



Delhi Policy Group

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Delhi Policy Group

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

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# DPG India Defence Digest

## Volume 1, Issue 3

### April 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)*

*(Front to rear) Indian Navy Ship Ranvijay and Sahyadri; HMA Ships Newcastle and Canberra sail in formation as part of an exercise during AUSINDEX 2019. Source: Australian Government Department of Defence*

*Flag Officer Commanding Indian Navy Eastern Fleet Rear Admiral Suraj Berry and Commander Australian Fleet Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead AM, RAN, shake hands at the joint media brief held on Indian Navy Ship Sayadri in Visakhapatnam, India for AUSINDEX 2019. Source: Australian Government Department of Defence*

*Gol hands over first batch of six 155X45 mm Calibre "Dhanush", new generation towed artillery gun with major upgraded features, to Army at Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur, Apr 8, 2019. Source: @SpokespersonMOD*

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## PART I: INDIA'S DEFENCE SCENE

### *Operational Aspects*

1. In the post Pulwama strike period, Pakistani Army continues to violate Ceasefire along the Line of Control (LC) in J&K. 513 incidents of using mortars and artillery guns, including targeting civilian areas have been recorded during this period<sup>1</sup>. In response, on April 2, 2019, the Indian Army destroyed seven Pakistani military posts across the LC in Rakhchakri and Rawalkot forward areas (opposite Punch) in which Pakistani soldiers were killed<sup>2</sup>. In another incident, the Indian Air Force on April 01, 2019, scrambled two Sukhoi-30 fighter jets after sighting a Pakistani drone(s) along the Indo-Pak border in the Khemkaran Sector of Punjab<sup>3</sup>. Concurrently, Counter Terrorist operations continue to be carried out by the security forces. During the last two months 66 terrorists including 27 Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) members have been neutralised.
2. The Indian Navy and Coast Guard have been placed on high alert along the Indian-Sri Lanka maritime border to thwart any attempts by terrorists behind the April 21, 2019 attacks to escape. Ships and maritime surveillance aircraft have been deployed for reconnaissance along the territorial waters<sup>4</sup>.
3. The biannual Army Commanders' Conference, was held at New Delhi from April 8 to 13, 2019. Issues related to operational readiness; development of asymmetric warfare capability; infrastructure development; tri service cooperation; jointness; defence production; innovation and indigenisation were discussed. On this occasion an exhibition of emerging future defence technologies and innovation was

<sup>1</sup> "513 ceasefire violations by Pakistan post Balakot strike: Army", The Hindu, April 13, 2019, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/513-ceasefire-violations-by-pakistan-post-balakot-strike-army/article26830374.ece>

<sup>2</sup> "Indian Army inflicts several casualties on Pak troops, destroys 7 military posts: officials", Money Control, April 02, 2019, <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/india/indian-army-inflicts-several-casualties-on-pak-troops-destroys-7-military-posts-officials-3749881.html>

<sup>3</sup> "Pak's top generals review situation along border with India", The Economic Times, April 02, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/paks-top-generals-review-situation-along-border-with-india/articleshow/68693733.cms>

<sup>4</sup> "Indian Coast Guard On Alert To Stop Attackers From Fleeing Lanka: Sources", NDTV, April 22, 2019, <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/indian-coast-guard-on-high-alert-along-maritime-border-to-prevent-any-attempt-by-those-behind-lanka-2026745>

also held in which a large number of private defence enterprises participated<sup>5</sup>.

4. The Naval Commanders' Conference was held at New Delhi from April 23 to 25, 2019. The issues discussed related to functional reorganisation of Indian Navy for improving operational readiness; proposed acquisitions for capability developments, harnessing of niche technologies; and fulfilling national expectation of the being the regional Net Security Provider and first responder. In addition, lessons learnt from HADR operations and various maritime security initiatives like IFC-IOR were also discussed<sup>6</sup>.
5. A two days Cyber Exercise was conducted by the Indian Defence University Directorate of HQ Integrated Defence Staff on April 29-30, 2019. Relevant officials from the services, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS), National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), Indian - Computer Emergency Response Team (I-CERT), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), National Informatics Centre (NIC), Cyber Security Response Centre (CSRC), academia and industry participated in the exercise. Aspects related to threat appraisal; incident reporting & response framework; procedures for information exchange; attribution; evidence gathering and malicious services takedown; enhancement of capabilities required to protect information and information systems; enhancing cyber awareness; readiness coordination; integrated international responses & inter-governmental / inter-agency partnerships were practiced<sup>7</sup>.

### *Capability Development*

6. The DRDO on April 15, 2019 successfully test fired the long range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in Odisha. It was the sixth development flight trial with the objective of proving the efficacy of boost phase and cruise phase using way point navigation at very low altitudes. Nirbhay has a range of 1000

<sup>5</sup> "Army Commanders Conference: 08-13 April 2019", PIB, April 12, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1570478>

<sup>6</sup> "Curtain Raiser - Naval Commanders' Conference 2019/1", PIB, April 21, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189810>

<sup>7</sup> "Cyber Exercise on Scenario Building & Response", PIB, April 29, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189871>

km and can fly very close to the ground and sea surface to avoid detection by enemy radars<sup>8</sup>.

7. The Indian Army inducted indigenously built artillery gun 'Dhanush' on April 8, 2019. The 155X45mm Artillery gun is being manufactured by the Jabalpur-based Gun Carriage Factory. It can be employed in all types of terrain and has an extended firing range of upto 38km. An order for 114 guns has been placed by the Indian Army<sup>9</sup>.
8. The Indian Navy on April 20, 2019 launched its third guided missile destroyer INS Imphal at Mazagon Dock, Mumbai. The first destroyer of this series INS Vishakhapatnam was launched in April 2015, while the second ship, INS Mormugao, was launched in September 2016. Each warship spans 163 metres in length, has a beam of 17.4 metres and displaces 7300 tonnes. Each ship is also designed to operate two multirole helicopters. These ships are being built under Project 15B and incorporate new design concepts for improved survivability, and stealth<sup>10</sup>.
9. Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Veera' was commissioned at Vishakhapatnam on April 15, 2019. This vessel is third in the series of Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) for the Coast Guard and has been constructed by L&T at its shipbuilding facility at Kattupalli near Chennai. 'Veera' is equipped with an integrated bridge system, which includes advanced navigation and communication technology and integrated platform management system<sup>11</sup>.
10. The Ministry of Defence, on April 29, 2019 awarded a contract of Rs 6,311 crore to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) to supply eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASWSWC) to the Indian Navy. A second identical contract was signed on 30 April with

<sup>8</sup> "Sub-sonic cruise missile 'Nirbhay' successfully test-fired", The Hindu, April 16, 2019, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/sub-sonic-cruise-missile-nirbhay-successfully-test-fired/article26849032.ece>

<sup>9</sup> "Dhanush' 1st indigenous long-range artillery gun inducted into Indian Army", DD News, April 8, 2019, <http://ddnews.gov.in/national/%E2%80%98dhanush%E2%80%99-1st-indigenous-long-range-artillery-gun-inducted-indian-army>

<sup>10</sup> "Indian Navy launches guided missile destroyer INS Imphal", The Hindu, April 21, 2019, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/indian-navy-launches-guided-missile-destroyer-ins-imphal/article26900876.ece>

<sup>11</sup> "Coast Guard patrol ship Veera commissioned", The New Indian Express, April 16, 2019, <http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/andhra-pradesh/2019/apr/16/coast-guard-patrol-ship-veera-commissioned-1964924.html>



Cochin Shipyard. Each of these 16 ships will have a displacement of 750 tonnes, maximum speed of 25 knots and a complement of 7 officers and 50 sailors. They replace the Russian origin Abhay class corvettes, inducted between 1989 & 1991. These ships are designed to hunt for submarines in shallow waters. They can also be deployed for day/night Search and Rescue (SAR) roles in coastal areas, laying mines and for defence against hostile aircraft. Armament comprises of torpedo tubes, ASW rockets and remotely controlled machine guns. The first ship from each of the shipyards is to be delivered in 42 months followed by two boats every year; the project is to be completed in 84 months<sup>12</sup>.

11. The Indian Navy issued a global Request for Information (RFI) for building 12 Mine Countermeasure Vessels (MCMVs) at Goa Shipyard. This is the third such attempt in the last 14 years to indigenously develop minesweepers with transfer of technology from global OEMs<sup>13</sup>.
12. The United States, this month, cleared a \$2.4 billion Foreign Military Sale (FMS) of 24 MH-60R Seahawk multirole helicopters to India. These helicopters can detect, track and attack submarines and surface ships. Among other unique features, these helicopters are equipped with active low frequency sonars and multimode radar with automatic periscope detection and discrimination.
13. HAL has recommenced flight testing of the modified Intermediate Jet Trainer (IJT) at its Bengaluru facilities. The flight testing of IJT (HJT36), designed and developed by HAL for stage-II training of IAF pilots, was put on hold after the aircraft encountered a problem in spin test flights in 2016<sup>14</sup>.
14. Defence Cyber Agency (DCA) is likely to become operational in May 2019. Setting up of this agency was approved in 2018 and the raising

<sup>12</sup> "Defence ministry awards Rs 6,311-crore contract to GRSE for anti-submarine warfare boats", Hindustan Times, April 29, 2019, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/defence-ministry-awards-rs-6-311-crore-contract-to-grse-for-anti-submarine-warfare-boats/story-RE0z0vbx7eeb3ZWvp5IISI.html>

<sup>13</sup> "The global request of information which has been issued by the Indian Navy", Sputnik, April 4, 2019, <https://sputniknews.com/asia/201904041073826407-indian-navy-anit-nine-vessels/>

<sup>14</sup> "HAL re-commences flight test of modified intermediate jet trainer", Business Line, April 18, 2019, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/hal-re-commences-flight-test-of-modified-intermediate-jet-trainer/article26873880.ece>

commenced in January 2019. Government approved appointment of Rear Admiral Mohit Gupta as its first Chief<sup>15</sup>.

### Visits

15. The Sri Lankan Navy Chief Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva from March 30 to April 2, 2019. During visit he held bilateral discussions with Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba. He also visited various naval unites at Kochi and Mumbai<sup>16</sup>.
16. Qatar Navy Chief Major General (Navy) Abdullah Hassan Al-Sulaiti visited India from April 2 to 5, 2019 along with a three member Qatar Navy delegation. The visit was aimed at consolidating bilateral naval relations between India and Qatar<sup>17</sup>.
17. The Portuguese Minister of National Defence visited India on April 17-18, 2019. During the visit he met Raksha Mantri. Discussions were focused on strengthening defence cooperation, particularly in the fields of training and defence industry<sup>18</sup>.
18. Indian Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba, visited Thailand from April 17 to 19, 2019. The visit was intended to consolidate and enhance bilateral maritime relations and to explore new avenues of defence cooperation<sup>19</sup>.

### Exercises and Conferences

19. The third edition of the Australia India (Naval) Exercise (AUSINDEX) was conducted from April 2 to 19, 2019 at Visakhapatnam. The aim of the exercise was to practice maintaining secure sea lines of communications. From the Australian side HMAS Canberra (L02), a Landing Helicopter Dock ships, HMAS New Castle (06) and HMAS

<sup>15</sup> "India set to have Defence Cyber Agency in May; Rear Admiral Mohit to be its first chief", ANI, April 30, 2019, <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/india-set-to-have-defence-cyber-agency-in-may-rear-admiral-mohit-to-be-its-first-chief20190430102739/>

<sup>16</sup> "Visit of Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva, Commander of the Sri Lankan Navy (30 Mar to 02 Apr 19)", PIB, April 02, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1569997>

<sup>17</sup> "Staff Maj Gen (Navy) Abdulla Hassan M A Al-Sulaiti, Commander, Qatar Emiri Naval Forces visits India (02 to 05 Apr 19)", PIB, April 05, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1570089>

<sup>18</sup> "Visit of Portuguese Defence Minister to India (17-18 April 2019)", MEA, April 17, 2019, [https://www.eoilisbon.gov.in/event\\_detail/?eventid=198](https://www.eoilisbon.gov.in/event_detail/?eventid=198)

<sup>19</sup> "Visit of Admiral Sunil Lanba, Chief of the Naval Staff To Thailand (17 to 19 April 2019)", PIB, April 16, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189772>

Paramatta (154), both frigates; HMAS Collins, a conventional submarine and HMAS Success (OR 304), a Durand-class multi-product replenishment tanker participated in the exercise. The Indian Navy was represented by INS Ranvijay, a multi-role destroyer, INS Sahyadri, a multi-role stealth frigate, INS Kora, a missile corvette, INS Kiltan, an Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) corvette and INS Sindhukirti, a conventional submarine<sup>20</sup>.

20. India and the US Navies conducted a Joint Anti-Submarine Warfare Exercise near Diego Garcia on April 15, 2019. US P-8A Poseidon, Indian P-8I Neptune anti-submarine warfare aircraft and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Spruance participated in the exercise. The exercise focused on post COMCASA enhanced level of communication, interoperability, and information sharing between maritime patrol aircraft and surface combatants to enhance Maritime domain awareness<sup>21</sup>.
21. India and Vietnam held a four-days maritime exercise off Cam Ranh Bay in Vietnam from April 13 to 17, 2019, with an aim to boost operational cooperation. From the Indian side INS Kolkata and INS Shakti participated<sup>22</sup>.

### *Other Developments*

22. India and the US are planning to revive the Defence Policy Group (DPG) between the two countries. The last DPG, co-chaired by India's Defence Secretary and US Under-Secretary of Defence for Policy, was held in November 2015. The decision to revive the DPG was taken during the Two-Plus-Two dialogue between the Foreign and Defence Ministers of the two countries in September 2018. DPG will review the reports of existing sub-groups: Military Cooperation Group, Joint Technology Group, Senior Security Technology Group and the Defence Procurement

<sup>20</sup> "Third Edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise between Royal Australian and Indian Navies – AUSINDEX-19 set to begin", PIB, April 02, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189625>

<sup>21</sup> "India, US Conduct Anti-Submarine Warfare Drill in Indian Ocean", The Diplomat, March 16, 2019, <https://thediplomat.com/2019/04/india-us-conduct-anti-submarine-warfare-drill-in-indian-ocean/>

<sup>22</sup> "India, Vietnam hold Naval Exercise", Brahmand.com, April 18, 2019, <http://www.brahmand.com/news/India-Vietnam-hold-naval-exercise/16974/1/10.html>

- and Production Group. A likely significant item on agenda is the draft text of the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)<sup>23</sup>.
23. Adani Defence Systems and Technologies acquired Alpha Design Technologies Pvt Ltd on April 20, 2019. This acquisition provides Adani Defence and Aerospace a strong tier-1 capability in areas of defence electronics, avionics, aero-structure assemblies, space and satellite systems and simulators<sup>24</sup>.
  24. L&T MBDA Missile Systems Ltd, a joint venture between engineering conglomerate Larsen & Toubro and France's MBDA, has sought a Letter of Approval (LoA) for the company to start setting up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Coimbatore. The proposed SEZ will focus on assembly, integration, and functional testing of missile sub-systems and missile weapon systems<sup>25</sup>.

<sup>23</sup> "India, US to take forward talks for key military pact", Hindustan Times, April 03, 2019, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-us-to-take-forward-talks-for-key-military-pact/story-bi2IfgMjKtKsfA2wjTqQzM.html>

<sup>24</sup> "Adani Enterprises arm acquires Alpha Design Technologies", Business Line, April 20, 2019, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/adani-enterprises-arm-acquires-alpha-design-technologies/article26899360.ece>

<sup>25</sup> "L&T MBDA seeks approval for SEZ unit to assemble missile sub-systems", Business Line, April 21, 2019, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/lt-mbda-seeks-approval-for-sez-unit-to-assemble-missile-sub-systems/article26904320.ece>

## PART II: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEFENCE ISSUES

### China

1. The PLA Navy celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on April 23, 2019. The four day long celebration comprising of seminars, talks, cultural events and an International Fleet Review (IFR) was held at Qingdao. 18 countries, including India participated in the anniversary related events. Chinese participation included 39 aircraft and 32 ships, including the aircraft carrier Liaoning and the new generation 10,000 tons guided missile destroyer Nanchang<sup>26</sup>. A flotilla of 16 foreign ships from Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Japan, Korea (ROK), Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam also participated. The Indian Navy was represented by INS Kolkata, an indigenously built stealth guided missile destroyer; and INS Shakti, a fleet support ship<sup>27</sup>. While Pakistan Navy Chief Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi was present, their two naval ships—PNS Saif and PNS Moawin, though scheduled to participate, did not attend. Their absence is being attributed in some quarters to the continued Indian Navy deployment in the North Arabian Sea. The fleet was reviewed by President Xi Jinping, who spelt out the vision of building a maritime community of shared future. The overall endeavour was to signal the growth of a rapidly developing world class Chinese naval force<sup>28</sup>.
2. Closely on the heels of the PLAN's Anniversary celebrations, China and Russia conducted a joint naval exercise from April 29 to May 03, 2019 to practice (ostensibly) "Joint maritime defensive operations"<sup>29</sup>.
3. The PLAAF is contemplating acquiring new Russian 5<sup>th</sup> generation Sukhoi Su-57 multirole stealth aircraft<sup>30</sup>. The proposed acquisition

<sup>26</sup> "China parades new warship as navy celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary", South China Morning Post, April 23, 2019. <https://www.dw.com/en/china-parades-new-warship-as-navy-celebrates-70th-anniversary/a-48444025>

<sup>27</sup> "Two Indian naval ships to take part in Chinese Navy's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations", The Economic Times, April 08, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/two-indian-naval-ships-to-take-part-in-chinese-navys-70th-anniversary-celebrations/articleshow/68760631.cms>

<sup>28</sup> "Chinese defence minister meets with Pakistani Chief of naval staff", China military online, April 22, 2018. [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-04/22/content\\_9484685.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-04/22/content_9484685.htm)

<sup>29</sup> "China and Russia may conduct joint naval exercises in late April", Global Times, March 28, 2019. <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1143872.shtml>

<sup>30</sup> "Russia completes delivery of Su-35 fighter aircraft to China", Jane's Defence Weekly, April 16, 2019. <https://www.janes.com/article/87934/russia-completes-deliveries-of-su-35-fighter-aircraft-to-china>

follows closely behind the recent procurement of 24 Su-35 (Flanker-E) multirole fighter aircraft.

4. In its continued efforts at capability development China on April 08, 2019, successfully tested the world's first armed 'amphibious drone boat' Hai Xiyi, built indigenously by the China Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (CSIC)<sup>31</sup>. China is also reportedly developing an air to air missile of over 100 miles range to engage targets beyond the immediate battle area. These missiles may ultimately be used to engage AEW/AWACS, re-fullers and other support aircraft<sup>32</sup>.
5. Amidst China's numerous capability development programmes, concerns continue to grow in the United States about the increasing threat potential of PLA. The US Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral John Richardson, testifying before House Armed Services Committee on April 12, 2019 highlighted his concerns over China's "unfavourable BRI deals" (with security implications) with nations and its potential dual use of commercial ports. He stated that *"China is attempting to impose unilateral rules, re-draw territorial boundaries, and redefine exclusive economic zones so it can regulate who comes and who goes, who sails through and who sails around."*<sup>33</sup>
6. Likewise, US Acting Secretary of Defence Patrick Shanahan delivering a keynote address at the annual Space Symposium, highlighted Chinese threat to the US military space assets of over 100 plus satellites. This he said, would have the potential of degrading communication, surveillance and navigation<sup>34</sup>.
7. Apprehensions of US leadership and military commanders are further substantiated by the conclusions of RAND Corporation Wargames. The lessons suggest an unfavourable outcome for USA in any military

<sup>31</sup> "China develops world's first armed amphibious drone boat", The Economic Times, April 15, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-develops-worlds-first-armed-amphibious-drone-boat-report/articleshow/68886661.cms>

<sup>32</sup> "New Missile concept from China can cripple American air power", Wonderful engineering, March 25, 2019. <https://wonderfulengineering.com/new-missile-concept-from-china-can-easily-cripple-american-air-power/>

<sup>33</sup> "China trying to create its own globally decisive naval force through BRI: Pentagon", The Economic Times, April 12, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/china-trying-to-create-its-own-globally-decisive-naval-force-through-bri-pentagon/articleshow/68847729.cms>

<sup>34</sup> "Shanahan: Space organizations integral to preventing Chinese, Russian military dominance", Stars and Stripes, April 09, 2019. <https://www.stripes.com/news/us/shanahan-space-organizations-integral-to-preventing-chinese-russian-military-dominance-1.576337>



confrontation with China and Russia. This is attributed partially to the continental depth and mountainous terrain where large number of long, medium and short range missiles can be concealed by China<sup>35</sup>.

### *Pakistan*

8. The Pakistan military on April 10, 2019 conducted a tour for a group of international media personnel and foreign diplomats to the seminary and its surrounding areas in Balakot, where India carried out counter-terror strikes on the JeM's training camp. The tour is a seeming ploy to strengthen Pakistan's claim of Indian strikes being ineffective<sup>36</sup>.
9. According to an Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) release, the Pakistani Navy on April 23, 2019 successfully test fired an indigenous cruise missile in the Arabian Sea. Although the exact type of missile was not revealed, the speculation is that the test could either be the HARBA anti-ship and land-attack cruise missile (LACM/ASCM), which was last test fired in January 2018, or a sea-launched version of the BABUR 1B LACM/ASCM. (A third possibility is a sea-launched variant of the ZARB land-based ASCM system). The press statement did mention that the tested missile has anti-ship and land attack capability<sup>37</sup>.

### *Sri Lanka*

10. India's Secretary of Defence visited Sri Lanka on April 7-8, 2019 for a two day official visit. He called on President Maithripala Sirisena, Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando and Chief of Defense Staff Admiral Ravindra Wijegunaratne. Both sides agreed to strengthen cooperation in fields of security and defence, including regional security, curbing drug smuggling and human trafficking. It was also

<sup>35</sup> "China's missiles could dust the US military in minutes- here's what would happen if they tried", Business Insider, March 30, 2019. <https://www.businessinsider.in/Chinas-missiles-could-dust-the-US-military-in-minutes-heres-what-would-happen-if-they-tried/articleshow/68639265.cms>

<sup>36</sup> "Pak military takes foreign media, diplomats on tour of Balakot seminary", Business Standard, April 10, 2019. [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pak-military-takes-foreign-media-diplomats-on-tour-of-balakot-seminary-119041001333\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/pak-military-takes-foreign-media-diplomats-on-tour-of-balakot-seminary-119041001333_1.html)

<sup>37</sup> "Pakistan navy successfully test fires indigenous cruise missile ", The Economic Times, April 23, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/pakistan-navy-successfully-test-fires-indigenous-cruise-missile/articleshow/69013072.cms>

agreed to enhance the scale and level of training of Sri Lankan armed forces personnel<sup>38</sup>.

11. In the wake of the Easter bombings on April 21, 2019 that killed nearly 253 people, Sri Lanka's President has given the military sweeping police powers. The military now has wider authority under the emergency laws to detain and arrest suspects<sup>39</sup>.
12. Two US navy ships, USNS Millinocket and USS Spruance, visited Hambantota port on April 18, 2019 for a joint exercise with the Sri Lankan navy. The 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Exercise (CARAT)' is the US Navy's oldest and longest continually-running regional exercise in South and Southeast Asia<sup>40</sup>.

### Myanmar

13. In a major act of demonstrated cooperation between the Indian and Myanmar Army, successful operations have been conducted in recent days against the Khaplang faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) in Myanmar's Sagaing Province. Operations have also been conducted against 'United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA)' rebel camps. Intensified military pressure has resulted in a spate of surrenders from the ranks of the ULFA and Manipuri rebel groups<sup>41</sup>.
14. Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing, C-in-C of the Armed Forces of Myanmar, visited Beijing on April 9, 2019, two weeks ahead of Myanmar State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to attend the second Belt and Road forum, on April 26, 2019. The visit included discussions over the controversial Chinese projects including the Myitsone dam and a suspended hydropower project in the Kachin State of Myanmar<sup>42</sup>.

<sup>38</sup> "Sri Lanka seeks enhanced military training from India", The Economic Times, April 08, 2019. <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/sri-lanka-seeks-enhanced-military-training-from-india/article26774078.ece>

<sup>39</sup> "Sri Lanka military given sweeping powers after bombings", The Economic Times, April 23, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/sri-lankan-military-given-sweeping-powers-after-bombings/articleshow/69001586.cms>

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