



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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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 and Japanese troops practise combat shooting during Exercise Dharma Guardian 2019, October 24, 2019. Source: Twitter/ @adgpi

Andaman and Nicobar Command Personnel during the second edition of Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands 2019 (DANX-19), October 14-18, 2019. Source: PIB

Minister Shri Rajnath Singh accepting the first Rafale from Ms Florence Parly, French Minister of Armed Forces, October 8, 2019. Source: PIB

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Contents

PART I: INDIA'S DEFENCE SCENE	1
<i>Defence Policy</i>	1
<i>Operations and Exercises</i>	2
<i>Capability Development</i>	4
<i>Visits</i>	5
<i>Other Issues</i>	6
PART II: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEFENCE SCENE	8
<i>China</i>	8
<i>Bangladesh</i>	11
<i>Sri Lanka</i>	11
<i>Nepal</i>	11
<i>Pakistan</i>	12

PART I: INDIA'S DEFENCE SCENE

Defence Policy

1. **Annual India France Defence Dialogue.** On October 8, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh held the Second India-France Ministerial level Annual Defence Dialogue with his French counterpart, the Minister for the Armed Forces Ms. Florence Parly. The two Ministers reviewed bilateral defence cooperation and agreed to expand the scope and complexity of the existing regular bilateral joint exercises (SHAKTI, VARUNA and GARUDA)¹.
2. **DTTI Meet.** The 9th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) meeting was held at New Delhi on October 24. Various Joint Working Groups established under DTTI provided a status update during the meeting. Both sides signed a 'Statement of Intent' with respect to key deliverables in the near, medium and long terms². Three near term projects, which are expected to move into project agreement or FMS sales within the next six months, were identified. These include: air launched small unmanned aerial systems; lightweight small arms technology; Intelligence, surveillance, target acquisition and reconnaissance (ISTAR). Two medium term projects were identified: Maritime domain awareness and virtual augmented mixed reality for aircraft maintenance. Two long term projects were also identified, including one on countering unmanned aircraft systems. The Jet engine technology project has been suspended as it ran into US export controls. A report also talks of an upcoming 2+2 meeting in Washington DC, possibly in December³.
3. **Raksha Mantri Discusses Bilateral Relations and Regional Security Situation with Japan's Defence Minister.** Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh telephonically discussed bilateral relations and the regional security situation with Mr Taro Kono, Japan's Minister of Defence, on October 29⁴.

¹ "Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh holds second Annual Defence Dialogue with his French counterpart; Both sides agree to strengthen and deepen defence relations", PIB, October 9, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587500>

² "India-US poised to achieve tangible results under DTTI deliberations", PIB, October 24, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1589074>

³ "India, US to collaborate on unmanned aerial systems, small arms tech", Business Standard, October 24, 2019, https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-us-vow-to-achieve-tangible-results-under-dtti-to-collaborate-on-uas-small-arms-tech-119102401594_1.html

⁴ "Raksha Mantri Discusses Bilateral Relations and Regional Security Situation with Japan's Defence Minister", PIB, October 29, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1589448>

Operations and Exercises

4. **IN - BN CORPAT.** The second edition of Indian Navy–Bangladesh Navy Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was conducted in Northern Bay of Bengal on Oct 10. It was followed by a bilateral exercise from October 12-16 at Visakhapatnam. IN ships Ranvijay and Kuthar participated from Indian side. BN Ships Ali Haider, a Type 053 frigate, and Shadinota, a Type 056 corvette, both built in China, represented the Bangladesh Navy. During the exercise, the navies engaged in seamanship evolutions, flying exercises with integral helicopters and operating with maritime patrol aircraft at sea⁵.
5. **EX KAZIND 2019.** The 4th edition of annual military exercise KAZIND between India and Kazakhstan army was conducted at Pithoragarh from October 3 to 15. The exercise aimed at joint training of troops in Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorism operations in both jungle and mountainous terrain⁶.
6. **EX Nomadic Elephant-XIV.** 14th edition of Indo – Mongolian joint military training Exercise Nomadic Elephant-XIV, was conducted from October 5-19 at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. The Mongolian Army was represented by officers and troops of the elite 084 Air Borne Special Task Battalion while Indian Army was represented by a contingent from the Rajputana Rifles. The Exercise aimed at training troops in counter insurgency & counter terrorism operations under a United Nations mandate. It involved tactical drills in counter-terror environment like convoy protection, room intervention, ambush and counter ambush drills⁷.
7. **EX Ekuverin.** The tenth edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise Ekuverin between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force was conducted from October 7-20 at Aundh Military Station in Pune, Maharashtra. The Exercise focuses on enhancing interoperability between the two forces for carrying out counter insurgency and counter-terrorism

⁵ "India – Bangladesh Navies Undertake Coordinated Patrol in North Bay of Bengal", PIB, October 11, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587849>

⁶ "India Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND -2019 03 oct -15 oct 2019", PIB, October 3, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587090>

⁷ "Curtain raiser: Indo-Mongolian Joint Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2019", PIB, October 3, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587147>

operations in a semi-urban environment under the United Nations mandate⁸.

8. **EX Dharma Guardian-2019.** The second India-Japan joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian-2019 was conducted from October 19-31, at Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairengte, Mizoram. 25 soldiers from each country participated in the exercise, which is an annual event covering platoon level joint training on counter terrorism operations in jungle and urban scenarios⁹.
9. **EX Shakti-2019.** The Indian and French armies commenced bilateral exercise 'Shakti-2019' on October 31 at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. India is represented by troops from the Sikh Regiment of South Western Command while the French Army is represented by personnel from the 21st Marine Infantry Regiment of 6th Armoured Brigade. The exercise focuses on counter-terrorism operations in the backdrop of semi-desert terrain¹⁰.
10. **EX Sudarshan Chakra.** The Indian Army conducted Sudarshan Chakra integrated fire and manoeuvre exercise in Pokhran at Pokhran Field Firing Range (PFFR) on October 21-22. The exercise showcased integration of in-service and newly inducted platforms and integration of sensors and shooters¹¹.
11. **EX DANX-19.** Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) conducted the second edition of the Joint Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Exercise 2019 (DANX-19), from October 14-18. Troops carried out mobilisation and field manoeuvres to validate defensive plans of Headquarters ANC towards pursuance of the Command's responsibility of ensuring the territorial integrity of the A&N Islands. Special Forces from the newly formed Armed Forces Special Operations Division also participated¹².

⁸ "Curtain raiser Indo Maldives joint Ex Ekuverin – 19 at Aundh Mil Stn, Pune from 07 to 20 Oct 19", PIB, October 3, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587148>

⁹ "Curtain Raiser: Indo-Japan Joint Military Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN – 2019", PIB, October 12, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587894>

¹⁰ "Indo-French joint exercise 'Shakti-2019', to be held in Rajasthan from Oct 31", ANI, October 28, 2019, <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/indo-french-joint-exercise-shakti-2019-to-be-held-in-rajasthan-from-oct-3120191029034924/>

¹¹ "Indian Army Conducts Sudharshan Chakra Exercise In Pokhran At PFFR", Republic, October 22, 2019, <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/indian-army-conducts-sudharshan-chakra-exercise-in-pokhran-at-pffr.html>

¹² "Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands exercise 2019 (Danx-19) 14 Oct to 18 oct 19", PIB, October 18, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588497>

12. **EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V.** Indian Air Force and the Royal Air Force of Oman jointly conducted EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V from October 17-26 at Air Force Base Masirah. The IAF contingent comprised MiG-29 and C-17 aircraft. Royal Air Force of Oman fielded Eurofighter Typhoons, F-16s and Hawk aircraft. MiG-29 fighter aircraft participated in an International Exercise outside India for the first time¹³. The Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, visited Oman to witness the exercise.
13. **EX Shinyuu Maitri.** The Indian Air Force and Japanese Air Self Defence Force jointly conducted Exercise Shinyuu Maitri from October 17-23 at Air Force Station, Arjan Singh in Panagarh, West Bengal. C-130 J aircraft of the Special Operations Squadron of IAF and C-130 H of Tactical Airlift Squadron of JASDF participated in the exercise. The focus was to undertake joint mobility and tactical interoperability¹⁴.

Capability Development

14. **BrahMos Missile Test.** IAF successfully tested the surface-to-surface variant of BrahMos at Trak Island, Andaman & Nicobar, on October 21-22. The test witnessed land attack cruise missiles engaging designated mock targets 300 Km away and achieving direct hits. The BrahMos missile provides the IAF a much desired capability to strike from stand-off ranges on any target at sea or on land with pinpoint accuracy by day or night, and in all weather conditions¹⁵.
15. **Indigenous Development of 5th Gen Fighter Aircraft.** The Ministry of Defence has put forward a proposal for indigenous development of Advance Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) for approval by the Cabinet Committee on Security. This will be a twin-engine aircraft with advanced stealth, super cruise, data fusion and multi-sensor integration capabilities¹⁶.

¹³ "EX EASTERN BRIDGE-V", PIB, October 17, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588360>

¹⁴ "India, Japan to begin joint Air Force exercise 'Shinyuu Maitri' from Oct 17 in WB", Business Standard, October 15, 2019, https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-japan-to-begin-joint-air-force-exercise-shinyuu-maitri-from-oct-17-in-wb-119101501218_1.html

¹⁵ "Successful Firing of The Brahmos Surface To Surface Missile at Trak Island", PIB, October 23, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588901>

¹⁶ "Defence ministry to see Cabinet nod for prototype of desi stealth jet", Times of India, October 29, 2019, <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/defence-ministry-to-see-cabinet-nod-for-prototype-of-desi-stealth-jet/articleshow/71798166.cms>

16. **Indigenous Air Independent Propulsion System.** A land-based prototype of DRDO's indigenous air-independent propulsion system for diesel electric submarines was tested in the presence of the Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Karambir Singh, at the Naval Materials Research Laboratory in Ambernath on October 30. Chairman DRDO Dr Satheesh Reddy assured the CNS that all efforts would be made to ensure that the system meets the performance specifications and timelines of the Navy¹⁷.

Visits

17. **RM Visit to France.** Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited France on October 8-9 and held talks with President Emmanuel Macron. The two discussed key aspects of the bilateral defence partnership and resolved to continue strengthening ties between the two countries. Shri Rajnath Singh also participated in the Rafale fighter aircraft handing over ceremony at Merignac, France.
18. **Indian Navy's Training Squadron Visits Africa.** IN ships *Tir* and *Sujata* and ICGS *Sarathi* visited Antsiranana (Madagascar) on October 1-3; Mombasa (Kenya) on October 7-10; Dar-Es-Salam and Zanzibar (Tanzania) on October 14-17. During the port calls, the Senior Officer met senior dignitaries and naval officials of Madagascar, Kenya and Tanzania¹⁸.
19. **INS Tarkash.** INS Tarkash visited St Denis (Reunion Island, France) on October 3-6. During the port call, the Commanding Officer paid courtesy calls on dignitaries and government officials at Reunion including on the Superior Commander of French Naval Forces in Southern Indian Ocean¹⁹.
20. **Eastern Fleet Deployments.** As part of Indian Navy's Overseas Deployment to South East Asia and Western Pacific, IN ships *Sahyadri* and *Kiltan* visited Manila, Philippines on October 23-26. The ships are part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet, based at Visakhapatnam. During the port call, the Senior Officer met various dignitaries and naval officials of

¹⁷ DRDO's Air Independent Propulsion System Gets Boost With Operation of Land Based Prototype, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1589643>

¹⁸ "First Training Squadron at Antsiranana, Madagascar", PIB, October 1, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1586891>
 "First Training Squadron at Mombasa, Kenya", PIB, October 7, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587446>
 "First Training Squadron at DAR ES SALAAM and ZANZIBAR, Tanzania", PIB, October 14, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588010>

¹⁹ "INS Tarkash at St Denis, Reunion Islands, France", PIB, October 3, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587099>

Republic of Philippines Navy. Philippine Army officials visited INS Sahyadri, to learn more about BrahMos missiles and showed an interest in acquisition. Following the visit, both navies undertook a Passage Exercise at sea²⁰.

Other Issues

21. **Army Commanders' Conference.** The Army Commander's Conference was held from October 14-19 at New Delhi. Deliberations focused on emerging security and administrative challenges and charted out the future course for the Indian Army.²¹
22. **Naval Commanders' Conference.** The Naval Commanders' Conference was held from October 22 – 24 at New Delhi. The theme of discussions was 'Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational Efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' wherein contemporary issues pertaining to 'operations', maintenance, 'op-logistics', 'data management' and 'improvement of organisational practices' figured in the deliberations. The issue of joint planning structures, tri-service synergy and operational readiness was also discussed with the NSA, Chiefs of Indian Army and IAF²².
23. **Issuance of Open General Export Licences.** Government of India has approved issuance of two Open General Export Licences (OGELs) for export of certain parts & components and intra-company transfer of technology to select countries. This will give a boost to defence exports and enhance ease of doing business. The application for grant of OGEL will be considered by Department of Defence Production (DPP) on a case-by-case basis. The countries allowed under the OGELs include Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, UK, USA, Canada, Italy, Poland and Mexico. The details of licences may be accessed on the following hyperlinks²³:

<https://www.defenceexim.gov.in/showfile.php?fname=OGEL-Parts>

<https://www.defenceexim.gov.in/showfile.php?fname=OGEL-ToT>

²⁰ "Visit of Indian Naval Ships to Manila, Philippines", PIB, October 23, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588802>

²¹ "Army Commander's Conference", PIB, October 11, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1587876>

²² "Curtain raiser - Naval Commanders' Conference 2019/2 (22-24 Oct 19)", PIB, October 20, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588556>

²³ "Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves two Open General Export Licences in a major push for defence exports", PIB, October 24, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1589056>

24. **Licensing Agreements.** Defence Research and Development Organisation has signed 30 licensing agreements for Transfer of Technology with 16 Indian companies, including three start-ups, at the Vibrant Goa Global Expo and Summit 2019. The event was held at Goa University, Taleigao, Goa between October 17-19, 2019²⁴.

25. **MOU to Setup Coastal Surveillance System in Bangladesh.** During the visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to India on October 5, both countries signed an MOU to setup Coastal Surveillance System radar in Bangladesh. This will help to implement the India-Bangladesh White Shipping Agreement and curb growing terror threats via the seas²⁵.

²⁴ "DRDO signs 30 agreements on Technology Transfer", PIB, October 18, 2019, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1588448>

²⁵ "India-Bangladesh Joint Statement during Official Visit of Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India", MEA, October 5, 2019, <https://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?31911/IndiaBangladesh+Joint+Statement+during+Official+Visit+of+Prime+Minister+of+Bangladesh+to+India>

PART II: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEFENCE SCENE

China

Defence Policy

27. **China Singapore Defence Agreement.** China and Singapore signed an Enhanced Agreement on Defence Exchanges and Security Cooperation (ADESC) October 20. The ADESC²⁶ formalises ongoing activities between the two defence establishments; establishes a regular ministerial dialogue and cross attendance at events such as the Shangri-La Dialogue and Xiangshan Forum; commits to regularise and scale up bilateral exercises involving the Army, Navy and Air Force; establishes a Visiting Forces Agreement for troops participating in bilateral exercises; establishes a mutual logistics support arrangement with China; establishes a bilateral hotline and agrees to cooperative exchanges among military academies and think tanks.
28. **9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum.** The 9th Xiangshan Forum concluded on October 22, in Beijing. More than 1,300 delegates, including 76 official delegations, defence ministers from 23 countries, representatives and scholars from international organisations, as well as observers from various countries attended the forum. The theme for this year was "Maintaining International Order and Promoting Peace in the Asia-Pacific". The event covered a wide range of topics such as relations between major powers; the interests of small and medium-sized countries; international security; maritime security; artificial intelligence and future warfare²⁷.

Operations and Exercises

29. **Chinese, Australian Armies Conclude Joint Training Exercise.** The Chinese and Australian armies conducted a joint military training exercise in South China's Hainan Province from October 10 - 19. The "Panda-

²⁶ "Fact Sheet: Enhanced Agreement on Defence Exchanges and Security Cooperation", Ministry of Defence, Singapore, October 20, 2019, https://www.mindef.gov.sg/web/portal/mindef/news-and-events/latest-releases/article-detail/2019/October/20oct19_fs

²⁷ "9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum concludes", China Military, October 23, 2019. http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/23/content_9658666.htm

Kangaroo 2019" exercise focused on honing the participants' military skills, willpower and team spirit via various training exercises²⁸.

30. **China-Russia "Cooperation-2019" Exercise.** The 11-day joint counter-terrorism exercise "Cooperation-2019" of the Chinese People's Armored Police (PAP) Force and the Russian National Guard (Rosgvardiya) kicked off in Russia on October 11. General-Colonel Viktor Strigunov, commander of the Siberian National Guard District, said that this joint counter-terrorism exercise will help improve combat skills, explore new forms and methods of joint operations, and enhance the effectiveness of joint counter-terrorism operations²⁹.
31. **Japan's MSDF Chinese Navy Exercise.** Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force has conducted "goodwill exercises" with the Chinese Navy for the first time in eight years. The training, which saw the Japanese destroyer Samidare and the Chinese guided-missile destroyer Taiyuan practice communications such as radio usage while sailing side by side in the Kanto region on October 16, was reportedly only the third instance of joint training between the two militaries³⁰.

Visits

32. **General Zhang Youxia Meets With Russian and Serbian Defence Ministers.** General Zhang Youxia, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA), met General Sergei Shoigu and Aleksandar Vulin, Defence Ministers of Russia and Serbia in Beijing on October 21 and 22, respectively. Gen. Shoigu and Minister Vulin were in Beijing to attend the 9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum³¹.
33. **Senior Chinese Military Official meets with Singaporean Defence Minister.** Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission, met Singaporean Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen, who was in Beijing to attend the 9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum. Noting that the Chinese and Singaporean militaries have made great progress in their

²⁸ "Chinese, Australian armies conclude joint training exercise", China Military, October 20, 2019 http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/20/content_9656583.htm

²⁹ "China-Russia Cooperation-2019, joint counter-terrorism exercise kicks off", Chinese Military, October 12, 2019 http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/12/content_9649625.htm

³⁰ "Japan's MSDF and Chinese Navy hold first joint military drills in eight years", Japan Times, October 24, 2019. <https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/10/24/national/japans-msdf-chinese-navy-joint-drills/#.XbF05ugzbb1>

³¹ "General Zhang Youxia meets with Russian and Serbian defence ministers", China Military, October 23, 2019. http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/23/content_9659385.htm

exchanges and cooperation in recent years, Xu expressed the hope that the two sides could work together to further deepen strategic mutual trust, promote practical cooperation, strengthen multilateral coordination and lift their cooperation to new heights³².

Capability Development and Sales

34. **China's Type 15 Tank Makes Parade Debut.** China's latest tank, the Type 15, made its debut to the general public in Tiananmen Square during the National Day parade on October 01. The lightweight tank is listed in China's July defence white paper as one of the country's most advanced weapons. It is significantly lighter than the Type 99 and Type 96, the two main battle tanks in service of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), enabling it to operate effectively in difficult terrain that may be inaccessible to heavier tanks³³.
35. **China is Expanding Aircraft Carrier Shipyard.** New satellite images show China is making fast progress on its third aircraft carrier and expanding the shipyard where it is being built, potentially for more huge ships. High-resolution images of the Jiangnan Shipyard in Shanghai were taken last month by the Washington-based think tank Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). Based on the images, the CSIS believes that the hull assembly should be finished within 12 months and that the ship would then be moved to a newly built harbour and wharf for fitting out³⁴.
36. **Z-20 Helicopter Confirmed in Chinese Military Service.** China's domestically made utility helicopter, the Z-20, debuted at the National Day parade on October 01, confirming its active service status within the Chinese military. The Z-20 is a medium-lift utility helicopter that can adapt to different terrains and weather, and is expected to be used by the army and navy³⁵.

³² "Senior Chinese Military Official meets with Singaporean defence minister", China Military, October 22, 2019. http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/22/content_9657758.htm

³³ "China's newest tank, the Type 15, makes military parade debut", China Military, October 01, 2019. http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/01/content_9642083.htm

³⁴ "Satellite images show China is expanding shipyard to build more aircraft carriers", South China Morning Post, October 17, 2019. <https://www.scmp.com/news/china/military/article/3033434/satellite-images-show-china-expanding-shipyard-build-more>

³⁵ "Z-20 helicopter confirmed in Chinese Military Service", China Military, October 01, 2019. http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2019-10/01/content_9641983.htm

Bangladesh

37. **US Pursuing GSOMIA and ACSA With Bangladesh.** The US is pursuing two foundational agreements, a General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) and the Acquisition Cross-Servicing Agreement (ACSA), with Bangladesh. The move follows Dhaka's stated intention to buy advanced equipment, including Apache helicopters, multi-role combat fighters and surface to air missile systems from the US as part of its goal to modernise its military by 2030³⁶.

Sri Lanka

38. **US Threatens to Curtail Security Operations With Sri Lanka.** US officials have threatened to curtail security operations with Sri Lanka following the appointment of Lt Gen Shavendra Silva as the army chief. The US reaction follows the UN's decision to suspend the non-essential deployment of Sri Lankan troops in peacekeeping operations³⁷.
39. **Sri Lanka Army Celebrates 70th Anniversary.** Sri Lanka's Army marked its 70th anniversary on October 10 with a series of military events. Issuing a statement to commemorate the occasion, Sri Lanka Army Commander Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva said the Sri Lanka Army in the past 70 years, as the dignified Defender of the Nation, fulfilled an arduous role amid numerous challenges and threats against the country and the people and is still performing an immense task for protection of the people in society³⁸.

Nepal

40. **China to give \$21 Million to Nepal Army for Future Disaster Relief.** It was announced on October 21 that China would give the Nepali army about \$21 million in unspecified "disaster relief materials" over the next three years, as Beijing strengthens its ties with Kathmandu. Xi Jinping

³⁶ "US wants 2 defence deals with Bangladesh", The Daily Star, October 18, 2019. <https://www.thedailystar.net/frontpage/us-wants-2-defence-deals-bangladesh-1815466>, Bangladesh Wants to buy Combat equipment from United States, <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/foreign-affairs/2019/10/17/bangladesh-proposes-procurement-of-high-end-military-equipment-from-us>

³⁷ "US threatens to curtail security operations with Sri Lanka", Tamil Guardian, October 23, 2019. <https://www.tamilguardian.com/content/us-threatens-curtail-security-operations-sri-lanka>

³⁸ "Sri Lankan Army celebrates 70th anniversary", Colombo Page, October 10, 2019. http://www.colombopage.com/archive_19B/Oct10_1570683694CH.php

visited the Himalayan nation, which has traditionally leaned on neighbouring India for help, on October 12 in the first such trip by a Chinese president in more than two decades. Nepal and China signed several agreements during Xi's visit, including two connectivity projects that the Nepali government hopes will eventually reduce its dependence on India³⁹.

Pakistan

41. **Pakistan-Indonesia Joint Naval Exercise.** Bilateral exercise SEA THUNDER-IV 2019 between Pakistan Navy Special Service Group and Indonesian Navy Special Operation Force (SOF) concluded on October 19. The aim of exercise was to strengthen the military relationship, improve coordination and interoperability between special operation forces, and exchange professional expertise and experiences of counter terrorism operations between participating forces. During the exercise, Maritime Counter Terrorism Operations and Maritime Interdiction Operations (MIOs) were rehearsed at sea⁴⁰.
42. **Pakistani Military to Offer Training to Cambodian Army.** The Pakistani military has confirmed it will offer training to the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and conduct a joint military exercise to forge ties between both nations' armies. Lieutenant General Muhammad Chiragh Haider, Chief of Staff of the General Command Headquarters of Pakistan, held a meeting with Army Commander Lieutenant General Hun Manet in Phnom Penh on October 08 where they discussed forging military ties and cooperation, according to an RCAF statement⁴¹.
43. **Pakistan Navy Joins Trans-Regional Maritime Network for Ensuring Safe Maritime Traffic.** Pakistan's Navy joined a 32-member Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN), based in Italy. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Zafar Mahmood Abbasi formally signed the 'Note of Accession' to join the organisation at Naval Headquarters, Islamabad. Trans Regional Maritime Network (T-RMN) was established in 2008 to facilitate exchange of maritime information at trans-regional level

³⁹ "China to give \$21 million to Nepal Army to help future disaster relief", Reuters, October 21, 2019. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nepal-china-army/china-to-give-21-million-to-nepal-army-to-help-future-disaster-relief-idUSKBN1X01FU>

⁴⁰ "Pakistan-Indonesia joint naval exercise concludes", The Daily Times, October 20, 2019. <https://dailytimes.com.pk/486228/pakistan-indonesia-joint-naval-exercise-concludes/>

⁴¹ "Pakistani Army to offer training to Cambodian Army", Khmer Times, October 10, 2019. <https://www.khmertimeskh.com/50649709/pakistani-military-to-offer-training-to-cambodian-army/>

amongst the participating nations. By joining the T-RMN community, the Pakistan Navy will obtain access to maritime related information which will augment the maritime picture being maintained at Joint Maritime Information Coordination Center (JIMCC) of Pakistan Navy at Karachi⁴².

44. **General Bajwa Meets PLA Army Commander and Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission.** General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) met Army Commander General Han Weiguo of the PLA and General Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) at PLA HQ on October 8. Regional security environment including situation in Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Pakistan-China defence cooperation were discussed. Both sides also discussed the developing situation in Gulf and efforts for peace in Afghanistan⁴³.
45. **Sino-Pak Axis Plans to Sell Arms to Nigeria and Myanmar.** According to an Economic Times report, the Sino-Pak military axis is eyeing export markets in countries in India's neighbourhood and among Delhi's traditional defence partners in Africa. The report also claims that Pakistan plans to sell batches of JF-17 Thunder fighters that it has built with Chinese assistance to Myanmar and Nigeria. Myanmar has already purchased four JF-17s through Chinese assistance⁴⁴.

⁴² "Pakistani Navy joins Trans Regional Maritime Network, Italy for ensuring safe maritime traffic", ISPR, October 21, 2019. <https://ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5471>

⁴³ "General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) met Commander Army General Han Weiguo, People's Liberation Army (PLA) and General Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC) at PLA HQ.", ISPR, October 08, 2019. <https://ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5455>

⁴⁴ "Sino-Pak axis plans to sell arms to Nigeria and Myanmar", The Economic Times, October 15, 2019. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/sino-pak-axis-plans-to-sell-arms-to-nigeria-and-myanmar/articleshow/71587345.cms>



DPG

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org