



Delhi Policy Group

# India Defence Digest

Volume 1, Issue 11

DECEMBER 2019



Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)





# DPG India Defence Digest

## Volume 1, Issue 11

### December 2019

#### ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

#### DPG India Defence Digest

DPG India Defence Digest is compiled by our research team from publicly available information and open source media. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Aashna John at [aashna@dpg.org.in](mailto:aashna@dpg.org.in).

#### Cover Photographs:

*(Photographs top to bottom)*

*The Second Annual Ministerial Level 2 Plus 2 Dialogue between India and the United States at Washington DC, December 18, 2019. Source: Twitter/@SpokespersonMoD*

*Tri-services joint training exercise INDRA between India and Russia Source: Twitter/@adgpi*

*Indian Air Force bids farewell to the MiG-27 'Bahadur'. Source: Twitter/@IAF\_MCC*

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## PART I: INDIA'S DEFENCE SCENE

### *Defence Policy*

1. **Chief of Defence Staff<sup>1</sup>.** The Union Cabinet has appointed General Bipin Rawat as India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) from December 31. The CDS will head a new Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to be created within the Ministry of Defence and function as its Secretary. Apart from this, he will also be the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee and act as the Principal Military Adviser to the Raksha Mantri on all tri-Services matters.

The following areas, hitherto the responsibility of the Department of Defence under the Defence Secretary, will be dealt by the Department of Military Affairs headed by CDS:

- a. The Armed Forces of the Union.
- b. Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence, comprising the three Service Headquarters and Defence Staff Headquarters.
- c. The Territorial Army.
- d. Works relating to the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.
- e. Procurement exclusive to the Services, except capital acquisitions.

In addition, the mandate of the Department of Military Affairs will include the following areas:-

- a. Promoting jointness in procurement, training and staffing for the Services through joint planning and integration of their requirements.
- b. Facilitation of restructuring of Military Commands for optimal utilisation of resources by bringing about jointness in operations, including through establishment of joint/theatre commands.
- c. Promoting use of indigenous equipment by the Services.

As the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, CDS will perform the following functions:

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<sup>1</sup> "Cabinet approves creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff in the rank of four star General", PIB, December 24, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1597427>

"General Bipin Rawat Appointed as Chief of Defence Staff", PIB, December 30, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1598029>

- a. Administer tri-services organisations. Tri-service agencies/organisations/commands related to Cyber and Space will be under the command of the CDS.
  - b. Be a member of the Defence Acquisition Council and Defence Planning Committee.
  - c. Function as the Military Adviser to the Nuclear Command Authority.
  - d. Bring about jointness in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, etc of the three Services, within three years of the first CDS assuming office.
  - e. Ensure optimal utilisation of infrastructure and rationalise it through jointness among the services.
  - f. Implement Five-Year Defence Capital Acquisition Plan (DCAP), and Two-Year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans (AAP), as a follow up of Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP).
  - g. Assign inter-Services prioritisation to capital acquisition proposals based on the anticipated budget.
  - h. Bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services aimed at augmenting combat capabilities of the Armed Forces by reducing wasteful expenditure.
2. **India-US 2+2 Ministerial Meeting**<sup>2</sup>. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and EAM Dr S. Jaishankar participated in the second annual India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue at Washington DC on December 18, meeting their counterparts US Secretary of Defense Dr Mark T Esper and Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo. Both sides appraised the growing partnership between India and the United States and reiterated their commitment to advancing a free, open, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. Both sides committed to further deepening military-to-military cooperation, including between the Indian Navy and US Navy Fleets under US Indo-Pacific Command, Central Command, and Africa Command and stated their intent to expand similar cooperation between their respective Armies and Air Forces. The two sides concluded the

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<sup>2</sup> "India-US 2+2 Dialogue provides positive and forward-looking vision for strategic partnership between the two countries", PIB, December 19, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1596986>

Industrial Security Annex and identified priority initiatives for execution under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI).

3. **India-Australia 2+2 Dialogue<sup>3</sup>**. The third India-Australia Secretary-level 2+2 Dialogue was held at New Delhi on December 9. The Indian delegation was led by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Foreign Secretary Shri Vijay Gokhale, while the Australian side was led by Defence Secretary Mr Greg Moriarty and Foreign Secretary Ms Frances Adamson. During the dialogue, issues related to bilateral defence engagement, areas to enhance defence industry and defence technology cooperation and prevailing regional security concerns were discussed.
4. **India-Japan 2+2 Dialogue<sup>4</sup>**. Defence Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister of India, Dr. S. Jaishankar, met Foreign Affairs Minister of Japan, Mr. MOTEGI Toshimitsu, and Minister of Defense of Japan, Mr. KONO Taro, on November 30, 2019 in New Delhi for the first India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Dialogue. The dialogue was aimed at enhancing the strategic depth of bilateral security and defence cooperation and promoting the shared vision of a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region in which the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity are ensured, and all countries enjoy freedom of navigation and overflight.
5. **BEML Disinvestment<sup>5</sup>**. The Government has given 'in-principle' approval for strategic disinvestment of Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) to the extent of 26% out of the Government shareholding of 54.03%, with transfer of management control to the strategic buyer. Transaction Advisor, Legal Advisor and Asset Valuer were appointed by the Government. The Expression of Interest & Preliminary Information Memorandum document have been prepared by the appointed Advisors and submitted to the Government.

<sup>3</sup> "Defence & Foreign Secretaries of India & Australia hold third 2+2 dialogue", PIB, December 9, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1595581>

<sup>4</sup> "Joint Statement: First India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial Meeting", PIB, November 30, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=195235>

<sup>5</sup> "PSU Status of BEML", PIB, December 4, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1595015>



## Operations and Exercises

6. **EX Mitra Shakti -VII 2019<sup>6</sup>**. The Indian and Sri Lankan Armies carried out their seventh Exercise MITRA SHAKTI- 2019, focused on subunit level training in counter insurgency and counter terrorism operations in urban and rural environment, from December 1-14 at Aundh Military Station. The joint exercise is designed to incorporate the current dynamics of United Nations Peace Keeping Operations through practical and comprehensive discussions and tactical exercises.
7. **EX Hand-in-Hand 2019<sup>7</sup>**. India and China carried out the eighth joint training exercise 'HAND-IN-HAND 2019' from December 7-20, at Umroi, Meghalaya. The Chinese contingent from the Tibet Military command comprising of 130 personnel. An Indian contingent of similar strength participated in the exercise, which was planned at the company level with respective Battalion Headquarters controlling the training. The exercise focused on joint planning and conduct of counter terrorist operations in semi urban terrain.
8. **EX Surya Kiran-XIV 2019<sup>8</sup>**. The Indian and Nepalese Armies jointly conducted the fourteenth annual military exercise SURYA KIRAN-XIV from December 3-16 at Nepal Army Battle School (NABS), Salijhandi, in Nepal. The exercise focused on battalion level combined training to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare, counter terrorist operations in mountainous terrain, humanitarian assistance, disaster relief operations, and medical and environmental conservation including aviation aspects.
9. **EX Indra 2019<sup>9</sup>**. Joint India Russia Exercise INDRA 2019 was conducted from December 10-19 at Babina (Madhya Pradesh), Pune, and Goa. Company sized mechanised contingents, fighter and transport aircraft as well as ships of the respective Armies, Air Forces and Navies participated in tactical operations and drills such as cordon house intervention, handling and neutralisation of Improvised Explosive Devices, prevention of arms smuggling through the sea route and anti-piracy measures.

<sup>6</sup> "Exercise Mitra Shakti -VII: 2019", PIB, December 1, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594439>

<sup>7</sup> "Curtain Raiser Exercise Hand-in-Hand-2019", PIB, December 2, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594600>

<sup>8</sup> "Opening Ceremony India-Nepal Joint Military Exercise Surya Kiran – XIV", PIB, December 3, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594720>

<sup>9</sup> "Curtain Raiser: Exercise INDRA 2019", PIB, December 5, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1595180>

10. **EX Apharan**<sup>10</sup>. The Indian Navy and Coast Guard in collaboration with Cochin Port Trust jointly conducted an anti-hijacking exercise, "Apharan", off Kochi on December 18. More than 12 ships and helicopters of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Cochin Port Trust participated in the exercise, aimed at streamlining the response mechanism/ preparedness to thwart any attempt by Anti-National Elements to hijack a merchant vessel or attempt forced entry of a rogue merchant vessel into harbour.

### *Capability Development*

11. **Test of BrahMos Missile**<sup>11</sup>. DRDO and Indian Air Force jointly conducted two BrahMos supersonic cruise missile tests, one each from land and air platforms, on December 17. The tests, conducted in user configuration, revalidated the ship attack capability of the advanced air-launched cruise missile. Earlier on May 22, 2019, IAF had successfully tested the missile against a land-based target in the Car Nicobar Islands region. With these tests, integration of the BrahMos on Su-30MKI aircraft has been declared as 'completed'.
12. **Test of Pinaka Missile System**<sup>12</sup>. DRDO conducted two test firings of Pinaka Missile System at Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the Odisha coast on December 19. The objective was to test low range, functioning of a live warhead along with its proximity initiation and salvo launch.
13. **Test of Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile**<sup>13</sup>. DRDO conducted flight test of a Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the Odisha coast, on December 23. The QRSAM weapon system operates on the move and comprises of fully automated Command and Control System and Active Array Battery.

<sup>10</sup> "Anti-Hijacking Exercise conducted by Southern Naval Command", PIB, December 18, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1596906>

<sup>11</sup> "Successful launch of two BrahMos missiles from land and air platforms", PIB, December 17, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1596779>

<sup>12</sup> "Successful flight test of two Pinaka missiles in salvo mode", PIB, December 20, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1597051>

<sup>13</sup> "Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile successfully flight-tested off Odisha coast", PIB, December 23, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1597212>

## Visits

14. **Visit of Army Chief to Japan<sup>14</sup>**. Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee and Chief of the Army Staff General Bipin Rawat visited Japan from December 3-6. During the visit he interacted with senior officials from the Japan Self Defence Force to strengthen bilateral defence ties between the two nations. He also met the Japanese Defence Minister Taro Kono.
15. **Visit of Navy Chief to Sri Lanka<sup>15</sup>**. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh visited Sri Lanka from December 19-22. The CNS held bilateral discussions with his Sri Lankan counterpart V Adm KKVP De Silva, Service Chiefs and other senior Government officials. The visit was intended to consolidate and enhance bilateral maritime relations between India and Sri Lanka.
16. **Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019<sup>16</sup>**. Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria participated the Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019 (PACS 2019) at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam from December 3-6. The theme of the symposium was 'A Collaborative Approach to Regional Security'. During the event, Air Chiefs from 21 Indo-Pacific countries discussed common challenges, mutual interests, Regional Security, Multi-Domain Awareness, interoperability and HADR related issues. The Conference is intended to further strengthen existing cooperation between Air Forces of the participating countries and pave the way for enhanced interaction in the future.
17. **Visit of Air Chief to Egypt<sup>17</sup>**. Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria visited Egypt from December 24-28. During the visit he interacted with senior officials of the Egyptian Armed Forces and visited various operational and training establishments of the Egyptian Air Force.
18. **Visit of Bangladesh Navy Chief to India<sup>18</sup>**. Bangladesh Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury visited India from December 7-12.

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<sup>14</sup> "Press release : Visit of chief of the army staff to Japan", PIB, December 2, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594599>

<sup>15</sup> "Visit of Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff to Sri Lanka (19 to 22 Dec 19)", PIB, December 18, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1596881>

<sup>16</sup> "Chief of the Air Staff Participates in Pacific Air Chiefs' Symposium 2019", PIB, December 4, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594971>

<sup>17</sup> "Visit of Chief of The Air Staff to Egypt", PIB, December 23, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1597265>

<sup>18</sup> "Visit of Admiral Aurangzeb Chowdhury, Chief of Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy (07 – 12 dec 19)", PIB, December 9, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1595535>

During the visit he interacted with his Indian counterpart Admiral Karambir Singh and other senior officials of the Indian Armed Forces. Admiral Chowdhury also visited naval units at Kochi, Vizag and Kolkata.

19. **ICGS Vikram Visit to Madagascar**<sup>19</sup>. Indian Coast Guard ship Vikram visited Toamasina, Madagascar on December 23. The Navy Chief of Madagascar was present at the official welcome to the ship. The Commanding Officer held discussions with senior officials of Madagascar on increasing bilateral cooperation.

### *Other Issues*

20. **NAVARMS-2019**<sup>20</sup>. An International Seminar cum Exhibition on Naval Weapon Systems, 'NAVARMS - 2019', with the theme 'Make in India - Fight Category: Opportunities and Imperatives' was held on December 12-13 at New Delhi. The Exhibition comprised of exhibits from Ordnance Factories, DPSUs, private industries (both domestic and international) and Indian Navy showcasing cutting edge and niche defence technologies.
21. **India-UK Collaboration**<sup>21</sup>. The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) has established an Aerospace and Defence Industry Group to further promote relations between the two countries. The vertical has been created based on suggestions of the Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) and with the support of UK Defence Solutions Centre (UK DSC), ADS Group Ltd, the Department for International Trade (DIT), and the industry vertical Aerospace and Defence Industry Group (ADIG). The main members of the group include Rolls-Royce, BAE Systems, Thales UK, MBDA, Leonardo, TVS Logistics, PEXA, Pattonair and Cranfield University.

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<sup>19</sup> "ICG ship Vikram arrives in Toamasina on goodwill visit to Madagascar", Business Standard, December 25, 2019, [https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/icg-ship-vikram-arrives-in-toamasina-on-goodwill-visit-to-madagascar-119122500349\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/icg-ship-vikram-arrives-in-toamasina-on-goodwill-visit-to-madagascar-119122500349_1.html)

<sup>20</sup> "Curtain Raiser – International Seminar cum Exhibition on Naval weapon Systems – NAVARMS-19", PIB, December 10, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1596267>

<sup>21</sup> "UKIBC creates a new vertical, to deepen defence and aerospace cooperation between India and UK", Financial Express, December 6, 2019, <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/ukibc-creates-a-new-vertical-to-deepen-defence-and-aerospace-cooperation-between-india-and-uk/1786784/>

22. **Institutionalisation of War Committee**<sup>22</sup>. The defence ministry has approved the proposal of the Indian Army to institutionalise the war committee created during the 2017 Doklam crisis for better synergy, under the new post of Deputy Chief (Strategy), as part of the army's restructuring plans. The committee, comprising the heads of military operations, intelligence, planning and perception management, had been created on an ad hoc basis under the Army's Vice Chief.
23. **De-Induction of Mig-27**<sup>23</sup>. Indian Air Force conducted the de-induction ceremony of Mig -27 aircraft on December 27 at Air Force Station, Jodhpur. The Mig-27 'Bahadur' aircraft has been the IAF's premier Ground Attack aircraft and saw action in the Kargil conflict. It was last flown by 29 Sqn IAF.
24. **Wipro Launches Cyber Defence Centre in Australia**<sup>24</sup>. Wipro Limited launched its NextGen Cyber Defence Centre (CDC) in Melbourne, Australia on December 7, 2019. The Cyber Defence Centre is the first local shared security operations centre for Wipro in Australia and will enable customers to actively manage their cyber risks by leveraging managed services around threat intelligence, security monitoring and analytics, vulnerability management, incident response and regulatory compliance. Wipro also plans to launch similar CDCs in other cities in Australia and offer cyber resilience and provide digital protection to large government organizations.

## Appointments

25. **Appointment of Chief of Army Staff**<sup>25</sup>. Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane assumed charge as the Chief of the Army Staff on December 31. He was earlier Vice Chief of Army Staff and has also served as General Officer

<sup>22</sup> "Army wants Doklam panel under new Deputy Chief, cabinet nod awaited", The Economic Times, December 14, 2019, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/army-wants-doklam-panel-under-new-deputy-chief-cabinet-nod-awaited/articleshow/72581551.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>23</sup> "Farewell MiG 27: IAF's Kargil star Bahadur takes to skies one last time. See pics", Live Mint, December 27, 2019, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/iaf-to-decommission-mig-27-fighter-jet-that-played-a-crucial-part-in-kargil-war-see-pics-11577380169772.html>

<sup>24</sup> "Wipro Launches NextGen Cybersecurity Defence Centre in Melbourne, Australia", India Education Diary, December 7, 2019, <https://indiaeducationdiary.in/wipro-launches-nextgen-cybersecurity-defence-centre-in-melbourne-australia/>

<sup>25</sup> "Lt Gen M.M. Naravane appointed as Chief of Army Staff", PIB, December 17, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1596687>

Commanding (GOC) Delhi Area and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C) Eastern Command.

26. **Appointment of C-in-C A&N Command<sup>26</sup>.** Lt Gen Podali Shankar Rajeshwar assumed charge as the Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman & Nicobar Command on December 1. He was earlier Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC).
27. **Appointment of Controller of Warships Production and Acquisition<sup>27</sup>.** Vice Admiral SR Sarma assumed Charge as Controller Warships' Production and Acquisition on November 30, 2019. As CWP&A, the Admiral will control acquisition of all ships and submarines under production at shipyards, both Indian and Foreign, and head the design directorates of the Navy responsible for designing ships and submarines.
28. **Appointment of Chief of Personnel, IHQ MoD (Navy)<sup>28</sup>.** Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh assumed charge as the Chief of Personnel on December 2. He was Assistant Controller Carrier Project and Assistant Controller Warship Production and Acquisition at IHQ MoD(N), He has also been the Flag Officer Goa Area / Flag Officer Naval Aviation at Goa, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet at Mumbai, Chief of Staff at Headquarters Western Naval Command at Mumbai and Director General Project Seabird at IHQ MoD(N).
29. **Appointment of Senior Air Staff Officer Western Air Command<sup>29</sup>.** Air Marshal RJ Duckworth assumed charge as the Senior Air Staff Officer, Headquarters Western Air Command on December 16. He was earlier Senior Air Staff Officer Central Air Command.
30. **Indian Navy Gets its First Woman Pilot<sup>30</sup>.** S Lt Shivangi, a resident of Muzaffarpur, Bihar, was inducted under the Shoft Service Commission Pilot Entry Scheme as the first woman pilot of the Indian Navy. She will

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<sup>26</sup> "Lt Gen P S Rajeshwar takes over as C-n-C of Andaman & Nicobar Command", PIB, December 2, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594590>

<sup>27</sup> "Controller of Warship Production & Acquisition (CWP&A)", Indian Navy, December 1, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/controller-warship-production-acquisition-cwpa>

<sup>28</sup> "Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh AVSM, NM took over as Chief of Personnel, IHQ MoD (Navy)", PIB, December 4, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1594857>

<sup>29</sup> "Air Marshal RJ Duckworth VSM took over as Senior Air Staff Officer , Western Air Command , IAF", PIB, December 16, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1596619>

<sup>30</sup> "Navy Gets its First Woman Pilot", PIB, December 2, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=195299>

now join the "Dornier Operational Flying Training Course at INAS 550 before going to an operational maritime reconnaissance squadron.

31. **Appointment of Commandant NDC<sup>31</sup>.** Air Marshal D Choudhury assumed charge as Commandant of the National Defence College on December 16. He was earlier the Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters Western Air Command in New Delhi.

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<sup>31</sup> "Air Marshal D Choudhury is the new Commandant of National Defence College", PIB, December 16, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1596662>



## PART II: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEFENCE SCENE

### China

#### Defence Policy

32. **Draft Law to Control Arm Sales**<sup>32</sup>. China is reviewing a draft law that will see arms sales being properly controlled. The draft law listed goods, technologies and services "related to fulfilling international obligations and safeguarding national security" as export-controlled items including military-civilian dual-use items, military products and nuclear-related products.

#### Operations and Exercises

33. **Russia-China-Iran launch Gulf of Oman war games**<sup>33</sup>. The first joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Oman between Russia, China and Iran began on December 27. The naval drills, which will include tactical exercises such as rescuing vessels under attack, began in the port city of Chabahar in South Eastern Iran and are due to continue in the Northern parts of the Indian Ocean. China's foreign and defence ministries described the exercises as "normal military-to-military co-operation" and that it was "not necessarily connected with the regional situation."
34. **China-Pakistan Exercise 'Warrior VII'**<sup>34</sup>. The month-long joint training exercise, 'Warrior VII' between the PLA Western Theatre Command and the Pakistani Army began on December 02 at Cherat in Pakistan. The two sides will focus on counter-terrorism operations and target defence, and carry out intensive training in organisation and coordination, close combat skills, battlefield reconnaissance and manoeuvre penetration.
35. **China-Saudi Arabia Naval Exercise 'Blue Sword 2019'**<sup>35</sup>. The Royal Saudi Navy's Special Forces of the Western Fleet concluded a joint military

<sup>32</sup> "China drafts law to control arms sales", China Military, December 24, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/24/content\\_9702308.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/24/content_9702308.htm)

<sup>33</sup> "Russia, China and Iran launch Gulf of Oman war games", Financial Times, December 28, 2019. <https://www.ft.com/content/3d5a4cf0-288f-11ea-9a4f-963f0ec7e134>

<sup>34</sup> "China-Pakistan "Warrior-VII" joint military exercise kicks off in Pakistan", China Military, December 06, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/06/content\\_9691028.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/06/content_9691028.htm)

<sup>35</sup> "Saudi, Chinese navies conclude military drills", Arab News, December 06, 2019 <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1594821/saudi-arabia>



exercise with China's PLA Navy in Jeddah on December 05. Exercise Blue Sword 2019 was conducted to build mutual trust, enhance cooperation, exchange experiences, developing the capacity of participants to combat maritime terrorism and piracy, and improve training and combat readiness.

36. **China-Tanzania Military Exercise**<sup>36</sup>. Chinese troops from the PLA Eastern Command arrived in Tanzania for joint military training, 'Sincere Partners-2019' that took place on December 23. The aim of the exercise was to enhance the capabilities of the two armed forces in carrying out military missions, improve practical mutual exchanges and cooperation, and deepen the traditional friendship, and build a new security partnership.

### Visits

37. **Chinese naval ship in Kenya**<sup>37</sup>. The missile frigate Weifang from the 33rd escort fleet of the Chinese PLA Navy arrived at the Port of Mombasa, Kenya for technical docking on December 8. The ship successfully completed the China-Russia-South Africa maritime joint mission in South Africa from November 24 to 29. It will carry out material resupply and equipment maintenance during the docking.
38. **Chinese Defense Minister meets Japanese Defense Minister**<sup>38</sup>. Chinese State Councilor and Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe met the visiting Japanese Defense Minister Taro Kono in Beijing on December 18. The press release stated that China is ready to work with Japan to strengthen defence exchanges, deepen practical cooperation, properly handle disputes and differences and actively build constructive bilateral security relations. Japan-China relations have entered a new period of development and bilateral defense exchanges have also made positive progress.

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<sup>36</sup> "China, Tanzania to kick off joint military training on Dec. 23", China Military, December 19, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/19/content\\_9699766.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/19/content_9699766.htm)

<sup>37</sup> "Chinese navy ship Weifang docked in Kenya", China Military, December 08, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/08/content\\_9691852.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/08/content_9691852.htm)

<sup>38</sup> "Chinese defense minister meets Japanese counterpart", December 18, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/18/content\\_9699117.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/18/content_9699117.htm)

39. **Chinese Defense Minister meets Indonesian Defense Minister**<sup>39</sup>. On December 16, the Indonesian Defence Minister met his Chinese counterpart. The Indonesian Defence Minister said that Indonesia attaches great importance to developing its relations with China, and is willing to strengthen pragmatic cooperation in various areas including defence and security to keep advancing relations between the two countries and militaries.
40. **Chinese Defence Minister Meets Pakistani CAS**<sup>40</sup>. Chinese State Councilor and Defence Minister General Wei Fenghe met Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan, Chief of the Air Staff of Pakistan Air Force, in Beijing on December 16. The Chinese statement notes that China and Pakistan are 'unique all-weather strategic cooperative partners' and that 'military-to-military relations are an important pillar of bilateral relations. The Pakistani CAS said that Pakistan is willing to further deepen pragmatic exchanges and cooperation with China in the military field and work together to safeguard the common interests of the two countries.

### Capability Development and Sales

41. **China's 10,000 ton-class Guided Destroyer Equipped with Long Range Land Attack Missiles**<sup>41</sup>. The PLA Navy has revealed that Nanchang, its first Type 055 10,000 ton guided missile destroyer, has 112 vertical launch missile cells capable of launching a combination of surface-to-air missiles, anti-ship missiles and anti-submarine missiles. These include the CJ-10 land attack cruise missile with a range of about 1,500 Km, YJ-18 anti-ship missiles with a range of 540 Km, HHQ-9 SAMs with a range of 250-300 Km and missile launched anti-ship torpedoes.
42. **First Domestically Developed Aircraft Carrier Commissioned**<sup>42</sup>. China commissioned CNS Shandong, its second aircraft carrier and the first such ship wholly designed and built in the country, on December 17. China now enters the club of countries that has multiple carriers in active service. Carrying the hull designation number 17, CNS Shandong is the largest,

<sup>39</sup> "Chinese defense minister meets Indonesian counterpart", China Military, December 17, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/17/content\\_9697271.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/17/content_9697271.htm)

<sup>40</sup> "Chinese defense minister meets Pakistani air force leader in Beijing", China Military, December 17, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/17/content\\_9697926.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/17/content_9697926.htm)

<sup>41</sup> "China's 10,000 ton-class destroyer equipped with long-range land-attack missiles", China Military, December 23, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/23/content\\_9701693.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/23/content_9701693.htm)

<sup>42</sup> "1st domestically developed aircraft carrier commissioned", China Military, December 17, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/17/content\\_9697855.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/17/content_9697855.htm)

mightiest and most sophisticated naval ship ever developed and built in China.

43. **Advanced Supply Ship Conducts Carrier Group Supplement Mission<sup>43</sup>.** The supply ship Hulunhu conducted its first aircraft carrier battle group supplement mission during a high sea exercise, which saw the supply ship replenish warships in the carrier group for the first time. As the first Type 901-class ship, the Hulunhu has a displacement of around 50,000 tons and was built specifically to accompany aircraft carrier battle groups. It is capable of replenishing oil, water, food and munitions for multiple ships at the same time.

### *Pakistan*

44. **International Marine Oil Spill Exercise Barracuda X<sup>44</sup>.** The 10th edition of International Exercise Barracuda formally commenced at Headquarters Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSA) on December 02, 2019. The ceremony was attended by 24 observers from 11 friendly countries and officers of Pakistan Navy and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency.
45. **Minister of Industry & Trade of Russian Federation Calls on General Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff<sup>45</sup>.** Mr Denis Valentinovich Manturov, Russian Minister of Industry & Trade, called on General Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff, on December 11, 2019. Matters of mutual interest were discussed. Both reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations for peace & stability and economic prosperity of the region.
46. **Special Advisor for Foreign Affairs to Shinzo Abe Calls on Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff<sup>46</sup>.** Mr Kentaro Sonoura, Special Advisor for Foreign Affairs to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, called on General Bajwa on December 23, 2019. They discussed matters of mutual interest, including overall regional security. Both reiterated the desire to further enhance bilateral relations, including efforts for peace and security in the region.

<sup>43</sup> "Advanced supply ship conducts carrier group supplement mission", China Military, December 22, 2019 [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/22/content\\_9701373.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-12/22/content_9701373.htm)

<sup>44</sup> "International Marine Oil Spill Exercise Barracuda X Commenced", ISPR, December 02, 2019 <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5535>

<sup>45</sup> "Mr Denis Valentinovich Manturov, Minister of Industry & Trade of Russian Federation called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today.", ISPR, December 11, 2019 <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5548>

<sup>46</sup> "H.E. Mr Kentaro Sonoura Special Advisor for Foreign Affairs to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff, today.", ISPR, December 23, 2019 <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5562>

47. **Russian Navy's Commander in Chief visits Naval Facilities**<sup>47</sup>. Commander in Chief of the Russian Navy, Admiral Nikolay Anatolyevich Yevmenov was on an official visit to Pakistan from December 18 - 21, during which he visited facilities including the Pakistan Navy War College at Lahore, Pakistan Navy Ships, Pakistan Naval Academy and Marines Training Centre at Karachi.
48. **Iranian Navy Commander Visits Pakistan Navy Units in Karachi**<sup>48</sup>. Rear Admiral Dr Hossein Khanzadi visited various Pakistan Navy installations and units at Karachi, and called on Commander Karachi and Commander Coast during his official visit to Pakistan from December 9 - 11.
49. **Commander Royal Bahrain Naval Force Visits Naval Headquarters**<sup>49</sup>. Commander of the Royal Bahrain Naval Force, Rear Admiral Mohammad Yusuf Al Asam visited Naval Headquarters, Islamabad on December 04 and called on Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi. Matters discussed included bilateral naval collaboration, regional maritime security & stability and various avenues to enhance interoperability between Pakistan Navy and Royal Bahrain Naval Force.
50. **Commander US Navcent Meets Chief of the Naval Staff at Naval Headquarters**<sup>50</sup>. Commander of the US Naval Forces Central Command Vice Admiral James J. Malloy called on Pakistan's Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi on December 03. They discussed matters related to maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region, and the possibility of bilateral naval collaboration. The Pakistan Navy has been a regular contributor to the Combined Maritime Forces since 2004 and has also commanded Multinational Combined Task Forces 150 & 151, eleven and eight times respectively.

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<sup>47</sup> "Commander In Chief Russian Federation Navy Calls On Field Commanders Of Pakistan Navy And Visits Naval Facilities In Lahore & Karachi", ISPR, December 21, 2019 <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5559>

<sup>48</sup> "Commander Navy Islamic Republic Of Iran Visits Various Pn Units At Karachi", ISPR, December 11, 2019 <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5549>

<sup>49</sup> "Commander Royal Bahrain Naval Force Visits Naval Headquarters, Islamabad", ISPR, December 04, 2019 <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5538>

<sup>50</sup> "Commander USNavcent Meets Chief Of The Naval Staff At Naval Headquarters Islamabad", ISPR, December 03, 2019 <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5537>

## Bangladesh

51. **Bangladesh Navy Receives Two Chinese Frigates**<sup>51</sup>. The Bangladesh Navy received two Chinese Type-053H3 frigates, Jiaxing (Hull 521) and Putian (Hull 523), in Shanghai on December 18. The ships have been renamed BNS Omar Farooq and BNS Abu Ubaidah respectively. These are the second generation of the PLA Navy's frigates that are equipped with anti-aircraft missile systems. The Bangladesh Navy signed an agreement in June 2018 to import two frigates China that would retire. The ships commenced their voyage back to Bangladesh on December 23.
  
52. **Bangladesh Receives \$500 million Credit from India for Defence Procurement**<sup>52</sup>. The Export-Import Bank of India provided USD 500 million as credit to Bangladesh for defence-related procurement. Out of the total credit, goods and services including consultancy services of the value of at least 75 per cent of the contract price shall be supplied by the seller from India. The remaining 25 per cent of goods and services may be procured by the seller for the purpose of the eligible contract from outside India. The terminal utilisation period of the loan is 10 years from the date of signing of the agreement (November 7).
  
53. **U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Visits Bangladesh**<sup>53</sup>. The United States Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Affairs Randall Schriver visited Bangladesh briefly on December 4. During a press briefing he mentioned that the U.S. sought a stronger defence relationship and a close partnership with Bangladesh through initiatives like the proposed two "foundational defence" agreements – General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) and Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA). Bangladesh is exploring the use of Western and US platforms. The Assistant Secretary further stated that the Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) propagated by the US saw many alignments with Bangladesh's views.

<sup>51</sup> "Two frigate of BNS Umer Farroq and Abu Ubaidah built in China handed over to BD Navy", ISPR, December 18, 2019 <https://www.ispr.gov.bd/en/two-frigate-of-bns-umer-farroq-and-abu-ubaidah-built-in-china-handed-over-to-bd-navy/>

<sup>52</sup> "Exim Bank provides USD 500 mn credit to Bangladesh for defence procurement", The Economic Times, December 06, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/exim-bank-provides-usd-500-mn-credit-to-bangladesh-for-defence-procurement/articleshow/72401580.cms?from=mdr>

<sup>53</sup> "No country should oppose US-Bangladesh defence co-op, says US", New Age Bangladesh, December 27, 2019 <http://www.newagebd.net/article/92680/no-country-should-oppose-us-bangladesh-defence-co-op-says-us>

54. **Bangladesh Army Chief Visits Myanmar**<sup>54</sup>. Bangladesh's Army Chief, Gen. Aziz Ahmed began his four-day visit to Myanmar on December 8, in an effort to 'open another line of negotiation' between the two countries over Rohingya repatriation. A statement by the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry stated that 'the army plays a very important role in Myanmar. Under such circumstances, if our army chief visits the country, it will be good for us'<sup>55</sup>. At the end of the visit, Vice-Senior General Soe Win, deputy commander-in-chief of Myanmar's defense services, told Bangladeshi Army Chief that Myanmar was ready for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

### *Sri Lanka*

55. **Sri Lanka Appoints Military Officer as Spy Chief**<sup>56</sup>. Brigadier Suresh Sallay, the former Director of Military Intelligence, has been appointed as the Chief of the State Intelligence Service (SIS) - the country's premier spy agency. It is the first time in Sri Lankan history that a military officer had been appointed as the SIS chief. During investigations on the Easter bombing, the previous SIS chief had been accused by Sri Lanka's suspended police chief of not taking seriously the intelligence shared by India, which warned of an impending attack by an extremist group.

### *Nepal*

56. **Nepal Seeks Review of Gurkha Recruitment Deal with Britain**<sup>57</sup>. The Nepali Foreign Minister said that the country wanted to review a military deal allowing its citizens to be enlisted in the British Army, before a planned recruitment of Nepali women in the Brigade of Gurkhas for the first time in two centuries. An agreement between New Delhi, London and Kathmandu following India's independence in 1947 allowed India and Britain to share and recruit Gurkhas. Nepal now wants the 72-year-old

<sup>54</sup> "Military Tells Bangladesh: Myanmar Ready to Accept Rohingya Refugees", The Irrawaddy, December 10, 2019 <https://www.irrawaddy.com/news/burma/military-tells-bangladesh-myanmar-ready-accept-rohingya-refugees.html>

<sup>55</sup> "Bangladesh army chief begins four-day historic visit to Myanmar", Arab News, December 09, 2019 <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1596506/world>

<sup>56</sup> "In a first, Sri Lanka appoints military as a spy chief", India Today, December 09, 2019. <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/in-a-first-sri-lanka-appoints-military-officer-as-spy-chief-1626784-2019-12-09>

<sup>57</sup> "Nepal seeks review of Gurkha recruitment deal with Britain", Channel News Asia, December 14, 2019 <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/nepal-seeks-review-of-gurkha-recruitment-deal-with-britain-12184282>



tripartite deal renegotiated since that accord does not allow Kathmandu to play any role in the recruitment process by foreign armies.

57. **United States Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Visits Nepal**<sup>58</sup>. During his visit to Nepal on December 6, the US Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Randall Schriver said that the US accorded great importance to Nepal-US defence relationship and that the US aspired to create a set of military and defence activities that promote Nepal's own goals for its modernisation. When asked if the suspicion in Nepal over the IPS is a result of meddling by other foreign powers, Schriver said the US's competitors sometimes wanted to create narratives that the US was trying to force a choice or the US was trying to counter somebody else's strategy. According to Schriver, the military-defence component of the Indo-Pacific strategy was enabling countries to protect their sovereign interest. He concluded by saying that the American vision was to make Nepal strong, independent, sovereign and prosperous, and nothing more than that.

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<sup>58</sup> "Nepal-US defence ties on good track", The Himalayan Times, December 07, 2019  
<https://thehimalayantimes.com/kathmandu/nepal-us-defence-ties-on-good-track-united-states-assistant-secretary-of-defence-for-indo-pacific-security-affairs-randall-schriver/>



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