-dollar deal for construction of two stealth frigates in Goa for the Navy. Russia will provide design, technology and some material to public sector Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for construction of these Grigorovich class ships. Incidentally, the two countries signed another one billion dollar deal some weeks back for two more stealth frigates of the same class. Russia will build these ships at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad and are expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy by 2022-23. India and Russia had agreed in 2016 for a deal to build two frigates in India and two to be imported from Russia.

As regards the two frigates to be built here, officials said here the agreement for the project was signed between GSL and Russia's state-run defence major Rosoboron export under the government-to-government framework for defence cooperation. Construction of the ships will begin in 2020 and the first one will be ready for induction in 2026 while second one will be ready by 2027.

In another development, Russia emerged as the lowest bidder for a 1.5 billion dollar deal for supplying very short range air defence systems to the Indian Army. These missiles are shoulder fired to take down aerial targets and the proposed deal envisages supply of around 5,180 missiles and about 800 launchers, officials said. The other two contenders in the race were France and Sweden. The firming up of the agreement to build two frigates here came nearly six weeks after India signed an agreement with Russia to buy a batch of S-400 air defence missile systems at a cost of around 5 billion dollars. India is going ahead with mega defence deals with Russia disregarding warnings by the US of sanctions. The Trump administration has put several Russian firms under sanctions under Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA). The US said countries engaged with Russia's defence firms may also face actions under CAATSA. India has been hoping to get a waiver from the US on the deals it was signing with Russia. Russia is time tested strategic and defence partners of India and is the largest weapon supplier to the Indian forces. The defence and security cooperation has been on an upswing between the two countries in the last few years.



India, Russia ink \$500 million deal for construction of two guided-missile stealth frigates

New Delhi: India and Russia on Tuesday inked a \$500 million deal for design and transfer of technology for the construction of two guided-missile stealth frigates at the Goa Shipyard, in yet another indication that New Delhi will continue to have expansive defence collaboration with Moscow despite the threat of financial sanctions from Washington. Defence ministry officials said the pact for construction of the two 4,000-tonne Grigorovich or Talwar-class frigates, which was inked between defence shipyard Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Russia's state-run defence export arm Rosoboron export, is part of the umbrella agreement to acquire four such warships for the Indian Navy. The defence ministry on October 23 had inked the over Rs 8,000 crore contract with Rosoboron export for the first two frigates, which are lying half-constructed at the Russian Yantar Shipyard due to a cash-crunch and bilateral problems between Russia and Ukraine.

Recommended By Colombia While the first two frigates will be imported from Russia, the other two will be built at GSL at an overall cost of around Rs 13,000 crore. India will separately acquire the Zorya gas-turbine engines to power the frigates -- four for each warship -- at a total cost of around Rs 1,000 crore from Ukraine, as was earlier reported by TOI. GSL chief Rear Admiral Shekhar Mital (retd) told TOI that the construction of the two frigates at the defence shipyard will begin in 2020, with the first one being delivered in

2026 and the second a year later. All the four frigates will be armed with the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, apart from other weapon systems and sensors.

These four will add to the six such Russian stealth frigates, three Talwar-class and three Teg-class warships, already inducted into the Indian Navy from 2003-2004 onwards. Despite the threat of sanctions under the new US law called CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act), which seeks to prevent countries from buying Russian weapons or Iranian oil, India had inked the \$5.43 billion deal for S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems with Russia last month.



Wed, 21 Nov 2018

रूस की मदद से गोवा में बनेंगे दो युद्धपोत, 50 करोड़ डॉलर का सौदा

जनसत्ता ब्यूरो
नई दिल्ली, 20 नवंबर।

भारत और रूस ने मंगलवार को भारतीय नौसेना के लिए गोवा में दो मिसाइल युद्धपोतों के निर्माण के लिए 50 करोड़ डॉलर के सौदे पर दस्तखत किए। दोनों देशों ने अमेरिका की पाबंदियों की चेतावनी के बावजूद रक्षा सहयोग जारी रखने के स्पष्ट संकेत दिए हैं। एस-400 मिसाइल रक्षा प्रणाली के बाद यह दूसरा बड़ा सौदा है, जिसको लेकर दोनों देशों ने करार किए हैं। मंगलवार को भारत और रूस ने तकनीक हस्तांतरण मॉडल के तहत इस सौदे पर दस्तखत किए। एस-400 सौदे के छह महीने के भीतर यह करार किया गया है।

रक्षा मंत्रालय के मुताबिक, रक्षा क्षेत्र की सरकारी कंपनी गोवा शिपयार्ड लिमिटेड (जीएसएल) और रूस की सरकारी रक्षा निर्माता- रोसोबोरोनएक्सपोर्ट के बीच तलवार श्रेणी के दो युद्धपोतों के निर्माण के लिए करार किया गया। यह समझौता रक्षा सहयोग के लिए सरकार से सरकार के बीच सहयोग की रूपरेखा के तहत किया गया। इस सौदे के तहत रूस भारत में युद्धपोतों के निर्माण के लिए जीएसएल को डिजाइन, प्रौद्योगिकी और कुछ सामग्री प्रदान करेगा। जहाजों में अत्याधुनिक मिसाइलें और अन्य शस्त्र प्रणालियां लगी होंगी। जीएसएल के अध्यक्ष व प्रबंध निदेशक शेखर मित्तल के मुताबिक, 'हमने गोवा में दो युद्धपोतों के निर्माण के लिए रूस के साथ 50

करोड़ डॉलर के समझौते को अंतिम रूप दिया है। युद्धपोतों का निर्माण 2020 में शुरू होगा और पहला जहाज 2026 में जलावतरण के लिए तैयार होगा। दूसरा 2027 तक तैयार होगा। रूस जिन दो युद्धपोतों को बनाने के लिए भारत को मदद दे रहा है, वे सोनार और रडार की पकड़ में नहीं आएंगे। स्टील्थ तकनीक के कारण दुश्मन के इलाके में इन्हें अपने मिशन को पूरा करने में काफी मदद मिलेगी। युद्धपोतों को आधुनिक मिसाइल और अन्य हथियार प्रणालियों से लैस किया जाएगा। रक्षा मंत्रालय के मुताबिक, इस सौदे के अलावा भारत और रूस एक अरब डॉलर के अन्य एक सौदे पर पहले ही करार कर चुके हैं। इसके तहत रूस 2023 तक भारत को दो युद्धपोत देगा।

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Wed, 21 Nov 2018

Coast guard draws up plan to add muscle

New Delhi: A decade after the 26/11 terror strikes rocked Mumbai, the Coast Guard's long delayed modernisation plans are finally taking some concrete shape now. It plans to become a 190-ship and 100-aircraft force by 2023, having pitched for a total outlay of Rs 2.09 lakh crore spread over the next 15 years. It remains to be seen whether the Coast Guard will actually get what it wants under its long term perspective plan (2017-2032), given that the annual defence budget has witnessed only paltry hikes for the last few years.

But several projects have been set rolling after the defence ministry last year approved a Rs 36,068 crore "definitive action programme (2017-2022)" for the Coast Guard to bolster its all round capabilities to undertake coastal security, EEZ surveillance, anti-piracy, anti-smuggling, oil spill and pollution-control operations, say sources. The parliamentary consultative committee for defence chaired by minister Nirmala Sitharaman last week was also that informed that the Coast Guard, which has 1,837 officers and 10,262

enrolled personnel, is “likely to achieve” its targeted force-level of 190 “surface platforms” and 100 aircraft by 2023.

The Coast Guard, smallest among the armed forces after the Army, IAF and Navy, currently has 136 surface platforms, comprising 61 patrol vessels, 57 interceptor boats and 18 hovercraft, as well as 39 Dornier aircraft, 19 Chetak helicopters and four “Dhruv” advanced light helicopters. India has taken several steps to bolster coastal security as well as ensure better coordination between intelligence and security agencies since the hijacked fishing vessel Kuber slipped through the cracks to allow Ajmal Kasab and nine other terrorists to reach Mumbai and unleash mayhem, which eventually killed over 160 and injured over 300 during the 26/11 terror attacks ten years ago. But much more clearly needs to be done. For one, a national maritime authority (NMA), which was promised by the NDA government soon after it came to power in 2014, remains missing in action. For another, about 2.2 lakh smaller fishing vessels still do not have AIS (Automatic Identification System) transponders to ensure they can be tracked.

The Coast Guard, however, hopes Phase-II of the coastal surveillance network (CSN), with 38 more stations with static radars and Electro-optic sensors, four mobile surveillance stations and integration of 13 radar stations of the VTMS (vessel traffic management systems) sites in the Gulfs of Kutch and Khambat, will be completed by 2019. Under the Rs 600 crore Phase-I, 36 radar stations on the mainland, six in Lakshadweep and Minicoy and four in Andaman and Nicobar have become operational after several delays. It was 26/11 that finally forced the government to launch the CSN two decades after it was first proposed.



Thu, 22 Nov 2018

Ahead of Army recast, veterans say don't lose focus of two-front war

Suggest budget constraints should not be only guiding principle

By Ajay Banerjee

Retired Generals of the Army have advised that forthcoming restructuring of the forces should not lose focus of the two-front simultaneous war scenario and also budget constraints should not be the only guiding principle to re-cast the Army. These opinions emerged after Army Chief Gen Bipin Rawat met former chiefs and senior officers to discuss the nuances of restructuring the force over a two-hour session in Delhi on Sunday. Details emerging now indicate that the veterans — former chiefs and Lieut Generals — were informed about the forthcoming changes. Among the invitees were those retired officers who are regular on TV shows and write columns in newspapers. Despite being retired the Generals keep in touch with their regiments for life, hence are important in conveying the “right message”.

The veterans were informed about four major in-house studies being carried out. The most important is “Reorganisation and Rightsizing of the Indian Army”, which reviews operational structures to make them efficient and future-ready by taking into account the operational situation on Western and Northern Borders. This will include creation of integrated battle groups (IBGs) fully equipped with elements of warfare. In an interview to the Tribune on November 5, General Rawat had said how these IBGs were planned to be pre-positioned facing the western (Pakistan) and northern (China) borders.

The second study is on “Reorganisation of the Army Headquarters”, aimed at integrating various wings. The third study is on “Cadre Review of Officers”, which focuses on incorporating the proposed reorganisation and restructuring and plans to have a balanced cadre to meet the aspirations of officers. This will include longer tenures as Brigadier, Maj General and Lt General and faster promotion from Colonel to Brigadier. The fourth study is on “Review of Terms of Engagement of Rank and File”, aimed at having a younger profile of officers. The retired Generals have been told that the IBGs are being “Test-bedded” — a term in military parlance for trying out a new concept in the field under real conditions.

Army plans two types of integrated battle groups (IBGs) — smaller for mountains (China border) and bigger for plains (Pakistan border). Each border may have around 8-10 IBGs. Each IBG may have 8,000-10,000 troops and comprise 4-6 infantry and armoured battalions, 2-3 artillery regiments, an engineers' unit, integrated signals unit and dedicated integral logistics. Brigadiers may command smaller IBGs and Major Generals the bigger ones. Both will be under the Corps Commander of the area.



Wed, 21 Nov 2018

Army Chief to visit Vietnam

Army Chief General Bipin Rawat will hold delegation-level talks with his counterparts on military-related issues during his four-day visit to Vietnam starting November 22. Incidentally, the Army Chief's visit to Vietnam comes two days after President Ram Nath Kovind paid a three-day visit to that country. During the bilateral visit, Rawat will also interact with senior military hierarchy of Vietnam besides visiting key military formations and establishments. The Army Chief is scheduled to meet and interact with Defence Minister General Ngo Xuan Lich and Deputy Chief of General Staff Senior Lieutenant General Pham Hong Huong, Deputy Chief of the General Staff during the visit. Rawat will visit Headquarters of an Infantry Division near Hanoi and Headquarters of 7 Military Region at Ho Chi Minh, officials said here on Tuesday.

During the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Vietnam in 2016 the relationship between the two countries was upgraded to comprehensive strategic partnership. Defence cooperation has increased exponentially over the last few years amongst all services including exchange programmes, training assistance and cooperation on various service specific issues. Rawat's visit will be yet another milestone in giving impetus to the strategic partnership between India and Vietnam and taking forward the military to military cooperation to the next level, they said.



Thu, 22 Nov 2018

Navy makes formal request for multi-role U.S. Copters

India made a formal request to the U.S. for the purchase of 24 MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters (MRH) for the Navy in a deal estimated at \$2bn. This is among a series of defence procurements and inductions from the U.S. and Russia in the last two months. "The Government issued the Letter of Request (LoR) on November 15 for procurement of 24 MRH from the U.S. government under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route," a defence official said.

The Navy is presently facing a critical shortage of helicopters and several frontline warships are plying with empty helicopter decks. These helicopters are being procured as replacement for 15 Sea King ASW helicopters de-inducted from service in 1991 and one Sea King 42B MRH lost in accident. The current MRHs in service, Sea King 42Bs, were inducted in the 1980s. In August, ahead of the inaugural India-US 2+2 dialogue, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement.

The LoR was signed and sent after the Navy received the pricing and availability details from the U.S. Now the U.S. will get back with the price quote, following which contract negotiations would begin to conclude the final deal. As the deal is through the FMS route, the process is expected to be completed in a short time-frame. Given the urgency for helicopters, the U.S. is likely to take some MH-60R helicopters off the flight deck of their newest aircraft carrier USS Gerald Ford. In July, the USS Gerald Ford went for year-long upgrades and fixes. "We will likely get about 4-5 MH-60s from the Gerald Ford immediately once the deal is signed," the official said. All the helicopters would be delivered in a phased manner from 2020-24.

In demand



- India Issued Letter of Request (LoR) on November 15 for purchase of 24 Multi-Role helicopters from the U.S. government

- Deal through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route of the U.S. Estimated to cost around \$2 billion

- MH-60R is the mainstay of the U.S. Navy's Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) capability

- Over 300 MH-60R Seahawk helicopters worldwide with over 60,000 flight hours accumulated

- It is capable of carrying out anti-ship, anti-submarine, electronic warfare and net-centric over-the-horizon offensive and defensive roles

- In service with the U.S. Navy, the Royal Danish Navy, the Royal Australian Navy and the Royal Saudi Naval Forces

MAIL TODAY

Wed, 21 Nov 2018

U.S. Navy shows off a deadly volley of weapons

THE United States Navy has released a dramatic video montage showing how it tested weapons in the California desert over a period of months.

The video was produced by the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division, the unit responsible for testing capabilities of weapons used on naval aviation aircraft.

The video shows tests of UTAP-22 drones, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles (MANPADS), guided air-to-ground munitions, bunker-buster bombs, and Tactical Tomahawk cruise missiles, according to The Drive.

The weapons tests, which use targets such as vehicles and structures, are conducted every so often at the Naval Air Weapons Station in China Lake, a dry lake located in the Mojave Desert just outside of Death Valley.

'Few areas in the world offer such wide variety of geographical features in close proximity...mountains, deserts, canyons, caves and forests,' the Navy said.

'The unencroached air and land ranges at China Lake provide unmatched geographic conditions in which to develop and test weapon systems and explore tactics for desert and mountain environments.'

The footage shows massive explosions that are part of the research, development, and evaluation of a litany of weapons systems.

Daily Mail