



# CONTENTS

S. No.	TITLE	Page No.
	<b>DRDO News</b>	<b>1-1</b>
	<b>DRDO Technology News</b>	
1.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers successfully bids for a DRDO project	<i>Buisness standard</i> 1
	<b>Defence News</b>	<b>1-3</b>
	<b>Defence Strategic: National/International</b>	
2.	For 2 years in a row, army inked 100% con-tracts with indigenous firms under capital procurements	<i>The Print</i> 1
3.	Conduct of 6th edition of Indian navy - royal navy of oman staff talks	<i>Press information bureau</i> 3
	<b>Science &amp; Technology News</b>	<b>4-5</b>
4.	In a first, SpaceX's most powerful rocket Starship makes 'soft landing' in Indian Ocean	<i>Mint</i> 4

**DRDO News**

**DRDO Technology News**

## **Business Standard**

*Fri, 07Jun 2024*

### **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers successfully bids for a DRDO project**

Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers has become the Lowest bidder (L1) for construction of a Research Vessel for Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The order value is likely to be Rs. 500 crore approx. The contract is currently under negotiation and has not yet been signed.

[https://www.business-standard.com/markets/capital-market-news/garden-reach-shipbuilders-engineers-successfully-bids-for-a-drdo-project-124060700173\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/markets/capital-market-news/garden-reach-shipbuilders-engineers-successfully-bids-for-a-drdo-project-124060700173_1.html)

**Defence News**

**Defence Strategic:  
National/International**

## **ThePrint**

*Fri, 07 June 2024*

### **For 2 years in a row, army inked 100% contracts with indigenous firms under capital procurements**

Moving towards greater indigenous acquisitions, the Indian Army for last two financial years, 2022-23 and 2023-24, inked all its contracts under capital procurements, including those under emergency category, with local companies.

The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) was granted to 83 percent of Indian companies and 17 percent of foreign vendors in 2023-24. It is unclear whether contracts with foreign vendors that received AoN were either signed at all or directed to Indian companies. No AoN was granted to foreign companies in the financial year 2022-23. The AoN is the first step towards the procurement process. Once the government gives an AoN, it gives its assent to the armed forces for procurement of defence equipment. Five years back, the scenario was completely different. In the financial year 2019-20, 57 percent of the Army contracts went to Indian companies and the remaining 43 percent to foreign vendors.

The very next year, the share of contracts with Indian firms rose to 73 percent while foreign companies accounted for 27 percent. This number remained the same in 2021-2022.

Sources in the defence establishment told The Print said that for increased capability development, the Army is looking at indigenising sustenance of weapon systems which includes spares and ammunition. "Today, we already have these components indigenised, however, there still is some amount of foreign dependence for these items," one of the sources said.

Even as the focus is on procuring indigenous items in this area, there are two categories of exceptions. These include ammunition for legacy weapon systems with limited years of residual service left and will likely be deemed obsolete soon. Zsu-23-4 Shilka guns and the Bofors L70 fall in this category.

The other category includes weapon systems which have a high cost but low demand. Smerch rockets, for instance, are being procured from Russia. The sources told ThePrint that the Army would now also concentrate on making sustenance, including spares and ammunition, completely indigenous. Sustenance of weapon systems falls under revenue procurements.

The shift in procurement comes after the government introduced several negative import lists in 2020, which was later renamed as the 'positive indigenisation list'.

Introduced last year, the fifth such list estimated the total cost of indigenisation to be Rs 1.4 lakh crore and included equipment such as the futuristic infantry combat vehicles (FICVs), all-terrain vehicles, remotely piloted airborne vehicles as well as tactical drones.

In addition, to increase procurements from indigenous industry and lower dependence on foreign vendors, the Ministry of Defence had mandated the services to procure 50 percent of contracts in the first three tranches from the domestic industry. In the fourth tranche, the ceiling was raised to at least 75 percent.

While the Army remains import dependent for different parts of various systems, the procurement is done by the companies assembling or manufacturing defence items. For instance, the Zorawar light tanks will be equipped with Cummins engines, procured from the US.

In several cases, while the equipment is developed abroad, the manufacturing is done locally through transfer of technology, as in the case of the Russian origin T90 tanks that are manufactured by Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) in Chennai.

Among the items that the Army signed contracts for during 2023-2024 are telescopic sight for assault rifles, border security systems, remotely piloted aerial vehicles, AI-based satellite image analysis, T-72 driving simulator, night sight for assault rifles, ALH Mk-III, and BMP-II upgradation.

Under emergency procurements, it signed contracts for ballistic helmets with SMPP Ltd, Combat Weapon Training Simulator with Zentech Pvt Ltd, Quick Reaction Force vehicle with Bharat

Forge, Light Strike Vehicle with Force Motors, Remotely Piloted Aerial Vehicle with Aeroarc Pvt Ltd, Hand Held Thermal Imager (HHTI) with TASL, loitering munitions, vehicle mounted infantry mortar systems with Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd and fourth generation ATGM launcher from KRAS.

<https://theprint.in/defence/for-2-years-in-a-row-army-inked-100-contracts-with-indigenous-firms-under-capital-procurements/2110466/>



**Press Information Bureau**  
**Government of India**

*Fri, 07 Jun 2024*

## **Conduct of 6th edition of Indian Navy - Royal Navy of Oman staff talks**

Towards further strengthening the existing Defence relations between India and Oman in the maritime domain, 6th edition of Staff Talks between Indian Navy (*IN*) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) were conducted from 04 – 05 Jun 24 at New Delhi.

The delegation from RNO was led by Cmde Jasim Mohammed Ali Al Balushi, DG Ops & Plans. Cmde Manmeet Singh Khurana, Commodore (FC) led the delegation from *IN*. The series of Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks is testimony of the strong bilateral relations between two historical maritime neighbours.

During the Staff Talks, both sides deliberated on common maritime security challenges, which necessitate enhanced interoperability at sea, and also discussed issues pertaining to operational collaboration, information sharing, Maritime Domain Awareness, training, meteorology, hydrography and technical assistance.

The delegation also visited IFC-IOR, Gurugram and called on VAdm Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy.

Oman is one of the India's closest partners in the Gulf region and regular conduct of Staff Talks plays a key role in consolidating gains in naval cooperation and deepening the existing partnership between both Navies.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2023162>

### **In a first, SpaceX's most powerful rocket Starship makes 'soft landing' in Indian Ocean**

SpaceX's mega Starship rocket achieved its first ever splashdown during a test flight Thursday. This was deemed as a major milestone for the prototype system that may one day send humans to Mars. The most powerful rocket ever built blasted off from the company's Starbase in Boca Chica, Texas at 7:50 am (1250 GMT). It then entered the orbit, soaring halfway across the globe. The journey lasted around an hour and five minutes.

The rocket successfully survived the re-entry through Earth's atmosphere and splashed down in the Indian Ocean as planned during its fourth test mission after launching from south Texas.

"Splashdown confirmed! Congratulations to the entire SpaceX team on an exciting fourth flight test of Starship!," SpaceX posted in X on Thursday. Meanwhile, SpaceX CEO Elon Musk posted, "Despite loss of many tiles and a damaged flap, Starship made it all the way to a soft landing in the ocean!"

The company had earlier said, "If Starship manages to make it all the way to re-entry, we'll collect valuable data on the vehicle at hypersonic speeds, or more than 5x the speed of sound." Thursday's flight was a significant feat for SpaceX's Starship, as the three previous attempts ended in its fiery destruction. It was the fourth launch of the world's biggest and most powerful rocket, standing nearly 400 feet (121 meters) tall. "This time, the rocket and the spacecraft managed to splash down in a controlled fashion, making the hourlong flight the longest and most successful yet," news agency Associated Press reported.

SpaceX had earlier said the Starship, on its fourth test, will fly a similar trajectory as the previous flight test, with a targeted splashdown of the Ship in the Indian Ocean. "The fourth flight of Starship will aim to bring us closer to the rapidly reusable future on the horizon," it added.

Sparks and debris flew off the spaceship as it came down over the Indian Ocean northwest of Australia, dramatic video captured by an onboard camera showed, even as it succeeded in its goal of surviving atmospheric re-entry, news agency AFP reported.

During the last test in March, the spaceship managed to fly for 49 minutes before it was lost as it careened into the atmosphere at around 27,000 kilometers per hour (nearly 17,000 mph). Since then SpaceX made several software and hardware upgrades. On Thursday it also succeeded in the first

soft splashdown for the first stage booster called Super Heavy, in the Gulf of Mexico, to massive applause from engineers at mission control in Hawthorne in California.

#### About Starship and Super Heavy booster

Designed to eventually be fully reusable, Starship stands 397 feet (121 meters) tall with both stages combined – 90 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty. Its Super Heavy booster produces 16.7 million pounds (74.3 Meganewtons) of thrust, about twice as powerful as the Saturn V rockets used during the Apollo missions – though later versions should be more powerful still...

<https://www.livemint.com/science/news/in-a-first-spacexs-most-powerful-rocket-starship-makes-soft-landing-in-india-ocean-watch-video-elon-musk-reacts-11717689258680.html>

© The news items are selected by Defence Science Library, DESIDOC from Print Newspapers and Authentic Online News Resources (mainly on DRDO, Defence and S&T)