

# समाचार पत्रों से चयित अंश Newspapers Clippings

दैनिक सामयिक अभिज्ञता सेवा  
A daily Current Awareness Service

Vol. 43 No. 245 20 November 2018



रक्षा विज्ञान पुस्तकालय  
Defence Science Library  
रक्षा वैज्ञानिक सूचना एवं प्रलेखन केन्द्र  
Defence Scientific Information & Documentation Centre  
मैटकॉफ हाऊस, दिल्ली - 110 054  
Metcalf House, Delhi - 110 054

## Russia to bag \$1.5-billion deal for air defence missiles

By Manu Pubby

New Delhi: After major deals to sell the S-400 system as well as naval warships to India, Russia is set to bag a \$1.5-billion contract for air defence missiles, even though the shadow of financial sanctions by the US for weapons purchased from Moscow still looms.

ET has learnt that the Russian Igla-S system has been confirmed as the lowest bidder for a mega deal to procure shoulder fired anti-aircraft missiles for the Indian Army in a meeting held on Monday. The Russian bid for \$1.5 billion considerably undercut offers by France and Sweden and is believed to be even lower than the benchmark price of \$2 billion that was estimated by the Indian side.

While the fear of US financial sanctions looms — banking institutions have been warned that they may be cut off from the dollar trade for dealing with Russian arms companies — the contract still has a hurdle to cross given strong objections raised by competitors that Igla-S did not fully meet requirements.

The process to procure Very Short Range Air Defence (Vshorad) missiles was initiated in 2010 under the previous government and went through several rounds of trials before the Igla-S qualified in January, along with two other competitors.

The Vshorad programme to replace the Russian Igla-M systems that have been used by the Army since the 1980s is considered critical for defence against incoming helicopters, UAVs and ground attack aircraft. While there were four bidders initially, the Koreans did not make it but the Swedish SAAB RBS70 NG, and MBDA's Mistral were found compliant, besides the Russian system.

The competitors, however, raised several objections on the Russian system, alleging that it did not demonstrate low-level target hits in desert environments in summer and failed to lock into targets at long distance. The allegations were examined by independent monitors at the defence ministry, but a decision was taken to go ahead with the opening of commercial tenders in which Russia has emerged the winner.

As reported by ET, questions still remain on the Army's ability to gather funds needed to seal the deal, given a massive crash crunch in the capital budget. The Army had told the parliamentary panel on defence in March that lack of funds will impact the Vshorad procurement. The Army has been granted Rs 17, 756 crore less than what it had expected in the annual budget.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/russia-to-bag-1-5-billion-deal-for-air-defence-missiles/articleshow/66701262.cms>

## India, Russia to sign \$500 million navy deal in Goa today

*Russia's state-run arms exporter Rosoboronexport and India's Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) will sign the contract to build the Grigorovich-class 'Project 1135.6' frigates with technology transfer from Russia*

By Rahul Singh

India and Russia will on Tuesday hammer out a \$500 million contract to build two stealth frigates in Goa that are expected to be delivered by 2027, two officials familiar with the development said on condition of anonymity.

Russia's state-run arms exporter Rosoboronexport and India's Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) will sign the contract in New Delhi to build the Grigorovich-class 'Project 1135.6' frigates with technology transfer from Russia, which is India's top arms supplier.

The deal comes just weeks after the two countries inked a nearly \$1 billion deal to import two other such warships from Russia. Those ships are being built at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad and are expected to be delivered to the Indian Navy by 2022-23.

A government official said the warships being built in India will eventually cost a lot more than \$500 million, which is only the upfront value of the deal. “The \$500 million is for the foreign content in the vessels including material, design and specialist assistance. The frigates will cost more factoring in the indigenous content. That cost is being worked out,” he said.

GSL is expected to deliver the first frigate in 2026 and the second a year later, a second official added.

The frigate deal comes a month-and-a-half after India signed a R39,000-crore deal with Russia for the supply of Russian S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems to India, brushing aside Washington’s concerns about the purchase. Both the S-400 and the frigate deal are likely to be affected by the US sanctions legislation if India is unable to secure a waiver.

India is in talks with the US to secure a waiver from the Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act (Caatsa), arguing that its military is heavily dependent on Russian equipment and the two countries share a unique, time-tested relationship.

India is simultaneously exploring ways to bypass the US sanctions including an alternative payment route for Russian equipment.

The Caatsa legislation passed earlier this year does provide some flexibility for countries such as India that are dependent on Russian equipment, but Washington wants India to diversify its suppliers of military equipment and reduce dependence on Russian military hardware

India inked an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with Russia for the four frigates in 2016. The Indian Navy currently operates six such stealth frigates — three Talwar class and three Teg class — bought from Russia and inducted between 2003 and 2013.

“The best thing is the navy will now have 10 warships in the same class. That’s rare. These ships have proved to be reliable, have good weapons and sensors and new ones will further sharpen our capabilities,” said Admiral Arun Prakash, a former navy chief.

The Grigorovich-class frigates will be powered by gas turbine engines supplied by Ukrainian firm Ukroboronprom’s Gas Turbine Research & Production Complex Zorya-Mashproekt, the officials said.

[https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-russia-to-hammer-out-mega-navy-deal-in-go-a-today/story-  
sgP4UUXPwkY6XtDkQadNTI.html](https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-russia-to-hammer-out-mega-navy-deal-in-go-a-today/story-<br/>sgP4UUXPwkY6XtDkQadNTI.html)

The logo for The Economic Times newspaper, featuring the text "THE ECONOMIC TIMES" in a large, bold, serif font. Above the text, the website address "WWW.ECONOMICTIMES.COM" is written in a smaller, red font.

*Tue, 20 Nov 2018*

## **Army wants more on field, plans to reduce headquarters Strength**

*By Shaurya Karnbir Gurungx*

New Delhi: Army wants more on field, plans to reduce headquarters Strength The Army is looking into a plan to reduce manpower at its headquarters by 20% and have more officers and soldiers for field formations to enhance combativeness. At a seminar in New Delhi on Sunday, General Bipin Rawat presented to Army veterans four internal studies to transform the Army, including one to restructure the headquarters.

Veterans who participated in the seminar explained that they gave views on changes planned to meet operational requirements and challenges. “We learnt that it’s not cut back in the Army, but optimum utilisation of manpower from areas which have lost relevance in the changing dynamics,” said a veteran on condition of anonymity.

Officials said discussions were on reducing the manpower by up to 20%. Some departments have finalised the manpower to be reduced while some departments have claimed that they need more manpower for their tasks. The cuts will be implemented by not replacing officers who complete their tenure in the departments.

Departments performing similar tasks will be merged too for optimum utilisation of manpower. For example, the Directorate General of military Training at the central headquarters could be merged with the Shimlabased Army Training Command (ARTRAC). DGMT executes training plans for operations, war games, joint training, while the ARTRAC controls training establishments and writes training pamphlets. The Army brass had agreed on this merger at a commanders' conference last month. The changes will have to be cleared by the defence ministry.

“The plan is to ensure that the number of officers will reduce at the Army headquarters and increase at units and formations, where most of them are needed,” an official said. Other important proposals discussed at the seminar included merging ranks of Brigadier and Major General and ensure faster career growth for officers.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/army-wants-more-on-field-plans-to-reduce-headquarters-strength/articleshow/66701327.cms>

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Tue, 20 Nov 2018

## Indian Air Force moves ahead on private sector deal to manufacture transport aircraft

By Manu Pubby

New Delhi: Despite a series of hurdles, including differences on a pricing benchmark, the Indian Air Force (IAF) is moving ahead on a major deal for manufacturing transport aircraft by the private sector. There has been a flurry of meetings in the past few months and the stage is being set to take a final call on buying the C 295 transport aircraft to be manufactured by a Tata-Airbus combine.

The deal has been in discussion since 2012 but gathered pace from March this year when commercial bids for the contract were opened. While the air force was initially taken aback by the offer price that is believed to have been double the projected cost of Rs 11,900 crore for 56 aircraft, sources said a draft contract is now being processed.

Since commercial bids were opened, bidders have been in discussions with the contract negotiating committee to resolve a number of issues from pricing to the indigenous content on the Indian made aircraft, offsets and performance based logistics.

Given the of concerns that came up during negotiations and the fact that the contract was expanded from the original requirement of 56 aircraft to include a requirement of the coast guard for six a Multi Mission Maritime Aircraft (MMMA), a final call on signing the deal will need to be taken by the defence minister led Defence Acquisition Council (DAC). When contacted, Airbus refused to comment on the developments.

The contract is being processed under a single vendor scenario as the Tata-Airbus combine was the only bidder for the tender. As reported by ET, the ambitious project was in danger of being shelved in 2015 after concerns were raised on it being a non competitive process.

An independent committee under the ministry was set up to review the project which greenlighted continuing with negotiations despite it being a single vendor case.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-air-force-moves-ahead-on-private-sector-deal-to-manufacture-transport-aircraft/articleshow/66699343.cm>

## **European Union may boost military ties with India**

*By Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury*

New Delhi: The European Union (EU), in its maiden strategy paper for India to be released on Tuesday, is expected to call for further strengthening of military-to-military ties with Delhi and acknowledged India's role for a multipolar Asia amid China's belligerent moves to dominate geopolitics. Terrorism is a major threat for the EU and India. Countering radicalisation, including online, terrorist financing and preventing violent extremism are of priority for both partners. Regular bilateral consultations on counter-terrorism should develop into a platform for joint assessments of threats, challenges and policy responses, and seek to expand technical cooperation, the strategy paper is expected to suggest, ET has learnt.

The EU and India should cooperate to pursue common objectives in international and regional organisations, including at the UN, G20, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and the Global Counter-terrorism Forum, notably on terrorist financing and terrorist designation listing, the strategy paper is likely to suggest.

ET has learnt that among elements in strategy paper there could be reference to further develop military-to-military relations with India, including between leaders of the Indian armed forces and the EU military structures, as well as joint exercises in the backdrop of common security interests.

Future cooperation could include exchange of experience in training, capability development, participation in missions and operations, and research into new defence systems, the EU is likely to suggest. The EU has decided to enhance security cooperation in and with Asia through tailor-made approaches.

In oblique reference to China's belligerent approach, EU strategy paper is expected emphasise for multipolar Asia with India playing a key role in it.

In a critique of BRI, the strategy paper is expected to have references to connectivity projects. The EU and India share the view that an approach to connectivity should be environmentally, economically, socially and fiscally sustainable and provide a level playing field for businesses, while respecting international standards and enhancing its governance, the strategy paper is expected to suggest echoing India's stand on the issue, ET has learnt.

The EU should seek opportunities, in cooperation with India and other Asian partners, to support cooperative and inclusive regional orders and integration, with a rules-based approach. This should include the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, the ASEAN, and the Indian Ocean Rim Association. Cooperation should be expanded with India on the promotion of common principles, including in the ASEM, such as on connectivity.

The paper will also have references on Freedom of Navigation.

Securing sea lines of communications is vital for both the EU and India, as the huge majority of their trade relies on maritime transport. Both are strong promoters of the respect for international law, particularly the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

"Enhanced engagement is needed on maritime security to discuss the non-traditional security challenges, such as piracy and armed robbery; transnational organised crime; illegal trafficking; cooperation at sea, including at the operational level as well as in law enforcement and conflict prevention; promotion of confidence building measures; and sharing of experiences in maritime situational awareness, maritime surveillance and information sharing, possibly in cooperation with other partners and international organisations (e.g. UN). Cooperation on the Indian Ocean should be developed, notably on security and governance, building on counter-piracy activities, and promoting respect for the international law of the sea," persons familiar with EU strategy paper explained.

The paper is also expected to have references on India-EU trade ties a key pillar in the partnership. EU is India's biggest trading partner as a bloc.

"The EU remains firmly committed to working towards a comprehensive and balanced agreement on trade and investment that is sufficiently ambitious to respond to each side's key interests and contributes to sustainable growth and development in both the EU and India. In particular, the EU will continue to engage with India to ensure that such an agreement will be economically meaningful, delivering real new market openings in all sectors to both sides, and contain a solid rules-based component," persons familiar with EU's India strategy said, referring to long pending Indo-EU FTA.

"The EU's main objective is to work towards a sound, transparent, open, non-discriminatory and predictable regulatory and business environment for European companies trading with or investing in India, including the protection of their investments and the protection and enforcement of intellectual property," one the persons quoted above said.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/european-union-may-boost-military-ties-with-india/articleshow/66699765.cms>



*Tue, 20 Nov 2018*

## **China adds new satellites to rival GPS system**

**Beijing:** China has added two more satellites to its Bei-Dou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) which rivals the US Global Positioning System (GPS).

The satellites were launched into space on a Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province Monday night.

The satellites entered a medium earth orbit more than three hours later and will work with 17 other BDS-3 satellites already in space, state run Xinhua news agency reported.

With the successful launch, the basic BDS constellation deployment is complete, the report said. China plans to provide navigation services with the BDS-3 to the Belt and Road partner countries by the end of this year, marking a key step toward a global navigation service, it said.

After the Chinese term for the Big Dipper, the Bei-Dou system started serving China in 2000 and the Asia-Pacific region in 2012. It will be the fourth global satellite navigation system after the US GPS system, Russia's GLONASS and the European Union's Galileo.

India too is building its navigational system called the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), with an operational name of NAVIC. By around 2020, when the Bei-Dou system goes global, it will have more than 30 satellites, an earlier Xinhua report had said.

—PTI