

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman with Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba arrives to attend the Naval Commanders' Conference at Sena Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday. — PTI

## **Strong Navy sign of prosperity, says Nirmala Sitharaman**

*Sitharaman was addressing the naval leadership during the ongoing four-day-long Naval Commanders' Conference being held in the national capital.*

New Delhi: Taking strong note of the critical capability shortfalls being faced by the Indian Navy in ship-borne multi-role helicopters, conventional submarines and mine counter measure vessels, defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Thursday that “these issues were being given due impetus and efforts were in hand to mitigate these shortcomings at the earliest”, an Indian Navy release said.

Ms Sitharaman was addressing the naval leadership during the ongoing four-day-long Naval Commanders' Conference being held in the national capital.

The minister, while acknowledging the recent developments in India's maritime neighbourhood, praised “the high operational tempo maintained by the Navy in the last one year through regular deployment of ships,

submarines and aircraft from the South China Sea and Sea of Japan in the East to the Persian Gulf and the Atlantic Ocean in the West and the shores of Australia in the South, including the focused efforts to deter piracy attempts off the Gulf of Aden”.

Drawing a connection between a strong Navy and economic prosperity, she said that “maritime interests of a nation have a vital relationship with its economic growth and these shall be protected at all costs by ensuring a strong and credible Indian Navy”. Ms Sitharaman also commended the efforts of the Navy to constructively engage with the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) littorals to build their capacities and enhance their capabilities.

She also mentioned the initiatives taken by the Indian Navy to impart practical training for naval personnel from IOR littoral nations on a regular basis. “Institutionalising a full-fledged regional-forum to help find collective solutions to matters maritime in the IOR and facilitate projection of India’s and Indian Navy’s strategic and operational vision to a wider regional and global audience through the ‘Goa Maritime Conclave’ to be held early next month was also praised by the minister,” the release said.



*Fri, 27 Oct, 2017*

## **Middleman Michel said he'd help me make `pile of money': Jaya Jaitly**

***Ex-Samata Leader Says Lobbyist Wanted For Agusta Deal Approached Her When Atal Was PM***

Arms middleman Christian Michel, who became a familiar name after his name surfaced in the AgustaWestland chopper scam during the UPA's tenure, was around when the Vajpayee government was in office, and suggested to former Samata Party leader Jaya Jaitly that she could “make a pile of money“ for the party , Jaitly has revealed to TOI.

According to Jaitly , she received a call from a foreigner who gave his name as Christian Michel, and agreed to meet him in the lounge of the India International Centre in Delhi. The meeting took place a few days before the Kargil war erupted in May 1999. Samata Party's George Fernandes was then defence minister in Vajpayee's coalition government.

Jaitly claims that Michel told her about various defence dealers operating in India and also said they had various bureaucrats “in their pockets“.

According to Jaitly, Michel then blatantly “offered her the opportunity to make a huge pile of money for the party“. Though Michel did not spell out details, Jaitly says she guessed he was offering the money in exchange for a potential favour for one of his clients, a French arms company .

She claims that she said, “We do not do such things“, to which Michel reportedly responded, “How will you run your party?“ Jaitly hastily terminated the conversation and reported it to Fernandes the same evening. According to her, Fernandes advised her to describe the meeting in detail in a letter to the defence secretary , which she did the next day . Thereafter, she says, Michel called her at least half a dozen times to revive the conversation, but she refused to meet him or discuss anything.

Jaitly also says that when the Tehelka allegations (of bribes from alleged arms dealers) erupted in midMarch 2001, she received a fax from Michel, saying, “Dear Mrs Jaitly , I am so sorry about what has happened.I warned you about them.Sincerely , Michel.“

According to her, the next time she heard his name was in connection with the AgustaWestland helicopter deal, in which he and Guido Haschke were named as middlemen by an Italian court.

Jaitly, an activist, author, and Indian handicrafts curator who helped found the famous Dilli Haat craft market, had a chequered political career. She became Samata Party president in January 2000 and resigned in March 2001 following the Tehelka sting operation.

Her autobiography, 'Life among the Scorpions, Memoirs of a Woman in Indian Politics', is slated for release on November 1.

# Business Standard

Fri, 27 Oct, 2017

## Navy drops cherished dream of nuclear-powered aircraft carrier

BARC says new reactor will take 15 years to develop and navy must pay

AJAI SHUKLA  
New Delhi, 26 October

The Indian Navy's second indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vishal, will not be – as has been widely reported – an American-style, nuclear-powered “flat-top”. Instead, it will be a conventionally powered 65,000-70,000 tonne vessel, housing some 55 aircraft and incorporating a state-of-the-art “electro-magnetic aircraft launch system” (EMALS) to catapult aircraft off the carrier.

This is the configuration being cleared through the defence ministry; Business Standard has learned through off-the-record interviews with five officials directly connected with the INS Vishal project.

The INS Vishal proposal is before the Services Capital Acquisition Categorisation Higher Committee, headed by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff. Before the year-end, it could be cleared by the ministry's apex Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by the defence minister. Given its stratospheric cost, it will also require clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security.

The navy, which was eager to incorporate nuclear propulsion for INS Vishal, has been told by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) that it would take 15-20 years to develop a nuclear reactor powerful enough for an aircraft carrier, incorporating features to protect it from the corrosive and dynamic marine environment.



Sources say India's choice of conventional propulsion opens the doors for British and French shipyards to provide design assistance

BARC has successfully developed a 190 Megawatt (Mw) reactor for India's fleet of four-to-six nuclear propelled, nuclear missile carrying submarines, of which the first – INS Arihant – has already been commissioned. However, INS Vishal would require a reactor capable of generating at least 500-550 Mw. That means developing a brand new, miniaturised reactor, ruggedised against a marine environment.

Nor is such a 550-Mw reactor in the development pipeline, because of a dispute over who will pay the bill. Says an indignant navy admiral: “BARC wants us to place a ‘developmental contract’ to fund the reactor's development. Why should we do that?”

Contacted by email for comments, BARC did not respond.

Instead of nuclear reactors, an Integrated Electric Propulsion System (IEPS) will now drive INS Vishal. This will be based on gas turbines that

drive generators to produce electricity. The electricity will rotate powerful electrical motors that will turn the warship's propellers, driving it through the water.

In a nuclear powered warship, the reactor produces steam to drive the electrical generators that produce electricity. That drives the motors and, in turn, the propellers.

The challenge in designing a ship-borne nuclear reactor includes protecting it from saline corrosion, shock, impact and developing the radiation shielding needed to protect the crew – which would spend longer periods of time, in closer proximity to the reactors, than in land-based nuclear power generation plants. In addition, are the issues around refuelling the reactor cores and storing spent fuel.

Designing an IEPS-driven vessel involves different challenges, including identifying a compatible combination of gas turbines, generators and

motors, says a designer involved in INS Vishal. Industry sources say India's choice of conventional propulsion opens the doors for British and French shipyards to provide design assistance. Both are both building conventionally powered aircraft carriers, while the US has built only nuclear powered reactors for decades.

Crucially, Indian Navy designers have concluded that an EMALS can be powered through gas turbine driven generators. The navy wants INS Vishal to have a catapult launch facility, which allows the launch of heavier and more diverse aircraft than the ski-jump launch fitted on Indian carriers – the in-service INS Vikramaditya and the under-construction INS Vikrant. Instead of six-decade-old steam catapult technology, the navy has decided to equip INS Vishal with EMALS, which America has fitted for the first time on its newest aircraft carrier, USS Gerald R Ford.

EMALS features what its maker, General Atomics, calls a “dial-up-a-power-level”, allowing catapult power to be adjusted to launch aircraft of completely different sizes – from a light drone to a 60-tonne P-3C Orion maritime surveillance and anti-submarine aircraft. EMALS can launch many more aircraft per hour and is easier to maintain. Steam catapults are more subject to corrosion and put far greater stress on the aircraft being launched.

# Russian team in Vizag to inspect damaged submarine

*By Dinakar Peri & Josy Joseph*

*Sources say nuclear reactor on INS Chakra is intact; Russia not fully convinced of Indian findings*

A Russian technical team is in Vizag for a joint investigation into the mysterious damage suffered by INS Chakra, the nuclear submarine leased to India in 2011, a diplomatic source has confirmed.

Details available from an official Indian inquiry show that the damage to the submarine is far bigger than what has been known in public. The sonar dome in the forward portion has suffered an almost five-feet by five-feet hole, according to reliable information from the Ministry of Defence sources. Two separate sources, from the Russian and Indian side, separately confirmed to *The Hindu* that the damage to the submarine was not very serious, and did not impact the nuclear reactor, because it was all contained to the outer hull.

The Russian team arrived in India after they refused to be satisfied with the findings of a three-member Indian team's official inquiry. Sources said the team had placed the damage primarily on technical issues. There has been speculation that the damage was caused by a minor accident while INS Chakra was on the move.

Russia, which leased the submarine to India for a 10-year period in 2011 for over \$600 million, sent a formal message a few days ago to New Delhi that it was not fully convinced with the Indian findings.

Russia then suggested that technical experts from their side be allowed access to examine the submarine which had been docked for the past several weeks in the submarine base INS Virbahu in Visakhapatnam.

Sources said the investigations by the joint team would be filed to both New Delhi and Moscow. For now, Russian sources indicate that the damage is not serious. "But we will have to wait for the final report before moving forward," one Russian official said.

India is already engaged in negotiations for the second nuclear submarine from Russia, which could join service when INS Chakra returns after its 10-year lease.

## Speculation on accident

There have been much speculation surrounding the accident suffered by the submarine, with some reports saying it may have met with an accident while negotiating the narrow channel to enter the harbour. The submarine had suffered a major accident in 2008, while undergoing sea trials.

The Akula class submarine is an SSN, and is to provide escort to INS Arihant, the indigenously constructed ballistic missile submarine that would carry nuclear missiles.