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Delhi Policy Group

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

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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.

Cover Photographs:

(Photographs top to bottom)

Indian French Rafale fighter jets fly near the aircraft carrier "Charles de Gaulle" during a joint Indo-French naval exercise Varuna, in the Arabian Sea, off Goa coast on May 9, 2019, Source: DNA

Akash-15 medium range Surface to Air Missile with multi-target engagement capability, successfully test fired on May 27, 2019, Source: PIB

Indian Navy launches fourth Scorpene-class submarine Vela in Mumbai on May 6, 2019, Source: The Economic Times

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PART I: INDIA'S DEFENCE SCENE

Exercises and Conferences

1. **Exercise Varuna:** India-France joint naval exercise, 'Varuna-19' was conducted off the Goa coast from May 1 to 10, 2019. French Navy's aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers, FNS Forbin and FNS Provence, frigate FNS Latouche-Treville, tanker FNS Marne and a nuclear submarine participated. From the Indian side, aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, frigate INS Tarkash, Shishumar-class submarine, INS Shankul, and the fleet tanker INS Deepak, participated. The second phase, of the exercise was conducted at Djibouti in the last week of May.¹ Enhanced level of naval cooperation as evident in the exercise highlights mutual commitment of India and France to the security of Indian Ocean Region.
2. **ADMM-PLUS MS FTX:** Indian Navy's Guided Missile Destroyer INS Kolkata and Fleet Support Ship INS Shakti which participated in the Chinese Navy's fleet review in April 2019, participated in 'ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus, Maritime Security Field Training Exercise (MS FTX)' Phase I from May 1-3 along with navies of South Korea, Brunei, China, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and the USA.

Later, from May 3 to 9, 2019 they carried out 'group sail' with naval ships of Japan, Philippines and the US in the South China Sea. Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Helicopter Carrier Izumo and Guided Missile Destroyer Murasame, Frigate BRP Andres Bonifacio of Philippines and Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer USS Williams P Lawrence of USA participated in the 'group sailing', which was aimed at fostering better mutual understanding among participating navies.

Phase II of ADMM-PLUS MS FTX was held from May 9-12, 2019 in the South China Sea. This was the fourth edition of ADMM-PLUS MS-FTX that was co-organised by South Korea and Singapore. 10 aircraft, 19 ships and approximately 700 personnel from 18 countries participated.

3. **SIMBEX-2019:** Post ADMM-PLUS naval exercise, Indian Ships participated in annual Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise SIMBEX-2019 held from May 16 to 22, 2019. The Singapore side was represented by the RSN ships Steadfast and Valiant, maritime patrol aircraft Fokker-50 (F-50) and F-

¹"Indian and French Navies Conduct Varuna 19.1 Bilateral Exercise Off Goa Coast", Indian Navy, May 1, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/node/22661>

16 fighter aircraft.² The ships also took part in the 'International Maritime Defence Expo 2019 (IMDEX-19)' at Singapore.³

4. **India-Myanmar Coordinated Patrols:** Myanmar Navy Ship UMS King TabinShweHtee and UMS Inlay arrived at Port Blair on May 20, 2019 for the Opening Ceremony of the 8th India-Myanmar coordinated Patrol (IMCOR). The Myanmar delegation was led by Commodore Htein Win, Commander, Ayeyarwady Naval Command. The Myanmar ships along with INS Saryu an offshore patrol vessel, conducted joint patrolling, along the 725 Km International Maritime Boundary Line between the two countries from May 20-28. The ships also conducted joint tactical exercise during the sea phase of coordinated patrol.⁴
5. **Security of Offshore Development Areas:** 39th meeting of the 'Western Regional Contingency Committee', was held at the Joint Operations Centre, Mumbai on May 15, 2019. The meeting was attended by representatives from Indian Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, State Intelligence Department, Marine Police, Customs, DG (Shipping), Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), India Meteorological Department (IMD), Fisheries, Mumbai Port Trust (MBPT), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT), Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), CAIRN India, Forest Survey of India (FSI) and others. This biannual meeting, is aimed at improving inter-agency coordination for dealing with security challenges and contingencies in Offshore Development Areas.⁵

Capability Developments

6. **Special Operations Division:** On May 15, 2019 Government initiated the process of raising the Armed Forces Special Operations Division by appointing Major General A. K. Dhingra as its founding commander. This division, based at Agra, will have approximately 3000 commandos drawn

² "SIMBEX-2019", Indian Navy, May 16, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/node/22781>

³ "IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti undertake Group Sail with Naval Ships of Japan, Philippines and the USA", Indian Navy, May 3, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/ships-kolkata-and-shakti-undertake-group-sail-naval-ships-japan-philippines-and-usa>

⁴ "8th Indo-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol Commences at Andaman and Nicobar Command", Indian Navy, May 20, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/node/22802>

⁵ "39th Regional Contingency Committee Western Region Meeting held at Western Naval Command, Mumbai", Indian Navy, May 15, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/node/22771>

from Indian Army's Special Forces, Indian Navy's MARCOS and Indian Air Force's Garud units.⁶

7. **Acquisition of Tanks:** Approval has been accorded to the Indian Army for acquiring additional 464 upgraded T-90 'Bhishma' battle tanks at a cost of Rs 135.58 billion during the period 2022-2026. These Russian origin tanks will be manufactured at the Heavy Vehicle Factory (HVF) Avadi, Chennai. The induction will enhance the strength of upgraded armoured regiments with night fighting capabilities by 10 units.⁷
8. **Private Sector Ventures:** L&T MBDA Missile Systems Ltd, a joint venture between L&T and France's missile systems manufacturer MBDA, has been accorded in-principle approval by the government for its proposed unit for assembly of missile systems at the Aspen Infrastructure Ltd Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Coimbatore. Approval has also been accorded to Tata Power Company Ltd's unit at Cochin Special Economic Zone (CSEZ) for manufacture of aircraft for military application.⁸
9. **Launching of Scorpene Class Submarine:** Vela, the fourth Scorpene class submarine being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited for the Indian Navy, was launched on May 6, 2019.⁹ (DPG India Defence Digest Volume 1, Issue 2, Para 6(d) at Page 3 refers)
10. **Test Launch-Aerial Version BrahMos Cruise Missile:** On May 22 the Indian Air Force successfully test fired the aerial version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from Sukhoi 30MKI in the Andaman Sea. Closely on its heels, the DRDO also successfully test fired an indigenously-developed 500 kg class guided bomb from a Sukhoi 30 MKI at Pokhran in Rajasthan on May 24, 2019.¹⁰

⁶ "Govt initiates steps to create special forces division", Live Mint, May 15, 2019, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/govt-initiates-steps-to-create-special-forces-division-1557922751354.html>

⁷ "Indian Army to deploy over 460 Russian-origin T-90 'Bhishma' tanks along Pakistan border", News Nation, May 7, 2019, <https://www.newsnation.in/india-news/indian-army-to-deploy-over-460-russian-origin-t-90-bhishma-tanks-along-pakistan-border-article-223181.html>

⁸ "L&T MBDA, Tata Power defence proposals get SEZ board approval", Business Line, May 5, 2019, <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/lt-mbda-tata-power-defence-proposals-get-sez-board-approval/article27040570.ece>

⁹ "Launch of Fourth Scorpene Class Submarine - Vela", Indian Navy, May 6, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/launch-fourth-scorpene-class-submarine-vela>

¹⁰ "Defence Research Body Test Fires Guided Bomb From Sukhoi Combat Jet", NDTV, May 25, 2019, <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/defence-research-body-test-fires-guided-bomb-from-sukhoi-combat-jet-2042708>

11. **Trials-Aerial Target System:** Flight test of a DRDO developed drone ABHYAS - High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully carried out at the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur in Balasore, Odisha, on May 13, 2019. ABHYAS is built on a small gas turbine engine and it uses indigenously developed Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS) based navigation system.¹¹
12. **Trials- India-Israel MRSAM:** The firing trials of naval variant of Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM), manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited were conducted jointly by Indian Navy, DRDO and Israel Aerospace Industries, on May 15, 2019. These were conducted along Western Seaboard from ships INS Kochi and INS Chennai, during which the ships intercepted various aerial targets at extended ranges.¹²
13. **Proposed Acquisition of Airborne Early Warning System:** Deliberations are underway to acquire 10 additional Kamov-31 Airborne Early Warning and Control helicopters at a cost of approximately Rs 35 billion. These helicopters are capable of operating from aircraft carriers and frigates. A Coast Guard proposal to acquire six maritime surveillance aircraft based on C-295 platforms is also under active consideration.¹³
14. **Aircraft Carrier (IAC-II) for Indian Navy:** Government of India is in dialogue with the government of United Kingdom to explore options for construction of the next aircraft carrier INS Vishal, on the design of HMS Queen Elizabeth. The design is owned by the British and French aerospace companies BAE and Thales. The ship is proposed to be constructed as IAC-2 at an Indian Shipyard. An Indian delegation visited Rosyth dockyard in Scotland where HMS Queen Elizabeth was assembled and where a second supercarrier, HMS Prince of Wales, is now being built.¹⁴
15. **Indian Defence Exports:** India has evolved a new procedure to speed up sale of military equipment to friendly countries like Bangladesh, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Myanmar and others through defence Lines of Credit

¹¹ "DRDO successfully conducts flight test of ABHYAS drone", The Asian Age, May 14, 2019, <https://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/140519/drdo-successfully-conducts-flight-test-of-abhyas-drone.html>

¹² "Medium Range Surface to Air Missile Firing Trials Conducted by Indian Navy", Indian Navy, May 15, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/node/22775>

¹³ "Navy pushing to acquire 10 Kamov-31 choppers for Rs 3,500 crore from Russia", Defence News, May 3, 2019, <http://www.defencenews.in/article/Navy-pushing-to-acquire-10-Kamov-31-choppers-for-Rs-3,500-crore-from-Russia-584477>

¹⁴ "India, UK in talks to build Naval supercarrier under 'Make in India': Report", The Hindu, May 5, 2019, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-uk-in-talks-to-build-copycat-naval-supercarrier-report/article27039679.ece>

(LoC). The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is initially being operationalised for defence PSUs and the Ordnance Factory Board. Subsequently, it will be extended to private sector companies producing defence equipment. The revised procedure will be applicable to both fresh as well as unutilised defence LoCs.¹⁵

Visits

16. **Russia:** A team of senior Indian defence officials led by the Defence Secretary Sanjay Mitra visited Russia to discuss the payment modalities for procurement of new defence platforms. The Indian delegation met Dmitry Shugev the head of the Federal Service for Military Technical Cooperation, the body that regulates military-technical cooperation issues. Over next few years, India will have to pay approximately \$7 billion to Russia for weapon systems such as the surface-air-missile S-400, the leasing of the second nuclear powered submarine, and the two warships being built in Russia. India may use a mix of Euros and a Rupee-Rouble transfer to pay for these to avoid US sanctions under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act of 2017 (CAATSA).¹⁶

India-US Defence Cooperation

17. 22nd meeting of the Air Force Executive Steering Group was held at the Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, from April 30-May 3, 2019. The group discussed issues of Air Force to Air Force cooperation within the ambit of India-US mil to mil cooperation.¹⁷
18. Admiral John Michael Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations, US Navy, visited India from May 12-14, 2019. His visit was intended to consolidate the bilateral naval relations between the two countries and explore new avenues for defence cooperation. During his visit he interacted with Chairman COSC and CNS, officials at the MOD, MEA and National Security Council Secretariat.¹⁸

¹⁵ "India relaxes procedure to speed up arms sales to friendly foreign nations", The Times of India, May 25, 2019, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-relaxes-procedure-to-speed-up-arms-sales-to-friendly-foreign-nations/articleshow/69490202.cms>

¹⁶ "India may adopt new payment formula to avoid US sanctions", Hindustan Times, May 4, 2019, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/india-may-adopt-new-payment-formula-to-avoid-us-sanctions/story-VGGvOOdM9hHX9jzhwVReQJ.html>

¹⁷ "India, US Air Force leaders participate in executive steering group", Indian Defence News, May 11, 2019, <http://www.indiandefencenews.in/2019/05/india-us-air-force-leaders-participate.html>

¹⁸ "Admiral John Michael Richardson, Chief of Naval Operations United States Navy Visit to India", Indian Navy, May 12, 2019, <https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/content/admiral-john-michael-richardson-chief-naval-operations-united-states-navy-visit-india>

Other Developments

19. **S-400 Missiles Become Focus Area for CAATSA Sanctions:** US has asked India not to proceed with the S-400 deal with Russia or else it would become the "focus area" for punitive sanctions under CAATSA.¹⁹
20. **Ammunition Accident:** Army has sought immediate intervention of the Ministry of Defence to check rising cases of accidents involving tanks, artillery and air defence guns due to poor quality of ammunition being supplied by the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB). MOD has noted certain lapses on part of OFB in terms of not maintaining the quality standards and not upgrading facilities. Remedial actions have been ordered.²⁰
21. **Offer-BMD:** The United States has offered Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) and Patriot Advance Capability (PAC-3) missile defence systems to India as an alternative to Russian S-400. The cost of a THAAD defence system could be approximately \$3 billion per unit.²¹
22. **Private Defence Industry Development:** Dynamatic Technologies signed a Long Term contract with Boeing Defence for the building of 'Aft Pylon' and 'Cargo Ramp' for Chinook CH-47 on May 9, 2019. This contract is an extension of the existing program where Dynamatic is supplying to global requirements as single source outside of Boeing. With this, the contract has been extended up to 2023.²²
23. Vivek Lall, Vice President Strategy and Business Development for Lockheed Martin, has stated that, if F-21 wins the contract for 114 fighter jets for the Indian Air Force (valued approx. \$18 billion) it will not sell this platform to any other country and will integrate India into his company's global supply chain. He stated that F-21 has superior engine, electronic warfare system and weapon carrying capacity.²³

¹⁹ "India's buying of S-400 from Russia will have serious implications on defence ties: US", The Economic Times, May 31, 2019,

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indias-buying-of-s-400-from-russia-will-have-serious-implications-on-defence-ties-us/articleshow/69592036.cms>

²⁰ "Army seeks defence ministry's intervention for supply of better ammunition", Business Standard, May 14, 2019, https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/army-seeks-defence-ministry-s-intervention-for-supply-of-better-ammunition-119051400792_1.html

²¹ "US offers to sell THAAD defence system to India as alternative to Russian S-400s", Hindustan Times, May 12, 2019, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/us-proposes-to-sell-thaad-to-india-as-alternative-to-russian-s-400s/story-EqzAqK47PkfXxw1C11NGDJ.html>

²² "Dynamatic Technologies signs contract with Boeing Defence", Business Standard, May 9, 2019, https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/dynamatic-technologies-signs-contract-with-boeing-defence-119050900610_1.html

²³ "F-21 jets will not be sold to any other country if we get IAF contract: Lockheed Martin", The Indian Express, May 13, 2019, <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/f-21-fighter-jets-indian-air-force-lockheed-martin-5725897/>

PART II: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEFENCE ISSUES

China

24. For the first time in last eight years, China is sending a high level delegation to address the Shangri-La dialogue on June 2, 2019. The delegation will be headed by the Minister of National Defence and State Councillor General Wei Fenghe, who is likely to speak on 'China's place in the Indo-Pacific Region'.
25. Lieutenant General Li Fengbiao has been appointed as the new commander of the People's Liberation Army Strategic Support Force (PLASSF). He replaces General Gao Jin. The PLASSF is responsible for conduct of Information, Electronic, Psychological warfare and operations in Space and Cyber domain.²⁴
26. Around 100 Chinese service personnel have started technical inspection of the equipment for second regiment of S-400 surface-to-air missile systems to be delivered to China in late July 2019. These S-400 missiles are a replacement of the missiles damaged in transit during a storm in the English Channel in 2017.²⁵ (DPG India Defence Digest Volume 1, Issue 1, Page 11 refers)
27. China commissioned two Type 052D (Luyang III)-class guided missile destroyers at Dalian Shipbuilding Industry Corporation (DSIC) yard in north-eastern China, on May 10. PLAN is already operating 20 such ships. These destroyers are equipped with Advanced Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar systems and 64 vertical launch missile tubes.²⁶
28. According to a Pentagon report, China has recently launched two nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines. These submarines will bring the number of Jin-class nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines, in service

²⁴ "China's Information Warfare Force Gets a New Commander", The Diplomat, May 24, 2019, <https://thediplomat.com/2019/05/chinas-information-warfare-force-gets-a-new-commander/>

²⁵ "Chinese military starts inspecting 2nd regiment set of S-400 systems for China's army", TASS, May 22, 2019, <http://tass.com/defence/1059477>

²⁶ "Chinese navy launches two new guided missile destroyers", The Hindu, May 13, 2019, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/chinese-navy-launches-two-new-guided-missile-destroyers/article27114796.ece>

with China to six. The JL-2 SSBN can carry up to 12 CSS-N-14 (JL-2) submarine-launched ballistic missiles, with a range of about 4,500 miles.²⁷

29. China's Zhongzi Yanjing Auto Co Ltd has developed an all-terrain, armoured, multipurpose drone launching vehicle called 'missile-vehicle integrated technology'. It carries 12 pneumatic tubes which could be used to launch a mix of smaller SULA30 (approx. 1 hour endurance) and larger SULA89 drones. The latter can carry approx. 2 kg explosives for targeted attacks. This vehicle was displayed at the Beijing Civil-Military Integration Expo 2019 held from May 6-8.²⁸
30. China's Yunzhou Intelligence Technology (Yunzhou Tech), has developed a new armed USV (Unmanned Surface Vehicle). The L80 USV is specifically designed for inland waterway operations. It can operate at a maximum speed of 38 knots, maximum range of 273 km, at a cruising speed of 26 knots. The payloads include a forward-mounted remote weapon station (RWS) armed with a 12.7 mm heavy machine gun or precision-guided missile launcher. The vessel can be remotely controlled from distances of 15-70 Km. This was displayed at IMDEX-19 at Singapore.²⁹
31. The US Government imposed sanctions on Chinese arms dealers Karl Lee/Li Fangwei for illegally supplying advanced ballistic missile components to Iran. The sanctions on Lee and his many shell companies were officially announced in the U.S. Federal Register. Further action has been threatened if China does not act against the sanctioned dealer.³⁰

²⁷ "China completing more ballistic missile subs, with plans for a new version", Defence News, May 6, 2019, <https://www.defencenews.com/global/asia-pacific/2019/05/06/china-completing-more-ballistic-missile-subs-with-plans-for-a-new-version/>

²⁸ "China develops armored vehicle capable of launching suicide drones", Global Times, May 8, 2019, <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1149025.shtml>

²⁹ "IMDEX 2019: Yunzhou Tech unveils L80 USV development", Jnes's 360, May 16, 2019, <https://www.janes.com/article/88575/imdex-2019-yunzhou-tech-unveils-l80-usv-development>

³⁰ "New Donald Trump sanctions target the shadowy Chinese weapons dealer in China-Iran ballistic missile deals", Newsweek, May 22, 2019, https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-sanctions-weapons-dealer-ballistic-china-iran-missile-1433084?amp=1&_twitter_impression=true

Pakistan

32. Pakistan received first overhauled version of JF-17 or FC-1 Thunder fighter jet from Chinese Changsha Aircraft Industries. This single-engine multi-role light fighter has been developed jointly by China and Pakistan for export.³¹
33. On May 23, Pakistan successfully test-fired surface-to-surface, supersonic ballistic missile Shaheen-II, with a range of 1,500Km, capable of firing both conventional and nuclear warheads.³²

Afghanistan

34. On May 16, 2019, Indian ambassador to Kabul Vinay Kumar handed over two Mi-24 helicopters to Afghanistan's National Defence Minister Asadullah Khalid at the Kabul Air Force base. Two more attack helicopters are expected to be given soon. These are in addition to the four attack helicopters previously gifted by India to Afghanistan in 2015.³³

Myanmar

35. On May 17, the Myanmar Army launched operations against Indian insurgent groups ULFA(I), NDFB and Manipur rebel groups operating from forests of Myanmar. The Operations are likely to continue for four to five months. Myanmar Army has also decided to re-locate the existing NSCN-K camp from Taga area, with a strict pre-condition that the shelter will not be provided to any other Indian insurgent groups. NSCN-K, has a ceasefire agreement with Myanmar Army.³⁴

Nepal

36. Nepali Communist Party leader Dev Prasad Gurung raised questions over the multi-national 'military exercise' held recently at Pokhara. Around 220

³¹ "Weeks after aerial dogfight, China delivered overhauled fighter jet to Pakistan", Hindustan Times, May 22, 2019, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/china-delivers-first-overhauled-jf-17-fighter-jet-to-pakistan/story-4xGESKQc8jmuofasU9wZjI.html>

³² "Pakistan successfully test-fires ballistic missile Shaheen-II capable of hitting India", The Hindu, May 23, 2019, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/pakistan-successfully-test-fires-ballistic-missile-shaheen-ii-capable-of-hitting-india/article27216766.ece>

³³ "India hands over two Mi-24 helicopters to Afghanistan", Live Mint, May 17, 2019, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/india-delivers-a-pair-mi-24-helicopters-to-afghanistan-1558010138018.html>

³⁴ "Myanmar operations to flush out Indian rebels", The Asian Age, May 20, 2019, <https://www.asianage.com/india/all-india/200519/myanmar-operations-to-flush-out-indian-rebels.html>

soldiers from Nepal, along with the soldiers of United States and six other nations, participated in the 'disaster management' exercise. Gurung accused the army of conducting a military exercise under the guise of disaster management.³⁵

Bangladesh

37. The Bangladesh Navy received five Metal Shark-built patrol boats from the United States. These were presented to the BN by US Navy (USN) Rear Admiral Joey Tynch, commander of Logistics Group Western Pacific, during a ceremony held at the Special Warfare Diving and Salvage (SWADS) headquarters in Chittagong on April 25, 2019. The all weather boats are capable of operating at the speeds of up to 35 knots and are large enough to operate in coastal and near shore areas.³⁶
38. On May 23, Indian government issued a gazette notification highlighting the possibility of terrorist outfit Jamaat-ul-Mujahiddin (JMB) making permanent bases within 10km of the India-Bangladesh border near Tripura, Assam and West Bengal.³⁷ This is indicative of the impending threat to both sides and to urge joint action by security forces.

Sri Lanka

39. China has offered to provide assistance worth US\$14 million to procure Chinese-made counter-insurgency operations related equipment to Sri Lanka. The funding was pledged during Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena's visit to Beijing on May 14. China has also agreed to provide 150 vehicles for Sri Lanka's police force.³⁸

³⁵ "No military drill in guise of disaster management: MP Gurung", Online Khabar, May 21, 2019, <http://english.onlinekhabar.com/no-military-drill-in-guise-of-disaster-management-mp-gurung.html>

³⁶ "Bangladesh Navy receives five Metal Shark boats from US", Jane's 360, May 7, 2019, <https://www.janes.com/article/88325/bangladesh-navy-receives-five-metal-shark-boats-from-us>

³⁷ "Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh planning to set up permanent bases in eastern states: MHA", The Economic Times, May 25, 2019, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/jamaat-ul-mujahideen-bangladesh-planning-to-set-up-permanent-bases-in-eastern-states-mha/articleshow/69497170.cms>

³⁸ "Sri Lanka to receive Chinese military aid", Jane's 360, May 15, 2019, <https://www.janes.com/article/88528/sri-lanka-to-receive-chinese-military-aid>



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