



Delhi Policy Group

India Defence Digest

Volume 1, Issue 6

JULY 2019



Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



DPG India Defence Digest

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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)

Boeing delivered the first batch of 4 Apache Ah-64E attack helicopter to the IAF at the Hindan air base on July 27, 2019, Source: The Hindu

The Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 313 at Chennai became the fifth squadron to be equipped with Dornier Aircraft on July 22, 2019, Source: Indian Navy Twitter/@indiannavy

On July 6-7, 2019, The Indian Army successfully completed summer user trials of Nag the ATGM, Source: Odisha TV

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PART I: INDIA'S DEFENCE SCENE

Defence Budget 2019-20

1. Union Budget for the financial year 2019-20, was presented in the Parliament on July 5, 2019. Rs 3.189 trillion have been earmarked for Defence (excluding Defence Pensions) out of a total outlay of Rs 27.86 trillion. For defence pensions, an amount of Rs 1.12 trillion has been provided. Overall defence allocations (*excluding pensions, which are an obligation under the terms of engagement*) stand at 11.45 percent of the total Central Government expenditure and approximately 1.5 per cent of the GDP. Out of the above allocation, Rs 2.1 trillion has been sub allocated under the Revenue head and Rs 1.08 trillion under the Capital head, which is 31.97 percent of the Central Government Capital Expenditure. Service wise, Capital allocations are: Air Force- Rs 393.03 billion, Army - Rs 318.15 billion and Navy - Rs 256.56 billion¹. Respective Revenue: Capital budget allocation ratios of the services are: Air Force 43:67; Army 83:17 and Navy 49:51. Amongst other measures announced, import of Defence Equipment not manufactured in India has now been exempted from 'Basic Customs Duty'. This is likely to result in a saving of approximately Rs 250 billion from the defence budget,² over the next five years.

Operations and Exercises

2. **Counter Insurgency operations - North East:** on July 6, 2019, security forces busted National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) camps at Kekru Naga village in Manipur. In the recent months, four such insurgent camps have been targeted. As per the ceasefire rules, NSCN (IM) cadres can only be localised in earmarked 'designated' camps, any other areas used are considered as hideouts, which are illegal / 'undesigned'. The operations are being conducted against such camps to maintain pressure on the insurgent groups, ahead of implementation of the Naga accord signed in 2015³.
3. **Garuda-VI:** A two weeks long high level bilateral air exercise involving the Indian and French Air Force, which was hosted by France at Monte-de-Marsan, concluded on July 12, 2019. The sixth edition of this exercise in

¹ "Defence Budget Allocation for 2019-20 at Rs3.19 Lakh Crore, Excluding Defence Pension", PIB, July 5, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579765>

² "Budget 2019: Govt allots Rs 4.3 trn for defence, down to nearly 2% of GDP", Business Standard, July 5, 2019, https://www.business-standard.com/budget/article/budget-2019-govt-allots-rs-4-3-trn-for-defence-down-to-nearly-2-of-gdp-119070501551_1.html

³ "Undesignated hideouts of NSCN busted in Manipur; arms, ammunition recovered", India Today, July 7, 2019, <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/undesigned-hideouts-of-nscn-busted-in-manipur-arms-ammunition-recovered-1563936-2019-07-07>

which Su-30 MKI, IL-78 and C-17 aircraft took part, was the largest exercise carried out by IAF this year. The overarching theme was to promote operational coordination and interoperability⁴. (DPG India Defence Digest Volume 1, Issue 5, Para 2, at Page 1 also refers)

Capability Development

4. **Delivery of Apache Helicopters:** Boeing delivered the first batch of four of the 22 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to the Indian Air Force at Hindan air base on July 27, 2019. The Second batch of four helicopters will be delivered in August. These eight Helicopters are likely to be deployed at the Pathankot Air Force base by September 2019. The Induction of Apache Helicopters, coupled with the recent reorganisation of the Indian Army formations into Integrated Battle Groups (IBG) will enhance the operational effectiveness along India's Western Borders.
5. **Upgradation of Assault Rifles:** In view of changing counter terrorism operational scenario, Indian Army recently issued a 'Request For Information (RFI)' for modification of AK-47 assault rifles. Salient upgrades being sought to enhance weapon effectiveness are: mounting night sights, holographic sights, flash lights, laser pointers and certain other accessories to improve ease of firing and speed of engagement⁵.
6. **Induction of Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM):** On July 6-7, 2019, the Army successfully completed summer user trials of indigenous Nag ATGM and cleared its series production for ultimate induction into service. The trials were conducted at Pokhran, in Rajasthan. Nag ATGM is a 'third-generation' fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile which has day-and-night capabilities and has a maximum range of four kilometres⁶.
7. **Artillery Ammunition:** Army is in the process of acquiring Excalibur precision guided, long-range artillery ammunition for M-777 ultra-light howitzers from the US under the emergency procurement procedures. The ammunition is being procured for units deployed along the Line of Control (LC) where artillery shelling by Pakistan has become a common feature. The

⁴ "Culmination of Exercise Garuda-VI", PIB, July 19, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579765>

⁵ "Army to modify AK-47 to counter new terror tactics", Defence News, July 1, 2019, <http://www.defencenews.in/article/Army-to-modify-AK-47-to-counter-new-terror-tactics-585568>

⁶ "India's Nag ATGM ready for series production, says MoD", Jane's 360, July 22, 2019, <https://www.janes.com/article/89985/india-s-nag-atgm-ready-for-series-production-says-mod>

ammunition can be fired with precision at a maximum range of 50 km and has the facility to create 'air bursts' as well as causes deep penetration in fortified structures⁷.

8. **Acquisition of Naval Ships:** Ministry of Defence has issued four shipbuilding 'Requests for Proposal (RFP)' of Rs 150 billion for acquisition of various ships and craft for the Navy and the Coast Guard. The RFP for six Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMVs) has been issued to seven shipyards. Also, RFPs for eight Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs), twelve Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) and eight Missile-cum-Ammunition Barges have been issued to shortlisted Indian shipyards. The proposal for ACVs also includes the initial requirement of six ACVs of the Indian Army. In addition to the above, a few more RFPs for more shipbuilding projects are likely to be issued in the next few months⁸.
9. **Fifth Dornier Squadron for Navy:** On July 22, 2019 Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 313 at Chennai became the fifth squadron to be equipped with Dornier Aircraft. This Short Range Maritime Reconnaissance (SRMR) aircraft manufactured by HAL, under license from RUAG Aerospace, is used for maritime surveillance, Search and Rescue Operations and to provide targeting data to weapon platforms. Navy is procuring 12 new Dornier aircraft from HAL with improved sensors and equipment including, advanced surveillance radar, Electronic Intelligence (ELINT), optical sensors and networking features⁹.
10. **Marine Research:** INS Sagardhwani, a Marine Acoustic Research Ship (MARS) of the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), sailed out from Kochi on July 18, 2019 for a two-month long scientific voyage, designated 'Marine & Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative (MAITRI)'. The objectives of this deployment, second of its kind are: data collection from the entire Northern Indian Ocean, with focus on the Andaman Sea and adjoining areas and establishing long term collaboration, in the field of Ocean Research and Development, with eight Indian Ocean Region (IOR)¹⁰ countries.

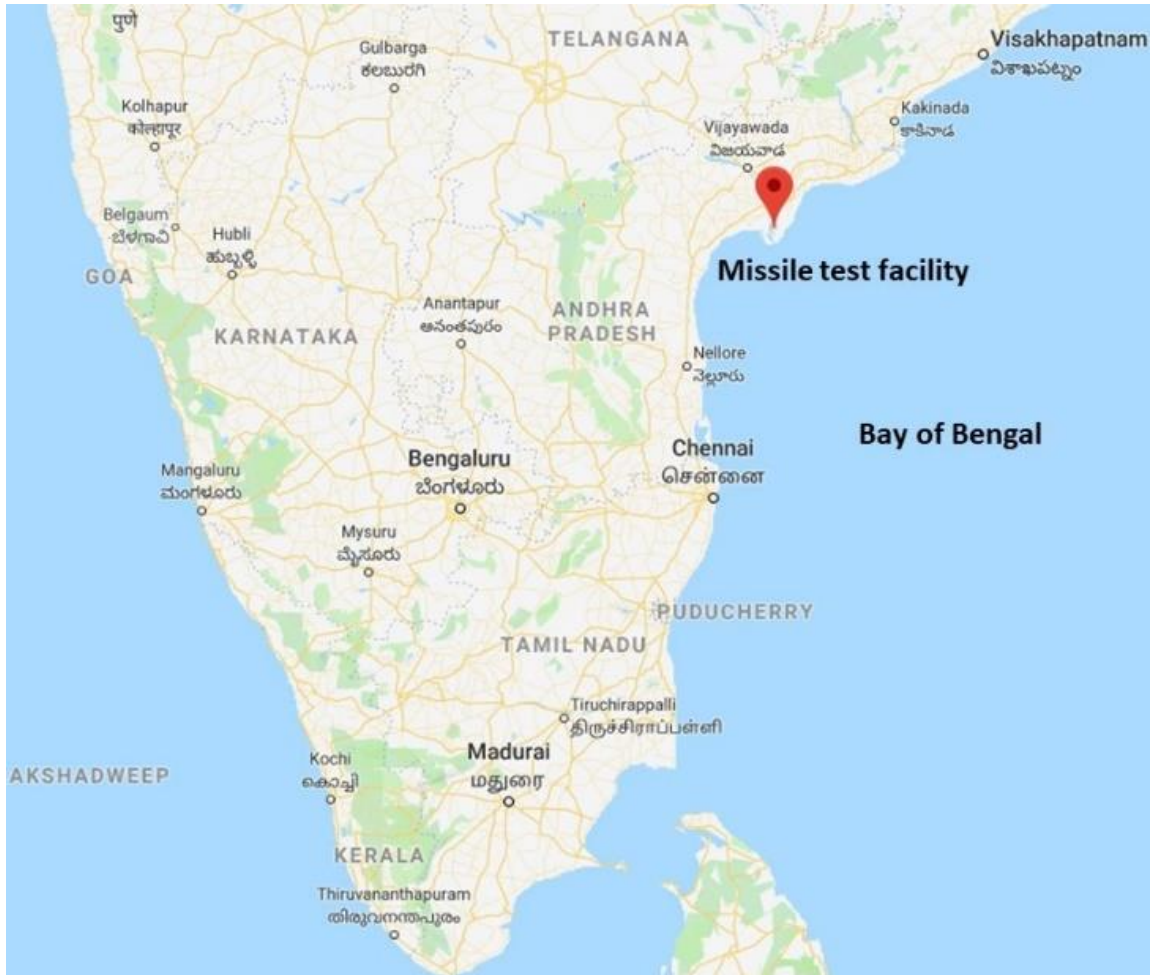
⁷ "Indian Army to buy American howitzer ammunition for use along LoC", The Print, July 8, 2019, <https://theprint.in/defence/indian-army-to-buy-american-howitzer-ammunition-for-use-along-loc/260004/>

⁸ "Issue of Shipbuilding RFPs by Ministry of Defence", PIB, July 1, 2019, <http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1576488>

⁹ "Indian Navy Commissions Dornier Squadron INAS 313 at Chennai", PIB, July 22, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579765>

¹⁰ "INS Sagardhwani Flagged Off for 'Sagar Maitri'", PIB, July 18, 2019, <http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1579345>

11. **New Missile Testing Launch Facility:** The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has granted environment and Coastal Regulatory Zone clearances to DRDO for setting up a new, Missile Testing Launch Facility including a Technical Facility at Gullalamoda village in Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh, on the Bay of Bengal coast¹¹.



Location of the new Missile Testing Launch Facility, at Gullalamoda village, Andhra Pradesh Source: Google Maps

12. **Reciprocal Logistic Agreement with Russia:** India and Russia are finalising an Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS) that will foster interoperability and enable military platforms to receive support and supplies across bases in both nations. A senior team led by Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Defence finalised the terms of the agreement

¹¹ "DRDO gets clearance for missile test facility in A.P.", The Hindu, July 10, 2019, <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/drdo-gets-clearance-for-missile-test-facility-in-ap/article28339037.ece>

during a visit to Moscow recently. This is akin to the LEMOA signed between India and the US in 2016¹².

Visits

13. **Defence Minister's Visit to Mozambique:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Maputo, Mozambique from July 28-30, 2019. He was accompanied by a high level official delegation including Defence Secretary, DG Coast Guard and senior officials of Ministries of External Affairs and Defence. During his stay, he met Mozambique Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, Defence Minister and Foreign Minister. He also handed over two India-made Fast Interceptor Boats (FIBs) and 44 SUVs. Both countries also signed two MoUs on sharing white shipping information and cooperation in the field of Hydrography¹³.
14. **Air Chief Visit to Russia:** Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa visited Russia from July 9 to 12, 2019. He visited operational and training units of Russian Armed Forces including a sortie in the Russian Trainer aircraft YAK-130¹⁴.
15. **Overseas Deployment- Indian Navy:** As part of ongoing overseas deployment in Africa and Europe, INS Tarkash, a stealth frigate made a port-call at Tangier, Morocco (July 8 to 10, 2019) and Karlskrona, Sweden (July 19, 2019)¹⁵.

Other Issues

16. **Incorporating Start-ups in Defence Production:** Lockheed Martin, signed a Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with three Indian start-ups – Terero Mobility, Sastra Robotics, and NoPo Nanotechnologies. These companies, will be mentored by Lockheed Martin to integrate them into its global supply chain. Terero Mobility will work on the design, development, testing and qualification of a 'Cargo Ground Build-up System' (CGBS), which will handle cargo delivered by air force transport aircraft at remote

¹² "India set to sign US-like defence logistics sharing pact with Russia", The Economic Times, July 19, 2019, <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-set-to-sign-us-like-defence-logistics-sharing-pact-with-russia/articleshow/70283886.cms>

¹³ "Defence Minister's visit to Mozambique (July 28-30, 2019)", MEA, July 30, 2019, <https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31696/Defence+Ministers+visit+to+Mozambique+July+2830+2019>

¹⁴ "Visit of CAS to Russia", PIB, July 8, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579765>

¹⁵ "INS Tarkash at Tangier, Morocco", PIB, July 8, 2019, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1579765>

locations without ground handling facilities. NoPo Nanotechnologies will work on qualifying Carbon nanotubes to provide electromagnetic interference and lightning protection. Sastra Robotics will work on robots for avionics testing of systems such as the avionics display of tactical fighter platforms¹⁶.

17. **Suspension of Defence Business:** The defence ministry has suspended business dealings with Swiss plane maker Pilatus Aircraft Limited (PAL) for a period of one year over the violation of a Pre-Contract Integrity Pact (PCIP) while executing Rs 29 billion contract for supply of 75 Basic Trainer Aircraft¹⁷.
18. **Military Sniper Competition:** A nine member Indian Army team left for Belarus to compete in a Sniper Firing Competition as part of the International Army Games being held from August 3 -17, 2019. The competition will have participants from over twenty three countries including Russia & China¹⁸.

¹⁶ "Lockheed inks Memorandums of Understanding with three Indian start-ups", Business Standard, July 20, 2019, https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/lockheed-inks-memorandums-of-understanding-with-three-indian-start-ups-119072000065_1.html

¹⁷ "Govt suspends biz operations with Swiss plane-maker for a year", Hindustan Times, July 17, 2019, <https://www.hindustantimes.com/govt-suspends-biz-operations-with-swiss-plane-maker-for-a-year/story-1DC5k03lBAQhShzA7WyRvI.html>

¹⁸ "Indian Army team leaves for Sniper Frontier Competition at Belarus Ajay Ra", instafeed, July 29, 2019, <https://www.instafeed.org/editorialNews/indian-army-team-leaves-for-sniper-frontier-competition-at-belarus-ajay-ra-896596556>

PART II: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEFENCE SCENE

China

19. **Chinese Defence White Paper:** China released its 10th White Paper on National Defence entitled "China's National Defence in the New Era" on July 24, 2019. This is the first defence white paper since the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China and the start of China's recent military reforms. A few salient aspects are highlighted:
- a. The paper holds the United States and its allies responsible for undermining global strategic stability by intensifying their military presence and expanding their alliance¹⁹.
 - b. It states that the US has provoked and intensified competition among major countries, significantly increased its defence expenditure, pushed for additional capacity in the nuclear, outer space, cyber and missile defence domains which is undermining global strategic stability²⁰.
 - c. In the context of India, the paper states that the Chinese PLA strives to promote stability and security along the border with India, and to take effective measures to create favorable conditions for the peaceful resolution of the Donglang (Doklam) standoff²¹.
 - d. On the Chinese Defence Budget, the Paper acknowledges that China has increased its defence spending by 1459 per cent in five years from 2012 to 2017²².

The full text of the Chinese Defense White Paper can be accessed at http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-07/24/c_138253389.htm

20. **Increased Recruitment in the PLA Navy Air Wing:** PLA Navy concluded its annual recruitment of 'cadet pilots' in July 2019. There has been a substantial increase in induction over the previous years. There is a 41 percent increase in recruitment of cadet pilots for 'carrier borne' fighter

¹⁹ 'Part I – International Security Situation', Chinese Defense White Paper, 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-07/24/c_138253389.htm

²⁰ 'China warns US, allies on regional security, Taiwan', Al Jazeera, July 24, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/07/china-warns-allies-regional-security-taiwan-190724035256691.html>

²¹ 'Part III – Fulfilling the missions and tasks of China's Armed Forces in the New Era', Chinese Defence White Paper 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-07/24/c_138253389.htm

²² 'China military spend jumped 1459 percent in 5 years', Money Control News, July 24, 2019. <https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/world/china-military-spend-jumped-1459-percent-in-5-years-4239661.html>

aircraft. These statistics point to the possible strengthening of the air arm to cater for a new aircraft carrier now proving trials (Type 001A) or under production.²³

21. **India-China Bilateral Exercise:** the planning process has begun for the eighth edition of India-China bilateral military exercise, "Hand in Hand", which will be held in December at Umroi in Meghalaya. This company level exercise, structured around a tactical scenario of counter terrorism and humanitarian assistance has been a near regular annual feature since 2007 when the first edition of 'Hand in Hand' was held at Kunming. The event was suspended in 2017 in the wake of the Doklam incident²⁴.
22. **China-Singapore Joint Exercise:** A week long bilateral army exercise, 'Exercise Cooperation' is being held between the Singapore Armed Forces and the Chinese PLA, in Singapore, since July 28, 2019. This is the fourth edition of the exercise which began in 2009. The current exercise has been structured around the theme of 'urban counter-terrorism cooperation'²⁵.
23. **China's Foothold in the Indo-China Region:** Reports have emerged of China having signed a 'secret deal' with Cambodia for establishing a naval base at the deep sea port of Sihanoukville. Reports suggest that an area of approximate 62 acres of land is being leased by Cambodia to China for a period of 30 years, with automatic renewals every 10 years. The area will be used for establishing a base for the military personnel to be posted there. In addition, facilities for weapon storage and combat ship berthing will also be created. This base in the Gulf of Thailand would also straddle the proposed Kra Canal through Thailand, and facilitate China's access into the Bay of Bengal²⁶. This will also partially address the 'Malacca Dilemma'.

²³ 'Chinese Navy increases aircraft carrier pilot recruits', Global Times, July 28, 2019. <http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1159513.shtml>

²⁴ 'India, China to carry out major military exercise 'Hand in Hand'', The Economic Times, July 20, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-china-to-carry-out-major-military-exercise-hand-in-hand/articleshow/70302866.cms>

²⁵ 'China, Singapore conduct joint exercise on urban counter-terrorism', Xinhua Net, July 28, 2019. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-07/28/c_138263458.htm

²⁶ 'China Signs Secret Deal for Naval Outpost in Cambodia, WSJ Says', Bloomberg News, July 22, 2019. https://www.bloomberg.com/amp/news/articles/2019-07-22/china-signs-secret-deal-for-naval-outpost-in-cambodia-wsj-says?__twitter_impression=true



Proposed route of Kra Canal, Source: Centre for Land Warfare Studies

24. **BRI to Provide Framework for Greater Military Cooperation:** The Defence Minister of China recently told a gathering of military chiefs of South Pacific and Caribbean nations that the BRI would provide a "framework" for greater military co-operation. This is at total variance the earlier Chinese political statements that the BRI is a vehicle for peaceful economic development and connectivity²⁷.
25. **Anti-ship Ballistic missile (DF-21D) Test:** China recently conducted the first test of a new anti-ship ballistic missile (DF-21D) by firing a salvo of six missiles into the South China Sea. Following this, the Commander of the US Indo-Pacific command highlighted the need to upgrade US military capability in the region, to be able to match the rapid build-up of conventional and high-technology warfare capabilities of China²⁸.

²⁷'China to boost Pacific military presence', Financial Review, July 10, 2019.

<https://www.afr.com/news/politics/national/china-to-boost-pacific-military-presence-20190709-p525h5>

²⁸'PACOM: China Anti-Ship Ballistic Missile Tests a Signal to US, World', The Washington Free Beacon, July 19, 2019. <https://freebeacon.com/national-security/pacom-china-anti-ship-ballistic-missile-tests-a-signal-to-us-world/>

26. **The J-20 fighter is Combat Ready:** The PLA Air force for the first time released a photo of the J-20 stealth fighter jet showing the serial number of a 'combat unit' indicating that the aircraft has finally got past the trials stage. According to PLA Air Force's norms, numbers starting with "7" indicate aircraft attached to a trial unit, while number "6" indicates the aircraft being affiliated to a combat unit under the PLA Eastern Theater Command. The photo released displayed the J-20 with a tail number 62001²⁹.
27. **Chinese Defence Industry:** Six Chinese defence firms find a place in the world's top 15 defence manufacturers. At the fifth spot, the highest ranking Chinese defence industry is the Aviation Industry Corporation of China, which has developed China's fifth generation J-20 fighter and the H-20 stealth bomber³⁰. With an annual revenue of approximately US \$25 billion, the company ranks ahead of defence giants like General Dynamics and BAE systems.
28. **Revival of Nuclear Power Plants:** China's National Energy Administration has approved three large-scale commercial nuclear power projects, putting the country's atomic power program back on track after a four-year construction pause. China, the world's third-biggest nuclear power producer had halted new plant construction in the wake of Japan's Fukushima reactor disaster of 2011³¹.
29. **China-Russia Joint Air Patrol:** For the first time, the PLA Air Force and the Russian Air Force jointly conducted a long-range aerial patrol in the Indo-Pacific Region. Two PLAAF Xian H-6K long-range bombers and two Russian Air Force Tupolev Tu-95MS strategic bombers, carried out joint air patrols along a pre-planned route. They violated the Japanese and Korean Airspace and flew over the East China Sea. South Korea and Japan both strongly protested against this incident³².

²⁹ 'J-20 fighter makes combat unit debut', Global Times, July 28, 2019.
<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/1159509.shtml>

³⁰ 'China's defence industry is exploding onto the scene as its top arms maker push past Western powerhouses', Business Insider, July 24, 2019.
<https://www.businessinsider.in/Chinas-defense-industry-is-exploding-onto-the-scene-as-its-top-arms-makers-push-past-Western-powerhouses/articleshow/70354108.cms>

³¹ 'China green lights more nuclear power plants after four year hiatus', Yicai, July 29, 2019.
<https://yicai.com/news/china-green-lights-more-nuclear-power-plants-after-four-year-hiatus>

³² 'Joint Russian and Chinese air patrol heightens tension in Korean Peninsula', The Guardian, July 24, 2019. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/jul/24/joint-russian-and-chinese-air-patrol-heightens-tension-in-korean-peninsula>

Pakistan

30. **Opening of Air Space:** Pakistan finally opened its airspace for civilian flights after keeping it shut for nearly five months in the wake of the February 2019 air incidents with India. Pakistan had for a brief period in March 2019, partially opened the air space, which was closed again for all Indian flights³³.
31. **Pakistan support to Terrorism in J&K:** In a video released by the Al-Qaeda, its Chief Ayman al Zawahari has asked the “Mujahideen in Kashmir” to inflict “unrelenting blows” on the Indian Army and the government in Jammu and Kashmir. He has also revealed Pakistan’s involvement in ‘supporting’ cross border terrorism in Kashmir³⁴.
32. **Follow-up Action on FATF warning:** Pakistan arrested Hafiz Saeed, the head of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) and the Jamaat ud Dawa on charges under the Anti-Terrorism Act. The arrest follows warnings issued by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) that seek to stem the flow of finances to terrorist networks³⁵. In June this year, the FATF gave Pakistan a deadline of October 2019 to prove that it has improved its efforts to counter terror financing, failing which the country would face sanctions.
33. **US-Pakistan Military Ties:** In a stark reversal of the US South Asia Strategy of 2017, General Mike Milley, President Trump’s nominee for the Chairman Joint Chief of Staff told the Senate that the United States needs to maintain strong military ties with Pakistan on the basis of their shared interests. He added that the US recognises Pakistan as a key partner in achieving US interests in South Asia, including developing a political settlement in Afghanistan; defeating Al-Qaeda and ISIS-Khorasan; providing logistical access for US forces and for enhancing regional stability³⁶. This statement is at stark variance with the US South Asia Strategy of 2017.

³³ ‘Five months after Balakot strikes, Pakistan finally opens airspace for Indian flights’, Financial Express, July 16, 2019. <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/five-months-after-balakot-strikes-pakistan-finally-opens-airspace-for-indian-flights/1645948/>

³⁴ ‘Al Qaeda Chief calls for unrelenting blows on Army in Kashmir, Chides Pakistan for double game’, News18, July 10, 2019. <https://www.news18.com/news/india/al-qaeda-chief-calls-for-unrelenting-blows-on-indian-army-in-kashmir-chides-pakistan-for-its-double-game-2224729.html>

³⁵ ‘Pakistan arrests Hafiz Saeed ahead of Imran’s US visit’, The Economic Times, July 17, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/jud-chief-hafiz-saeed-arrested-in-pakistan/articleshow/70258212.cms>

³⁶ ‘Strong military ties with Pakistan needed’ Top US General’, The Nation, July 13, 2019. <https://nation.com.pk/13-Jul-2019/strong-military-ties-with-pakistan-needed-top-us-general>

34. **Pakistan Army Chief Meets US leadership:** Army Chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa who accompanied Pakistani PM on his official visit to Washington this month (July 2019) met US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo, Acting Defense Secretary Richard Spencer and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen Joseph F. Dunford. The regional security situation, including the ongoing peace talks in Afghanistan, and bilateral military cooperation between Pakistan and US dominated the discussions³⁷.
35. **US Resumes Military Sales to Pakistan:** Following the recent visit of Pakistani PM Imran Khan to the US, the Pentagon has notified the Congress of its decision to approve military sales worth USD 125 million to Pakistan. These sales primarily pertain to sustenance of F-16 fighter jets. The approval comes nearly a year after the US suspended all security aid to Pakistan in 2018³⁸.
36. **Pakistan-Turkey Joint Exercise:** Pakistan Navy's Special Services Group (SSG) and Turkish Navy's Special Forces, Su Alti Taarruz, concluded a bilateral exercise "Ayyildiz-2019" in Karachi. It was the 12th edition of the annual "Ayyildiz" series. The aim of the exercise was to strengthen military coordination, enhance interoperability and exchange professional expertise in the Special Operations domain³⁹.
37. **Pakistan Defence Industry:** Addressing a national seminar on "Defence Production – Security through Self Reliance", Pakistan Chief of Army Staff, General Bajwa called for enhanced public-private partnership to transform Pakistan's defence industry into a vibrant, self-reliant and self-sustaining entity⁴⁰.

Sri Lanka

38. **US-Sri Lanka Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA):** Despite a veto by the President, the government of Sri Lanka is negotiating the renewal of SOFA

³⁷ 'Army Chief meets US State secy, military leadership in Washington', Dawn, July 24, 2019. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1495934>

³⁸ The Week, July 27, 2019. <https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/international/2019/07/27/fgn23-top%20foreign%20stories%20at%201730%20hours.html>

³⁹ 'Pak-Turkish naval drill end', The Dawn, July 19, 2019. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1496800/pak-turkish-naval-drill-ends>

⁴⁰ 'COAS stresses need for public-private partnership in Pakistan's defence industry', Geo TV, July 19, 2019. <https://www.geo.tv/latest/243361-coas-stresses-need-for-public-private-partnership-in-pakistans-defence-industry>

(Status of Forces Agreement) with the US government. This agreement will supersede the earlier agreement signed in 1995. While the agreement will allow easier access to military personnel, the Sri Lankan PM has categorically denied that it would lead to any permanent presence of US troops in the country⁴¹.

39. **Sri Lanka - Japan Defence Cooperation:** The President of Sri Lanka has expressed his keenness to expand defence cooperation with Japan. He made this remark during the visit by the Japanese State Minister of Defence to Sri Lanka. The President stated that the existing close cooperation between the two navies should focus on ensuring international maritime security as well as safety and security of international waters. Referring to a tripartite naval agreement between Sri Lanka, India and Japan, he said that it should now extend to respective Armies as well⁴².

Bangladesh

40. **India-Bangladesh Coast Guard Meeting:** The Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) held a regional and zonal commander-level meeting in Kolkata to address issues related to coastal security. Common maritime issues like sensitisation of fishermen on cross-border fishing, real-time information sharing, capacity building of Bangladesh Coast Guard through training and expertise sharing were discussed. The meeting was conducted in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries to enhance synergy in undertaking operations pertaining to Search & Rescue, Pollution Control and Coastal security⁴³.
41. **BSF-BGB Interaction:** A 10-member delegation of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) visited Bangladesh to participate in a joint training course on border management with Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB). The

⁴¹ 'Sri Lanka negotiating new military deal with the US: PM', The Economic Times, July 11, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/sri-lanka-negotiating-new-military-deal-with-the-us-pm/articleshow/70168930.cms>

⁴² 'Sri Lanka keen to expand defence cooperation with Japan-President', Adaderana.lk, July 26, 2019. <http://www.adaderana.lk/news.php?nid=56666>

⁴³ 'India, Bangladesh coastguards meet to discuss maritime issues', The Economic Times, July 16, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-bangladesh-coastguards-meet-to-discuss-maritime-issues/articleshow/70247463.cms>

course was aimed at boosting cooperation between border guarding forces of the two countries⁴⁴.

42. **Bangladesh-UK Defence Cooperation:** Under an agreement signed between Bangladesh and the UK in May 2018, Bangladesh is acquiring five second hand C- 130 aircraft, declared surplus by RAF. A contract has been signed with 'Marshall Aerospace & Defence Group', a British company, to carry out extensive overhaul, maintenance, provide logistic support, spare parts, ground support equipment and create local support capabilities for these. First completely overhauled aircraft was presented to Bangladesh Air Force at a ceremony held at Cambridge on July 27, 2019⁴⁵.

Myanmar

43. **US Sanctions on Myanmar Military:** The United States announced sanctions on Myanmar's military Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing and three other senior military officers for their role in "ethnic cleansing" of the Rohingya minority. With this announcement, the United States has become the first government to publicly take action against the senior military leadership of the Myanmar⁴⁶.

Maldives

44. **Visit by Maldivian Defence Forces Chief:** The Maldivian Defence Forces Chief Abdulla Shamaal visited India this month from July 4-7, 2019. During his visit he called on Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chairman COSC and Indian Air Force Chief BS Dhanoa. The visit was aimed at strengthening defence cooperation, reviving joint exercises and strengthening maritime security. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation from various branches of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF)⁴⁷.

⁴⁴ 'BSF delegation in Bangladesh for border management', Dhaka Tribune, July 06, 2019. <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/2019/07/06/bsf-delegation-in-bangladesh-for-border-management>

⁴⁵ 'First Hercules rolled out for Bangladesh', Shepherd News Team, July 25, 2019. <https://www.shephardmedia.com/news/mil-log/first-hercules-rolled-out-bangladesh/>

⁴⁶ 'US slaps sanctions on Myanmar army chief over Rohingya abuses', Al Jazeera, July 17, 2019. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/07/slaps-sanctions-myanmar-army-chief-rohingya-abuses-190716232914447.html>

⁴⁷ 'We are natural friends with India: Maldives Defence Forces Chief', NDTV, July 05, 2019. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/we-are-natural-friends-with-india-says-maldives-defence-forces-chief-abdulla-shamaal-2064856>



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