

DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol I | Issue I | May 2022



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

CONTENTS

Atmanirbhar Bharat

- INS Vikrant to be handed over to the Indian Navy in August
- From missiles to glide bombs, India set to test several advanced weapons system
- Indian Navy to acquire GISAT-II satellite
- Indian Army to buy 12 More Weapon-Locating Radars for China Border
- RM launches India-made warships, INS Surat and INS Udaygiri
- HANSA-NG Aircraft successfully completes Engine Relight test in Air

Arms Procurement

- India to ink 'repeat order' deal for 73,000 SIG716 rifles from the US
- India looks to diversify its arms suppliers

Defence Diplomacy

- Fourth edition of India-Bangladesh CORPAT takes place

Key Events/News

- BRO celebrates 62nd raising day on 7 May 2022
- Assam Rifles honours heroes of historic 'Operation Dudhi'
- Abhilasha Barak becomes Indian Army's first woman combat aviator
- INS Gomati decommissioned at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai
- IAF ranks third in World Air Power Index

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, to be handed over to the Indian Navy in August

Constructed at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) [INS Vikrant](#) began its second sea trial before being inducted into the Indian Navy on Independence Day this year. The 40,000 tonnes carrier worth Rs 23,000 crores, will accommodate MiG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31 helicopters, and MH-60R multi-role helicopters. The Director of CSL, Bejoy Bhasker, in a press conference said CSL can build a vessel with same specifications (45,000 tonnes capacity) within five years. He also added that CSL is going to expand the capacity of dry dock to build vessels up to 70,000 tonnes. The shipyard, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, also bagged a contract of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts.

From missiles to glide bombs, India set to test several advanced weapons system

India is set to test a series of indigenously developed weapons that includes smart anti-airfield weapon, anti-radiation missiles, long-range [glide bombs](#) and air-to-air missiles. These include Astra-1 and Astra-2 BVRAAMs and new generation anti-radiation missiles (NGARM). The IAF has already ordered 250 Astra-1 to arm its Sukhoi fighters. The test of smart anti-airfield weapon (SAAW) to destroy enemy airfields, bunkers, and aircraft hangers is also in the works.

Indian Navy to acquire GISAT-II satellite

As part of its modernisation and network-centric warfare and communications programme, the Indian Navy is to acquire a dedicated [Earth Imaging Satellite-II](#) (GISAT-II). The satellite, when operational, will improve the navy's operating capabilities in the Indian Ocean region, which is strategically and geopolitically crucial, especially given China's growing influence. The Navy has been allotted Rs 45,250 crores for FY 2022-23 for the modernisation of its capabilities. The GISAT-II is among the 21 planned procurements, apart from some long-term acquisitions.

Indian Army to Buy 12 More Weapon-Locating Radars for China Border

The Indian Army is acquiring 12 [Made-in-India weapons locating radars](#) to boost defences on the borders with China. The 'Swathi' radars, developed by DRDO and BEL, will cost Rs 1000 crores. The radar will provide the live location of incoming bombs, shells, rockets and mortars in the range of 50 km and enable the Indian army to counter strike the enemy location.

RM launches India-made warships, INS Surat and INS Udaygiri

Raksha Mantri [Rajnath Singh](#) launched two frontline warships of the Indian Navy at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Surat is the fourth guided-missile destroyer in Project 15B class, while the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Udaygiri is the second ship of Project 17A Stealth

Frigates. The ships are an improvement over the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class) with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems. Both ships are designed by Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built at Mazagaon Dock Limited (MDL).

HANSA-NG Aircraft successfully completes Engine Relight test in Air

Developed at CSIR-NAL, the 2-seater trainer aircraft [HANSA-NG](#) has passed an in-flight engine relight test at DRDO's ATR facility in Challakere on 17 May 2022. During the flight test, the trainer aircraft reached the height of 7000-8000 feet with a top speed of 60-70 knots. The flight tests were monitored by Abbani Rinku, Project Director of HANSA along with design team of CSIR-NAL and flight test crew from ASTE, Wg Cdr Senthil Kumar, Flight Test Director, Sq Ldr Sahil Sarin, Safety pilot and Gp Capt M Rangachari, Chief Test Pilot.

ARMS PROCUREMENT

India intends to operate S-400 missiles systems to defend against threats from Pak, China: Pentagon

India is going to deploy its [S-400 missile](#) defence system that it received from Russia to defend against China and Pakistan, Lt.Gen. Scott Berrier, Director of Defence Intelligence Agency told the Senate Armed Services committee. He also stated that in order to boost its domestic arms industry, India is pursuing extensive military modernisation efforts by developing its

own hypersonic, cruise, ballistic and air-defence missiles. India's military was seeking to procure advanced surveillance systems to strengthen its land and sea borders and boost offensive and defensive cyber capabilities.

US Preps \$500 Million Package to Wean India from Russian Weapons: Report

The US is going to offer India a military package that includes [foreign military financing](#) of \$500 million to make deeper security ties with India and cut its dependence on Russian weapons. This would make India one of the largest recipients of the package of such aid, behind Israel and Egypt. In the last decade, India has bought \$4 billion of military equipment from the US and \$25 billion from Russia. The report noted that the Biden administration is looking at India as a long-term partner in countering China in the Indo-Pacific region and as a net security provider in the region.

India to ink 'repeat order' deal for 73,000 SIG716 rifles from the US

Amid reports of alleged cancellations of the proposed order of [SIG716](#), reports noted that the MoD is in the final stage of approval of a repeat order for 73,000 SIG716 assault rifles for its frontline forces. In February 2019, 72,400 rifles were contracted from SIG Sauer Inc., USA under the 'Buy Global' category. SiG716 7.62*51 mm calibre was chosen over 5.56*45 mm because of its longer effective range, more lethal and automatic firing mode as compared to INSAS rifles that the Indian Army has used for decades.

India looks to diversify its arms suppliers

India is planning to diversify its weapons supplier in order to cut down its dependence on Russia. To boost the domestic [arms industry](#), the government has allocated \$324 million this year. The government is also examining whether Eastern European nations, which use similar equipment like India, could provide spare parts or ammunition, for Russian-sourced equipment, even as Russia is being asked to deliver on key projects which have been agreed, like AK-203 assault rifles, among others.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Fourth edition of India-Bangladesh CORPAT takes place in Northern Bay of Bengal

The [coordinated patrol drill](#) between the navies of India and Bangladesh (CORPAT) was conducted in northern Bay of Bengal on 22-23 May. From India, indigenous warships, INS Kora and INS Sumedha participated in the drill. BNS Ali Haider and BNS Abu Ubaidah participated from the Bangladesh's navy. The drill helped to enhance mutual understanding and interoperability between the two navies to counter transnational threats at sea.

KEY EVENTS/NEWS

BRO celebrates its 62nd raising day on 7 May 2022

At an event organised in Delhi, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the ranks of [BRO](#) celebrating its 62nd raising day on 7 May 2022. Founded in 1960, BRO

is the lead road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence. It is responsible for the construction of 53,000 km of roads across the border on the northern and western front. It has also constructed roads in friendly nations – Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Rajnath Singh pointed out that the government increased the capital budget of BRO by 40 percent to Rs 3,500 crores in FY 2022-23, and reiterated the government's commitment to nation's security and development of border areas. He noted that BRO was not just a construction organisation but a shining example of unity, discipline, dedication and devotion to duty.

Assam Rifles honours heroes of historic 'Operation Dudhi'

Assam Rifles revisited the memories of courage and valour of its jawans when DG, Assam Rifles, Lt Gen P. C. Nair, visited Nepal and met with survivors of the force's 7th battalion. The unit had killed 72 militants, apprehended 13 more and seized cache of arms and ammunition 30 years ago in Kashmir. [Operation Dudhi](#) was conducted on 3 May 1991 under the command of Subedar Padam Bahadur Chetri. A senior officer of the Assam Rifles stated the operation "will forever remain etched in the annals of the history of Assam Rifles."

26-year-old Abhilasha Barak becomes the Indian Army's first woman combat aviator

At a ceremony held in Nasik, Haryana-based [Abhilasha Barak](#), along with 36

others pilots, was awarded coveted wings by the Director General and Colonel Commandant of Army Aviation. She became the first women combat aviator of the Indian Army Aviation Corps (AAC). She has been assigned to the 2072 Army Aviation Squadron.

INS Gomati decommissioned at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai

[INS Gomati](#), the Godavari-class guided missile frigate, was decommissioned after 34 glorious years at Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on 28 May 2022. Named after the River Gomati, the frigate was commissioned on 16 April 1988, by the then Defence Minister K.C. Pant at Mazagaon Dock Limited (MDL), Bombay. INS Gomati was the third ship of the Godavari class guided-missile frigates and the oldest ship of India's Western fleet. It has participated in various naval operations like OP Cactus, OP Parakram, OP Rainbow, and many other bilateral and multination naval exercises.

IAF ranks third in World Air Power Index

World Directory of Modern [Military aircraft](#) (WDMMA) released the World Air Power Ranking. India was placed in the 3rd position – above China, Israel and France. The US and Russia occupied the first and second positions respectively. WDMMA publishes rankings on basis of various countries' air force's strength and weakness. It uses the True Value Rating formula (TVR Formula), giving weightages to modernization, among other factors. India was given a TVR score of 69.4, while the US and Russia secured 242.9 and 114.9 respectively.

'The Newsletter is a compilation of media reports and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Manohar Parrikar IDSA or the Ministry of Defence, Government of India'.