

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## **Defence Ministry to discuss proposal on acquiring torpedoes for INS Arihant and Scorpene-class submarines**

*The Navy had issued a Request for Information more than a year ago and has been in discussion on the formalities with the vendors and the Defence Ministry acquisition wing*

New Delhi: Already delayed by many years, the Defence Ministry is expected to discuss a proposal for acquiring heavyweight torpedoes for the nuclear submarine INS Arihant and the six Scorpene-class submarines being built for the Indian Navy.

"A high-level meeting of the Defence Ministry is expected to discuss the proposal to acquire heavy-weight torpedoes for the INS Arihant nuclear submarine and the submarines of the Kalvari-class of the Indian Navy. The Kalvari class are originally the Scorpene submarines of France built in India at the Mazagon Dockyards Limited (MDL)," sources in the Navy told ANI.

The Defence Ministry is also likely to take a call on the tender to be issued by the Navy for the heavyweight torpedoes and also on the number to be acquired. The Navy had issued a Request for Information more than a year ago and has been in discussion on the formalities with the vendors and the Defence Ministry acquisition wing.

The DRDO is also developing a heavyweight torpedo as the next version of its light torpedoes for submarines and surface ships.

The proposal for acquisition of the torpedoes has been going on for more than 10 years now as an earlier proposal to acquire it from an Italian firm WASS was scrapped due to its alleged links with the scam-tainted AgustaWestland and Finmeccanica group of companies allegedly involved in the chopper scam.

The heavyweight torpedoes are the main weapons of any submarine operating underwater against both enemy submarines and surface warships.

At the moment, the Kalvari class and the INS Arihant are relying on the old torpedoes in the naval inventory for operations.

INS Arihant is the first indigenously-built and developed nuclear submarine of the Indian Navy, and the vessel completed its maiden operational deployment in the Indian Ocean Region a few months ago.

The strategic submarines are operated by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and as per plans, the Navy will have a fleet of at least five nuclear submarines which can carry long-range ballistic missiles.

The Navy has already inducted one of the Kalvari class boats and is expected to induct the remaining five in the next four years.

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/jan/31/defence-ministry-to-discuss-proposal-on-acquiring-torpedoes-for-ins-arihant-and-scorpene-class-subma-1932357.html>

## Rs 40K cr OK'd for 6 desi submarines

In an effort to give a major boost to Indian private industry to manufacture hi-tech platforms, the Government on Thursday decided to allow the local firms to build six conventional submarines in the country under the Strategic Partnership programme. The total cost of the proposed deal is over Rs 40,000 crore. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman gave the go ahead.

The apex body deciding the acquisitions of the three services also gave the nod for acquisition of 5,000 Milan anti-tank guided missiles for the Army. The public sector Bharat Dynamics Limited will manufacture these missiles having a range of nearly three km. The cost of the deal is about Rs 1,200 crores.

The Government some time back had cleared the indigenous construction of six submarines known as Project-75 I but they were to be built under licensed production after inviting tenders. However, the Strategic Partnership allows the India manufacturer to tie up with the foreign vendor and build the weapon systems in India. The Strategic Partnership aims at fast tracking the development of Indian industry's capabilities to build fighter jets, helicopters, tanks, warships and submarines within the country thereby expanding the defence industrial base.

Incidentally, this is the second project under the Strategic Partnership to be cleared. The first one to get the approval in August last year was for building 111 naval utility helicopters.

The approval for six submarines under the P-75 I programme will give a fillip to the Navy's plans to acquire additional submarines after the six Scorpene submarines join the fleet in next two years. These submarines are being built with French collaboration at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL), Mumbai.

Explaining the significance of the decision about submarines, officials said later construction of submarines under the Strategic Partnership programme will provide a major boost to the existing submarine design and manufacturing eco-system through transfer of design and equipment technology as well as necessary skill sets.

On the main objective of Strategic Partnership programme, they said it envisages indigenous manufacturing of major defence platforms by an Indian strategic partner who will collaborate with foreign original equipment manufacturer (OEM) to set up production facilities in the country.

The Strategic Partnership model has a long term vision of promoting India as a manufacturing hub for defence equipment through transfer of niche technologies and higher indigenous content thereby enhancing self-sufficiency for meeting future requirement of the armed forces, they said.

The DAC also approved changes in Defence Procurement Procedure-2016 in the third phase of reforms focussed on making the procedures industry friendly and simplifying unwieldy aspects to ease conduct of business and facilitate smoother and faster procurement of operational urgent requirement of the armed forces.

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2019/india/rs-40k-cr-ok---d-for-6-desi-submarines.html>



## Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar takes charge as Western Naval Command chief

Vice Admiral Ajit Kumar P, PVSM, AVSM, VSM took over as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command on Thursday.

Vice Admiral Kumar succeeds Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, who retired upon superannuation, after a career spanning nearly four decades in the Indian Navy.

At a ceremonial parade at the Naval Air Station Shikra, the outgoing and incoming Commander-in-Chief's were accorded a guard of honour after which they proceeded to the Headquarters of the Western Naval Command for a formal handing-taking over. On completion, Vice Admiral Luthra was "pulled out" in true Naval tradition.

An alumnus of Sainik School Kazhakootam and the National Defence Academy, Vice Admiral Kumar was commissioned in the Indian Navy on July 1, 1981. As a specialist in Missiles and Gunnery, the Flag Officer has served onboard frontline warships of the Indian Navy and abroad.

Vice Admiral Kumar has the rare distinction of commanding six warships, including two foreign warships. These include guided missile corvette INS Kulish, guided missile frigate INS Talwar, guided missile destroyers INS Mumbai and INS Mysore. The officer has completed the Naval Higher Command Course and is also an alumnus of the prestigious Naval War College, Newport, United States.

Vice Admiral Kumar has also been the Flag Officer Commanding of the Eastern Fleet, Commanding Officer of Gunnery and Missiles Training School - INS Dronacharya, served as Assistant Chief of Personnel (Human Resources Development) at IHQ MoD (Navy) and Chief of Staff of Southern Naval Command.

He was the Vice Chief of Naval Staff at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi in his last appointment prior to assuming charge as the Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Western Naval Command. In recognition of his service, he has been awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2006, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2014 and Param Vishist Seva Medal in 2019 by the President of India.

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

*Fri, 1 Feb 2019*

## **Rafale jets to soon join IAF fleet, improve its strike capability: President**

New Delhi: The Indian Air Force is preparing to welcome the new generation ultramodern Rafale fighter aircraft in its fleet to strengthen its strike capabilities, President Ram Nath Kovind Thursday said.

The government has been facing attack from the opposition over the multi-crore aircraft deal.

Addressing the joint sitting of Parliament at the start of the Budget Session, he said neglecting the country's defence needs, even for a moment, will prove detrimental to the present and future of the country.

He said the new agreements relating to the defence sector signed last year, the purchase of new defence equipment and indigenous production under the 'Make in India' initiative have all helped in boosting the morale of defence forces and in increasing the country's military self-reliance.

"After a gap of many decades, the Indian Air Force is preparing to welcome, in the coming months, its new generation ultra-modern fighter aircraft Rafale and strengthen its strike capability," he said.

The Congress and other opposition parties have been attacking the government over the Rafale deal, alleging corruption and accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of favouritism. The government has denied the allegations.

The President also referred to the 2016 'surgical strikes' carried out on terror launch pads across the border and said, "Through the surgical strike on cross border terror posts, India has shown its new policy and strategy."

Noting that India has been a staunch supporter of friendly ties with all countries, the President said there is need to constantly strengthen the country's capabilities to tackle any challenges. He also said that India last year joined the handful of countries that possess the Nuclear Triad capability.

Congratulating the country's security forces which are constantly striving to strengthen India's internal security, he said their concerted efforts have played a crucial role in reducing terrorism and violence.

In the last few years, a record number of youngsters in the Maoist areas have come forward to join the mainstream, he noted.

"Our defence forces and their morale symbolise the prowess of India of the 21st century. Not only has my Government fulfilled the demand for 'One Rank One Pension' that had been pending for four decades, but it has also disbursed arrears amounting to more than Rs 10,700 crore to 20 lakh ex-servicemen," he said.

The president said the Police Memorial, which was dedicated to the nation last year, seeks to honour their sacrifice and also preserves the memories of their sacrifice for future generations.

He also noted that due to his Government's diplomatic success, India's voice is heard with respect in the international fora.

"My Government has not only enhanced the credibility and prestige of the passports held by the Indian diaspora but has also stood by them in their hour of need. During the last four years, more than 2 Lakh 26 thousand Indians stranded abroad have been rescued and brought back to the country," he said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/rafale-jets-to-soon-join-iaf-fleet-improve-its-strike-capability-president/articleshow/67770674.cms>

# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Fri, 1 Feb 2019

## IAF may crunch training for want of planes

By Manu Pubby

The air force is heading into what could be a training crisis with all its plans to acquire new trainer aircraft hitting a roadblock and two indigenous programmes to develop basic and intermediate training planes missing critical internal deadlines.

The air force has painted a grim picture for its trainer aircraft fleet by pointing out that efforts to develop a basic trainer under the HTT 40 program is running five years behind schedule with Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd unlikely to even be certified for flight by 2021 even if there are 'no uncertainties in development testing'.

The air force currently relies of the Pilatus PC 7 turbo trainers for the first stage of training. While 75 of the aircraft were bought under an emergency purchase in 2012, a subsequent plan to acquire 38 more has been on hold as the Swiss manufacturer is facing a probe for alleged corruption in the deal.

The other indigenous program to develop an intermediate jet trainer (IJT) is delayed by over 14 years, with all efforts to prove the aircraft fit for service failing. HAL is believed to be entering into a consultancy with a US based firm to rectify the aircraft at a cost of Rs 90 cr.

Sources said that the redesign would take a long time, given that the aircraft would need to be certified again – a process that can take up to 5 years. The air force is meanwhile retiring its Kiran Mk 2 trainers that were used for intermediate training, given that the aircraft is past its service life. The Kiran Mk 2s were delivered in 1985.

**Three-tiered Training in for Big Change**

ADVANCED TRAINERS	BASIC TRAINERS	INTERMEDIATE TRAINERS
<b>CURRENTLY USED: HAL-MADE HAWK AIRCRAFT, 123 ORDERED</b>	<b>CURRENTLY USED: PILATUS PC 7, 75 IN SERVICE</b>	<b>CURRENTLY USED: KIRAN MK 2, BEING PHASED OUT. HAVE BEEN IN SERVICE SINCE 1985</b>
HAL made gun pods for the trainers behind schedule, impacting weapons training of pilots	Additional order for 38 stalled on corruption allegations	HAL's IJT programme running 14 years behind schedule, new US consultancy being appointed but establishment not confident. Intermediate stage of training now being crunched to make it a two-tiered programme
Order for 20 additional planes not going through as HAL has quoted much higher rate for the smaller order		

**New orders for Hawk, Pilatus trainers stalled; HAL developed planes miss all deadlines**

On the third level of training, the air force is currently using the BAE Hawk jet trainers, 123 of which were ordered in 2004 for the air force and Navy. However, an air force projected request for 20 additional planes, along with a possible order for 12 new jets for the Navy has not been able to move forward.

The proposal has been rejected by the defence ministry that has contended that the commercial offer by HAL is much higher than what the planes were manufactured by it here earlier were priced at.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iaf-may-crunch-training-for-want-of-planes/articleshow/67780119.cms>



Fri, 1 Feb 2019

## **‘Fighting abilities affected’: IAF chief on force’s long association with HAL**

*The air chief was delivering the 10th ‘Jumbo’ Majumdar International Conference at the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) in New Delhi and was responding to criticism about the IAF’s alleged dislike for Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, the indigenous fighter made by HAL*

*By Sudhi Ranjan Sen*

The Indian Air Force’s efforts to support the state-owned aircraft maker Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has affected its fighting capabilities, Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa said on Friday.

IAF has only cooperated with HAL; “as a service; we have made concessions for HAL, but will the enemy make any concession for us when we face them in battle?” he questioned.

The air chief was delivering the 10th ‘Jumbo’ Majumdar International Conference at the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) in New Delhi and was responding to criticism about the IAF’s alleged dislike for Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, the indigenous fighter made by HAL.

“IAF has not shifted any goal posts as alleged,” ACM Dhanoa said countering allegations that developments of the Tejas fighter suffered because the IAF changed specifications and requirements frequently. On the contrary, the IAF chief said, “We have maintained the Air Staff Quality Requirements (ASQR or specifications) of the first 20 LCA Mk-I at standards issued in 1985.” And even then HAL has been able to manufacture only “10 fighters”, he added.

A HAL spokesperson declined comment on the air chief’s comments which come at a time when the state-owned aircraft maker is in financial distress of some sort and also when it is in the middle of the controversy surrounding the government’s Rafale fighter deal.

A HAL official who spoke on condition of anonymity asked: “Doesn’t IAF allow concessions and modifications to foreign vendors? Concessions are also given to Defence Research Development Organisation and the Aeronautical Development Agency. Why is HAL being singled out?”

Putting HAL on the mat, ACM Dhanoa said upgrading of one squadron of Jaguar deep strike bombers, nearly two squadrons of Su-30MKi, India’s mainstay fighters, and one squadron of Mirage-2000, a multi-role fighter, all work being done by the state-owned firm, was far behind schedule. “Additional production of Su-30 is delayed by over two years and LCA production commitment (has been delayed) by over six years,” he added.

In addition, the air chief said in its quest for indigenisation, IAF has lost as many as 17 personnel including test pilots and engineers in air accidents. These accidents happened when “testing and evaluation” of the indigenous platforms such as Marut fighters and Kiran trainers.

The National Democratic Alliance’s deal to buy 36 Rafale fighters in a government to government deal from France has become controversial. It replaces a deal by the previous government to buy 126 aircraft of which 108 were to be assembled in India by HAL. The government has said the old deal wasn’t viable. The opposition Congress and others have claimed the new deal is costlier than the old one, that due process wasn’t

followed, and that the new deal was done to benefit Reliance Defence, an offset partner of Rafale maker Dassault. Reliance, Dassault and the government have denied this. The government has also said the prices are not comparable because the new deal also includes India-specific customisation and weapons. The Supreme Court recently said it believes due process was followed in the deal and that it wouldn't go into the pricing of the deal, effectively giving the government a clean chit.

However, the controversy continues to rage on. In the course of this, HAL's ability to manufacture aircraft has also been called into question.

The IAF chief also said that the force can't cut down either expenditure or its workforce anymore. "The entire salary bill of the IAF is Rs.16621 crores, while our capital expenditure is Rs 35407 crores. We need Rs 8870 crores for fuel and maintenance." He added: "There is no way we can cut our manpower to pay for our capital acquisitions."

Explaining the high cost of operations, the IAF chief explained: "Manning of a Su-30 squadron is nearly twice that of a MiG-21 squadron and the cost of per hour operation is 3.5 times higher."

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/fighting-abilities-affected-iaf-chief-on-force-s-long-association-with-hal/story-JQzKtAFdJ1yc1WuLGOwq1N.html>