

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

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## **INS Tarasa Commissioned Into Navy**

INS Tarasa, a Water Jet Fast Attack Craft, was commissioned into the Indian Navy by Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command at an impressive ceremony held at the the Naval Dockyard here on Tuesday. INS Tarasa is 50 meter-long and is powered by three water jets which give it speeds of over 35 knots (65 kmph). The ship is armed with a 30 mm main gun indigenously built, and a number of light, medium and heavy machine guns to undertake costal defence operations.

The ship is an ideal platform for missions like coastal and off-shore surveillance, EEZ patrol, law enforcement as well as non-military missions such as Search and Rescue (S&R), humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. INS Tarasa will be based at Mumbai under the operational control of Western Naval Command. The commissioning Commanding Officer of the ship is Lieutenant Commander Praveen Kumar. Incidentally, this is the second ship of the Indian Navy to be named INS Tarasa. The first INS Tarasa was in service of the Navy from 1999 to 2014. She was gifted to Seychelles Coast Guard as a symbol of India's partnership with friendly maritime nation in IOR. INS Tarasa is the fourth and last of the follow-on Water Jet FAC's built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. The first two ships of the class i.e. IN ships Tarmugli and Tihayu were commissioned in 2016 and are based at Visakhapatnam; while the third ship INS Tillanchang was commissioned earlier this year at Karwar on March 9 this year.

These ships are an upgrade of the Car Nicobar class Fast Attack Crafts with the Indian Navy, which were also indigenously designed and built by GRSE, Kolkata. Speaking on the occasion, Vice Admiral Luthra expressed confidence that the new INS Tarasa would discharge her duties with élan and resolve, and bring laurels to the Western Naval Command and the Nation.

Complimenting the designers, builders, engineers, overseers, and the officers and the men whose efforts have fructified in the commissioning of the ship, Vice Admiral Luthra said that the ship was of proven design, has good endurance, low draught, high speed and manoeuvrability, thus making her most suited for her primary role of extended coastal and offshore surveillance and patrol.

Vice Admiral Luthra was also all praise for the ship's crew and the Warship Overseeing Team, Kolkata for ensuring that the ship has been commissioned with all Weapon and Sensor trials completed. "The passage of the ship during her maiden voyage from Kolkata to Mumbai, in rough weather, bears testimony to the seaworthiness of the ship," he said.

## **Business Standard**

## **Mattis, Sitharaman talk Afghanistan, terror and cooperation in Indo-Pacific**

*By Ajai Shukla*

*India could step up aid, but no 'boots on the ground' in Afghanistan*

In what she termed “substantive, constructive and forward-looking talks” in New Delhi on Tuesday, Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her US counterpart, Defense Secretary James Mattis, pressed all the right buttons in affirming a growing common ground between Washington and New Delhi.

“From our discussions today, I am confident that we are entering a new phase in our strategic defence partnership with the United States,” said Sitharaman.

In talks that went on for half an hour longer than scheduled, the two sides discussed military-to-military engagements and exercises; supply of high-tech US weaponry to India; curbing cross-border terrorism, especially emanating from Pakistan; and the regional issues of Afghanistan and the Indo-Pacific.

One of Mattis’ major objectives on this trip was to understand New Delhi’s response to President Donald Trump’s call last month for India to provide more “economic assistance and development” to Afghanistan.

At a media briefing by the two defence ministers after their dialogue, Sitharaman rejected the idea of sending Indian military troops to fight in Afghanistan. She said that during the talks she had “made it very clear that there shall not be boots from India on the ground”. Instead, Sitharaman pointed to India’s long-running developmental support to Afghanistan by building dams, hospitals, schools and institutions, including a new Parliament building in Kabul. She highlighted training and medical facilities provided to Afghans in India. “India’s contribution has been on these grounds and we shall expand if necessary,” said Sitharaman.

The two sides also discussed what Sitharaman flagged as “the growing menace of cross-border terrorism”, specifically that emanating from Pakistan. Mattis declared: “There can be no safe havens anywhere in the world for terrorism. We intend to work closely with India, and like-minded nations, as we eradicate this.” On whether she had specifically raised the issue of terrorists being given safe haven in Pakistan, Sitharaman pointed out that Mattis had told Prime Minister Narendra Modi in their meeting that “the very same forces which find safe haven in Pakistan have been the ones who hit at New York as much as Mumbai”.

She revealed she requested Mattis that “[I]f and when, he would visit Pakistan, he would be able to speak out on these issues and take them up [with the Pakistani leadership]”.

With Washington encouraged by New Delhi’s assertiveness during the Doklam stand-off with China, there was close agreement on stepping up cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. “India supports freedom of navigation, over-flight and unimpeded lawful commerce. We also believe that disputes should be resolved through peaceful means and in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law. I am happy to note that Secretary Mattis reaffirmed the US position in support of these principles,” said Sitharaman.

Mattis spelt out a vision of what India could expect from its designation by the US last year as a “major defense partner”. He said the designation “recognises India as a pillar of regional stability and security, and reflects our desire for a long-term strategic partnership in the 21st century”.

While security would be “one of the key strategic pillars” in the wide-ranging new relationship; Mattis said his goal was “delivering defense interoperability aligned with Prime Minister Modi’s and President Trump’s direction.”

“Expanding maritime engagement is one of my top priorities,” said Mattis, indicating that the navy-to-navy relationship would remain a key driver of defence cooperation. He particularly highlighted the Annual Maritime Security Dialogue as a mechanism for developing a shared understanding of challenges in the Asia-Pacific region.

While specific defence sales were not highlighted, the two sides discussed deepening the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI). “We look forward to sharing some of our most advanced defence technologies through the DTTI,” said Mattis.

## **Surgical strike killed our ‘soft state’ image**

From the time grenade explosions, gunshots and shrieks filled in the night air of September 28, 2016, across the Line of Control with Pakistan, the noise has not died down. The chest-thumping, criticism and analysis continue as intensely a year later.

Whether Pakistan or the virulent critics of the Modi government deny the efficacy of the strike, it is difficult to refute that it has profoundly changed India’s time-worn image of a soft state. Seen along with the military action on Northeast insurgents in Myanmar in June 2015 and the obdurate resistance to Chinese bullying in Doklam, the 2016 surgical strike gives India the image of a nation one should think twice before messing with. Since the brilliantly successful 1971 war against Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh, India had lapsed back into benign Nehruvian diplomacy and aversion to tough action. Our keenness to avoid hitting back at all costs, even when attacked, became predictable.

The surgical strike has changed that. It has given us a new strategic unpredictability. One of our topmost national security bosses recalled in a private conversation recently that after Pakistan-trained terrorists’ attack on the Uri military base, action was the only solution on the table. The PM and NSA Ajit Doval both wanted security officials to come up with solutions, instead of listing challenges. The clear instruction was: “Focus on action. Too much analysis causes paralysis.”

Before the strike, a team had gone inside Pakistan to all the four locations which were to be attacked. The entry route was to be different from the exit route. Indian intelligence had its moles inside the Lashkar camps. Information was so pinpointed that the forces knew which places had been landmined. Only one soldier was injured when his leg was trapped in an antipersonnel landmine. The whole operation was monitored by satellite imagery and drones which were capturing the action. The national security officer said the terror camps could have been destroyed by flying Mirages from the Adampur airbase or using heavy artillery. But India wanted to send Pakistan a message.

The PM wanted a flawless and safe operation with minimum collateral damage. Doval was the first to inform him about the success of the op in the morning. Armies have carried out focused hits for centuries, mainly because these take surgical strike killed our enemy by surprise, restrict the conflict locally, and steer clear of escalation or unnecessary losses. Sun Tzu’s advice in his iconic *The Art of War* is evocative: “Let your plans be dark and impenetrable as night, and when you move, fall like a thunderbolt.”

The most celebrated surgical strikes in recent history were by Israeli commandos storming Entebbe Airport to rescue hostages in 1976, Israel precision-bombing Iraq’s nuclear reactor in Osirak in 1982, and the US Navy Seals taking out Osama bin Laden in a 2011 raid on his Abbottabad hideout. For years, the US has also weighed a surgical strike on Iran’s nuclear assets. In ‘Time to Attack Iran: Why a Strike is the Least Bad Option’, Matthew Kroenig wrote in *Foreign Affairs* magazine: “A preventive action would need to target the uranium conversion plant at Isfahan, the heavywater reactor at Arak, and various centrifuge manufacturing sites near Natanz and Tehran, all of which are located above ground and are highly vulnerable to air strikes.” He suggested that the US should conduct a surgical strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities, absorb an inevitable round of retaliation, and then seek to quickly de-escalate the crisis.

Addressing the threat now will spare the US from confronting a far more dangerous situation in the future.” India has a similar looming threat from its hostile neighbour. We have lost thousands of lives in the wanton terror Pakistan exports. The message from the PM and the NSA’s decision to carry out surgical strikes is much larger than the bodies Pakistan had to count on September 29, 2016, morning. One finds an echo of that message in Sun Tzu’s lines: “Who wishes to fight must first count the cost.”

U.S. officer was one of 88 Marines; started the course in July

## Female lieutenant is first to clear tough Marine course

**New York:** A female U.S. Marine has become the first woman to complete the Corps' notoriously gruelling infantry officer course, seeing off dozens of male candidates who failed the selection training.

The physical and mental tests include hikes carrying loads up to 152 pounds (69 kg), swimming, obstacle courses, land navigation and weapons assembly. Typically a quarter of Marines who take part fail to make the grade.

Under former President Barack Obama, the U.S. Military opened all positions to women, including combat roles, for the first time in 2016 in a bid to make the armed forces more inclusive.

The female lieutenant, who wanted to keep her identity private, was one of 88 Marines out of 131 who started the course in July to make it through the 13-week programme - graduating in Quantico, Virginia, on Monday, the military said.

"Proud of this officer &



Female U.S. Lieutenant undergoing the training.

 **REMARKABLE**  
@GenRobertNeller  
Proud of this officer & her fellow leaders.



her fellow leaders," tweeted Marine Corps commandant Gen. Robert Neller alongside a photo of the woman during training.

The Marine Corps says its "gruelling 13-week course trains and educates newly selected infantry and ground intel-

The female lieutenant, who wanted to keep her identity private, underwent a 13-week programme which included hikes carrying loads up to 69 kg, swimming, obstacle and weapons assembly

ligence officers in leadership, infantry skills, and character required to serve as infantry platoon commanders".

The lieutenant's next

assignment will be at the 1st Marine Division at Camp Pendleton in California, it said. As an officer she is expected to lead a platoon of typically around 40 Marines.

"Marines expect and rightfully deserve competent and capable leaders, and these... Graduates met every training requirement," Neller said.

About 15 percent of more than 1.3 million U.S. Active duty troops are women, according to the Department of Defence.

— Reuters

## North Korea boosts defences after flight by US bombers

Seoul/Beijing: North Korea has boosted defences on its east coast, a South Korean lawmaker said on Tuesday, after the North said US President Donald Trump had declared war and that it would shoot down American bombers flying near the peninsula. Tensions have escalated since North Korea conducted its sixth













