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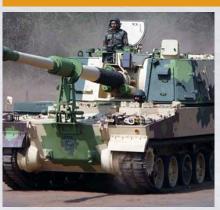


INDIA DEFENSE & SECURITY

The Insider View

A members only exclusive Newsletter





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PART A

Top Line

Submarine
Building Programs

Construction of six Scorpene submarines under Project- 75 at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai in collaboration with M/s Naval Group (France) is progressing well. On 9th November, the fourth submarine named 'INS Vela' was delivered to the Indian Navy. The project for building six advanced diesel-electric submarines (Project P75I) with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) under the Strategic Policy (SP) route has also been initiated. The Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued to the two shortlisted shipyards - Mazagon Docks Ltd and Larsen & Toubro. These shipyards are expected to collaborate with an OEMs and submit proposals. The main OEMs include ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems, Naval Group, Rubin Design Bureau, Navantia and Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering. Issues related to the expected performance parameters, transfer of technologies, indigenous content and other terms & conditions on the industry agreements need to be resolved before submitting the proposals.

Fighter Aircrafts for Navy and Air Force

The case for procurement of 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) for the Indian Air Force is progressing gradually. The MoD has received the response to the RFI from several aerospace firms and the RFP is being formulated to be issued to Indian companies under 'Strategic Partnership' model of Defence Acquisition Procedures (DAP-2020). The top OEM contenders intending to participate in the program include Dassault Aviation's Rafale, Lockheed Martin's F-21, Boeing's F/A-18, the Eurofighter Typhoon, Russian aircraft MiG 35 and Saab's Gripen. The Indian Navy has also been looking for suitable Multi-Role Carrier Borne Fighters (MRCBF) to meet their operational needs (original requirements - 57 aircrafts). F-18 and Rafale are the main contenders for this program. This year, on-shore demonstrations were conducted in India for these platforms and the process for procurement is being undertaken by the MoD.

Utility and Combat Helicopters Indian Navy, Army and Air Force have initiated various helicopter procurement programs. The Navy is looking for Naval Utility Helicopter (NUH), Naval Multi-Role Helicopters (NMRH), and Twin Engine Heavy Helicopter (TEHH), whereas the Army and Air Force intend to induct more Light & Heavy combat helicopters and utility helicopters. The Expressions of Interest (EOI) was issued to Indian companies for procurement of 111 NUH under Strategic Partnership model. Airbus, Sikorsky and ROSTEC (Rosoberonexport) are the main OEM contenders. The Navy is also exploring the possibility of exercising lease options. The RFI for procurement of 123





NMRH was issued earlier, but further progress has been sluggish. India and Russia have also been trying to close the partnership deal to produce KA-226 helicopters in India through transfer of technology. The deal is still pending due to some unresolved technical and commercial issues.

Combat Fighting Vehicles

The Indian Army has been processing multiple procurement cases for various combat vehicles to meet the requirements of the Mechanised Infantry and Armoured Corps. For Mechanised Infantry, their initial requirement was to procure around 2610 Future Infantry Combat Vehicle (FICV) under 'Make in India' approach to cater for the requirements of. As the program faced hurdles, the Army decided to undertake separate procurement programs for FICV Tracked and Wheeled versions. A new RFI for procurement of 1750 numbers of FICV (tracked) was issued and interested companies provided their responses in November. The Army is also processing the case for formulation of General Service Qualitative Requirements (GSQRs) for Wheeled Armored Fighting Vehicles program (220 vehicles). For Armoured Corps, the Army issued a Request for Information (RFI) for procurement of 1770 future battle tanks named the 'Future Ready Combat Vehicle' (FRCV). The FRCV program is planned to be developed under the 'Strategic Partnership' route as per the DAP-2020. Another RFI for procurement of 350 light tanks has also in the works and a few OEMs have responded.

Indo- China Border Conflict

India and China have hardened their positions on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh with increased military activities on both sides of the boundary, infrastructure development, surveillance and combat manoeuvres by their armies. Despite multiple rounds of disengagement at friction points on the LAC, the two armies still have 50,000 to 60,000 troops each and advanced weaponry deployed in Ladakh. The situation started deteriorating after the June 2020 clash in the Galwan Valley that ended with 20 Indian soldiers dead and many casualties of Chinese troops. Both parties continue to maintain their respective postures and further strengthening the stand.

Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Co-development of Air Launched Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (ALUAV) is the first joint project undertaken by India and USA as part of defence technology and trade initiative (DTTI). A few months back, the Project Agreement was signed by the Indian MoD and the US Department of Defense to promote collaboration between US Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL), Indian Air Force and Defence Research and Development Organisation to jointly design, test, evaluate and develop a suitable prototype ALUAV for military applications in India and USA. In November, the 11th DTTI group meeting and Defence Industry Collaboration Forum Virtual Expo was conducted to further encourage development of niche technologies. Four Joint Working Groups focused on land, naval, air and aircraft carrier technologies have been established under DTTI to promote mutually agreed projects within





their domains. Many projects of mutual interest for both the governments have been lined up. The success of first project will lead to similar co-development/ co-production projects in near future thus, creating a win-win situation for the industry and militaries of both the countries.

From the News

- Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in India on Monday. PM Modi and Putin are presently holding talks at Delhi's Hyderabad House.
- The first consignment of Multi-Mode Hand Grenades (MMHG), manufactured by Economic Explosives Ltd (EEL) under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model was handed over to the Indian Army.
- Lockheed Martin has been awarded a US\$328.8 M contract by the Indian Air Force to provide dedicated and comprehensive support for 12 C-130J-30 Super Hercules Aircrafts.
- The India-Russia '2+2' talks between the defence and foreign ministers of the two countries scheduled to be held before Russian President's visit to India on 6th December.
- IAF plans to procure 350 aircraft in next two decades, says Chief of Air Staff
- Tata wins open tender to acquiring Air India (government airline) in a \$2.4 Billion Bid
- Seven new defence companies, carved out of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), dedicated to the nation.
- MoD cleared the purchase of 12 Light Utility Helicopters (LUH) from Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) under the Make in India category.
- The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) conducted the first user trial of the Agni V ballistic missile of 5000 km range.
- The Congress demanded probe by a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to report on bribery allegations on Rafale aircraft deal with France.
- Russia started supplying S-400 air defence system to India, the first division will be delivered by the end of 2021.
- Defence Procurement Board (DPB) approved procurement of 30 multi-mission armed drones (MQ-9) from USA for the three services at an estimated cost of over \$3 billion.
- On 21 November 2021, INS Visakhapatnam, a P15B stealth guided missile destroyer, commissioned into the Indian Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- The Indian Navy received its 11th P-81 Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti-Submarine Warfare (LRMRASW) aircraft. The last aircraft will be delivered soon.
- Large number of joint exercises conducted were between Indian Army, Air Force and Navy with various countries during last few months. The important being Yudh Abhyas, Exercise Malabar, Konkan Shakti, Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), and Japan-India bilateral maritime exercise 'JIMEX'.





PART B

Appointments

Admiral **R Hari Kumar** took take over as Chief of Naval Staff on 30th November. He was commissioned on 01st January 1983 into the executive branch of the Indian Navy. During his nearly 40 years of service so far, he has served in a variety of command, staff and instructional appointments. His sea command includes INS Nishank, Missile Corvette, INS Kora and Guided Missile Destroyer INS Ranvir. He has also commanded the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier INS Viraat. He attended courses at the Naval War College in USA and Royal College of Defence Studies in the UK. He is likely to focus on modernising and strengthening the surface Navy.

Chief of Naval Staff

Mr Raj Kumar Singh, Secretary Defence Production has been moved to his home state- Gujarat. As he was a technocrat having completed Electrical Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, he was well suited to understand the requirements of Department of Defence Production. This sudden move may create a vacuum for some time in the DoDP.

Secretary Defence Production

The tenure of Mr Sanjay Jaju as Additional Secretary (DDP) has been extended till 19th October 2022. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved an extension in the central deputation tenure for another year. Mr Jaju has been the main interface of MoD with the industry to formulate various policies. He played a major role in establishing iDEX (Innovation for Defence Excellence) which is an ecosystem that fosters Innovation and Technology Development for Defence and Aerospace. He was also associated with the DTTI program.

Sanjay Jaju (IAS)

Air Marshal **BR Krishna** has been appointed as the new Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) to the Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee. The CISC plays an important role in all tri-services matters and functions under the Chief of Defence Staff. He is likely to play a key role in military acquisition matters, restructuring of the operational commands and inter-services policy related issues.

Chief of Integrated
Defence Staff
(CISC)





Additional Appointments

- Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan assumed charge as Chief of Staff of the Western Naval Command.
- Lt Gen Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, AVSM, YSM assumed the appointment of Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strat) at Integrated HQ of MoD (Army).
- Air Marshal Sandeep Singh assumed charge as Vice Chief of Air Staff (VCAS).
- Lt Gen Tarun Kumar Chawla, AVSM took over the appointment of the Director General of Artillery.
- Air Marshal Sanjeev Kapoor took over charge as Commandant, National Defence Academy (NDA).
- Lt Gen NK Khanduri assumed appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Command.





PART C

Policy Updates

Blacklisted Companies

India listed a total of 23 global and domestic aerospace and defence companies were barred or suspended from doing business in India. Category wise numbers of the companies included in the list are: debarred firms - 6; Put on hold/Suspended firms - 15; Restricted Procurements - 2. The main companies which fall in these categories are Israel Military Industries Limited, Corporation Defence of Russia, Rheinmetall Air Defence etc. In November 2021, MoD formally lifted the ban on AgustaWestland and its parent company Leonardo from the list of debarred companies thus, enabling them to take part in the multiple ongoing projects and bid for upcoming defence contracts.

'Make in India' Policy

he MoD intends to issue the third positive list to reserve certain projects for the domestic industry with the aim of boosting indigenisation in the defence sector. The list of identified systems/ technologies have been circulated to the industry for their comments. Earlier, MoD had notified a Positive Indigenization List of 108 items of defence equipment that must be compulsorily procured from indigenous sources as per the provisions in the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 (DAP 2020) to promote self-reliance in defence production. This was in addition to an earlier list of 101 items in the negative list for import embargo. Most of these items are equipment and systems like sensors (radars, EW, sonars, electro-optical devices), weapons (artillery guns, ATGMs, bombs grenades, assault rifles etc.) simulators, ammunition, ocean vessels, engines, Air Defense missiles, tactical vehicles, and certain categories of aircraft & helicopters. A critical analysis of the earlier list indicated that most of the items are either already developed by DRDO or are expected to be developed/produced by DRDO, Defence Public Sector Undertakings or private industry in the short term. The new list is likely to expand the scope of indigenisation by including some of the upgrades, simulators, MRO opportunities etc. MoD believes that this will provide a good opportunity to the domestic industry to meet the basic requirements of the defence forces by producing solutions based on indigenously grown technologies or through partnerships with foreign technology partners.

Industrial Security Agreement (ISA)

India and the United States have made the formal decision to implement the Industrial Security Agreement (ISA) after detailed discussions on related issues. The ISA agreement was signed in December 2019 to facilitate the exchange of classified information between the defence industries





of both the countries. A joint working group has been set up to facilitate exchange of classified information between the defence industries and create the required synergy to develop/produce critical defence technologies jointly. The group will meet periodically to align the policies and procedures to help the defence industries to collaborate on cutting edge defence technologies. As most of the upcoming procurement programs are likely to be awarded to domestic industry, the ISA will help them to establish partnerships with the US industry for collaboration to participate in such programs.

Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)

There have been uncertainties on the likelihood of sanctions by USA against India as per the CAATSA provisions. The Biden Administration has been analysing the situation and considering specific waivers for India. US and Indian industry has been highlighting their concerns on the likely adverse impact on the business prospects and its long term negative impact. Senators Mark Warner of the Democratic Party and John Cornyn of the Republican Party wrote a letter to President Biden and urged him to grant a national interest waiver to India as provided under CAATSA as this is in America's national security interest. Indian defence experts believe that appropriate waivers can be devised to avoid unnecessary crisis.

Delegation of Financial Powers

elegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS) 2021 rules have been amended to provide enhanced delegation of Revenue Procurement powers to the officials of Armed Forces. This will help in empowering Field Formations to procure necessary equipment/ammunition to strengthen the operational preparedness. A general enhancement of up to two times has been approved for the Competent Financial Authorities (CFAs). In certain cases, the financial powers for field formations have been enhanced by 5-10 times on account of operational necessities. The delegated financial powers of Vice Chiefs of the Services and Chief of Integrated Defence Staff have also been enhanced. This will help the service headquarters and field formations to take quick decisions on revenue procurements as the situation demands.





PART D

Tenders

Emergency Procurements

The Indian military continues building up military capabilities through emergency procurement of critical weapons and equipment for Army, Navy and Air Force. The government supported the procurements through fast track procedure (FTP) to fill the operational voids till 31 August 2021. On the recommendations of Service Headquarters, the date for emergency procurement from revenue budget has been extended till 31 December, while capital procurement may be considered on case-to-case basis. The main equipment, weapons and sensors bought by the military through FTP are assault rifles, night vision devices, unmanned aerial system (UAS), anti-drone systems, anti-tank guided missiles, artillery precision ammunition, combat vehicles, light tanks, avalanche rescue radars, swarm drones, counter unmanned aircraft systems (CUAS), Naval Anti Drone System (NADS), loitering munition etc. For quick delivery of equipment, leasing options have also been exercised in certain cases.

RFI for Landing Platform Dock (LPD) Ships Indian Navy issued a RFI for procurement of 4 LPDs. The main focus is for the amphibious ship having the capability to transport and land ashore a combined arms force and to sustain their operations ashore. The anticipated delivery timeline for the first vessel is maximum of 60 months followed by delivery of one vessel every 12 months. The categorization for the procurement is intended to be under Buy (Indian-IDDM)/ Buy (Indian). On earlier occasions, Navantia of Spain and DCNS of France had been on the forefront to offer the solution.

RFP for Air Defense Gun (L-70 replacement) MoD issued an RFP for procurement of 220 Air Defence Guns and 141576 rounds of ammunition under Buy and Make (Indian) category of Defense Acquisition Procedures (DAP-2020). The proposed AD gun is planned to replace the 'in service' L-70 guns currently held by Army Air Defence. Any suitable gun system with an effective engagement range of 4KM at the rate of 200 rounds per minute against aerial target using pprogrammable ammunition will suit the requirements. The last date for submission of technical and commercial proposals is 06 January 2022.





Contract for Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suite (IADS) Mahindra Defence Systems bags Indian Navy Contract worth Rs 1,350 Crore. (MDS) has bagged a contract worth Rs 1,349.95 crore for manufacturing of Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suite (IADS) for modern warships of Indian Navy from the Indian government. Competitive bids from Indian companies were invited by the Ministry of Defence (MoD) through open tender wherein the systems fielded were put through detailed trials at sea to prove their capability, Mahindra & Mahindra said in a regulatory filing.

Airborne Early
Warning and
Control (AEW&C)
aircraft

Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) cleared the project for development of Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) aircraft for the Indian Air Force. This is \$ 1.45 B projects to be undertaken by Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO). It has been envisaged to take A-319s/ A-321 variants of aircrafts from the existing Air India fleet and integrate suitable systems on it. DRDO will buy the platforms from Air India and work with Airbus to make necessary modification and fitments of the equipment.

RFI Extra Large
Unmanned
Underwater
Vehicles (XLUUVs)

Indian Navy issued an RFI for procurement of 12 Extra Large Unmanned Underwater Vehicles (XLUUVs) for deployment in shallow and open seas for pre-programmed long duration missions such as anti submarine warfare, mine laying operations etc. Navy is also open to explore the possibility of leasing the platforms, if any options come up.





PART E

Thinking Forward

Strategic Partnership Model: Opportunities and Challenges

The Strategic Partnership model was conceived in 2015 with the objective to progressively build indigenous capabilities in the private sector to design, develop and manufacture complex weapon systems for the future needs of the Armed Forces. A chapter on Strategic Partnership model (SP Model) was included in the Defence Procurement Procedures (DPP-2016) and the similar chapter was included in Defense Acquisition Procedures (DAP-2020). This was considered as a major step towards promoting self-reliance and aligning the defence sector with the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government. Initially four major programs were shortlisted for progressing under SP Model – Conventional Submarines (P75I), Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA), Future Infantry Combat Vehicles (FICV) and Naval Utility Helicopters (NUH). In 2021, the Future Ready Combat Vehicle (FRCV) was also included in the list and experts termed the acquisition of 56 C-295MW medium transport aircraft on the lines of SP Model, even though it was quite different as it followed DPP-2012 when SP Model was non-existent.

Strategic Partnership opportunities offer good business and growth avenues for Indian companies as well as foreign OEMs. Most Indian companies are still at a nascent stage and don't have the requisite experience, skill set and R&D capabilities to develop critical technologies on their own. They need foreign technology partners to undertake development/production programs under SP model. All the envisaged programs offer multi-billion dollar opportunities to the industry and the large numbers can justify the business models for investments/ partnerships amongst capable Indian companies and suitable foreign technology partners. The MoD is over-enthusiastic to expedite the procurement processes for the programs under SP models as the induction of such platforms has been pending since last couple of decades. The customers are frustrated with the slow pace of military modernization, and want to induct the required equipment desperately to maintain the combat edge over the adversaries. Therefore, this is the opportune moment for the foreign technology providers to proactively look for suitable industry partners in India to jointly offer solutions to the Indian and global customers.





The current nature and construct of SP policy poses major challenges for successful execution of the envisaged projects. There are misconceived ideas and unrealistic expectations in the minds of most of the decision makers/ end users. The complexities of transfer of technologies, intellectual property rights, licensing requirements, responsibilities & liabilities amongst partners, L1 based selection criteria, contractual terms & conditions, nuances of global supply chain etc. are some of the factors that are either not well understood or perceived differently by stakeholders. The fate of Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MMRCA) program could not be decided despite completing the tedious selection process and shortlisting fully compliant lowest bidder. The RFP for P75I has been issued, however there seems to be a huge challenge to smoothen the hurdles and reach the stage for contract signatures. Other programs under SP model such as NUH, FRCV, FICV etc., may also face similar challenges and get delayed, if the policy is not tweaked appropriately to settle the pinching issues. It may be better for the MoD, Indian industry and foreign technology partners to jointly identify the major challenges and find solutions to expedite the projects.





PART F

A Specialist View

A summit Cum Balancing Act for India's defense and geopolitical strategy

here is no underestimating the impact and implications of the December Summit meeting between Prime Minister Modi and Russia's President Vladimir Putin for India's defense and security policy.

First of all, observers cannot but notice the warmth and cordiality that marked the five hours summit between the two leaders and the fact that the India visit is one of the only two overseas trips that the Mr. Putin has made this year. Even more importantly, after what has been seen as a period of stagnation in the India-Russia relationship, the Summit has highlighted Delhi's determination to consolidate and expand the India-Russia relationship in the domain of defense procurement. Despite the fact that its share of India's military equipment imports has dropped from 70% to 50% in the last ten years, Russia remains India's largest arms supplier with more than two-thirds of its existing military equipment being of Russian origin. On the other hand, despite its increasingly close ties with China, Moscow is more interested than ever to revitalize, or at least to show the robustness, of its ties with India at a time when common concerns about China have led to a greater alignment between Washington and Delhi.

The agreement for a 10-year military-technical cooperation plan that includes technology transfer to India is definitely a significant achievement for the Indian defense industry and for the government's policy to expand the country's production capabilities in high-end military hardware. Although the Kalashnikov assault rifle could hardly qualify as high-tech, the agreement signed during the summit to produce 600'000 of these weaponsn comes definitely as a plus for Indian industry.

The Summit and the flurry of agreements signed on the occasion come at a time when the antagonism between the US and Russia have never been so acute since 2014, and when Washington has been raising red flags and multiplying warnings against what the Biden administration sees as a risk of a Russian military invasion of Ukraine. It illustrates the fact that whatever happens in the Washington-Moscow relationship, and whatever the importance that Delhi attaches to the consolidation of its security links with America – especially in the context of the expansion of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) mission – India sees the continuation and strengthening of its relationship with Russia as a crucial strategic imperative.





In that respect, the Modi government is pursuing and – to some extent – amplifying the strategic and very long tradition of enduring partnership between the two countries. Moscow can count on maintaining its position as privileged source of military equipment for the Indian forces. This was illustrated in a very symbolic way by the Modi-Putin Summit taking place at the time when the preparations for the deployment of the first batch of the much-desired Russian S-400 air defence systems are near completion, with the actual setting up of the missiles along the border with China and Pakistan. They will be countering the very same missiles that China has already gotten from Moscow and which are deployed on its side of the Line of Actual Control.

Beyond the strengthening of India's defense position on the LAC and Pakistan border, the deployment of the S-400 missile defense systems illustrates the Indian policy to heighten the country's strategic autonomy in an increasingly tense international context. and to keep looking for the best supplier for each category of defense and security equipment most suited to meet India's requirements as defined by the government. And this whatever the objections, uneasiness or reactions this may create from the part of any of India foreign allies or partners.

The S-400 defense systems delivery is now creating a dilemma for the Biden administration. It should theoretically trigger US sanctions against India in accordance with the "Countering America's Adversary Through Sanctions Act" (CAATSA) which was passed in 2017. Turkey became a target of CAATSA when it bought the same S-400 Air defense system from Russia. The Trump administration had already to confront this quandary in 2018 when the India-Russia deal for the missiles was signed and it decided to procrastinate to protect the relationship with Delhi.

So, the Modi government continues to count on the fact that the Biden administration is now giving the same high – or even higher - priority to the strengthening of the QUAD and needs India's involvement and support for that. It will not jeopardize this priority by antagonizing India with any punitive measures and will find ways to circumvent CAATSA through some kind of waiver. However, even in the absence of formal punitive measures, the US could in the future think twice before exporting some high-end weapons systems to India, mentioning concerns that the S-400 system would be used to spy on the American equipment.

Managing the relationship with two antagonistic powers which are each on its own way very important for India's geopolitical and security imperatives will remain one of the toughest challenge that India will have to confront in the foreseeable future. And nothing illustrates this more than the attendance of Prime Minister Modi to the Summit of Democracies organized by the Biden administration as a big anti-China, anti-Russia show, just a few days after having embraced warmly President Putin.

Claude Smadja

President Smadja & Smadja Strategic Advisory Former Managing Director of the World Economic Forum





General Bipin Rawat, India's first Chief of Defence Staff, and his wife died today after a military chopper crashed in Tamil Nadu, killing 13 on board. He was 63. General Rawat has had an illustrious career in the defense services spanning over four decades that saw him rising in ranks to be appointed the first joint chief of the tri-services.

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