



Delhi Policy Group

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Delhi Policy Group

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# DPG India Defence Digest

## Volume 2, Issue 2

### February 2020

#### ABOUT US

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

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

#### DPG India Defence Digest

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

#### Cover Photographs:

*(Photographs top to bottom)*

*The first India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave was held on February 6, 2020 on the side-lines of DefExpo in Lucknow, Source: Twitter/@EmbassyMorocco*

*Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane receiving the Sharang artillery gun miniaturised model from Ordnance Factory Board Chairman & MD Shri Hari Mohan during BANDHAN Ceremony on side-lines of DefExpo in Lucknow, February 7, 2020, Source: Twitter/@SpokespersonMoD*

*Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, delivered the fourth anti-submarine warfare corvette INS Kavaratti to the Indian Navy, February 17, 2020. Source: Indian Navy*

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## PART I: INDIA'S DEFENCE SCENE

### *Defence Policy*

1. **Defence Budget<sup>1</sup>.** The Union Budget for FY 2020-21 was presented to Parliament on February 1, 2020. The Government has provisioned Rs 3,37,553 crore for defence and 1,33,825 crore for Defence Pensions, a 9.37% increase over the allocation for FY 2019-20. The defence budget comprises 15.49% of total Central government expenditure.
2. **Department of Military Affairs<sup>2</sup>.** The Ministry of Defence announced establishment of Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to facilitate optimal utilisation of resources and promote jointness among the three Services. The following subjects were allocated to DMA: Works relating to Army, Navy and Air Force, Territorial Army and IHQ; exclusive procurements except capital acquisitions; procurement, training and staffing for the Services through joint planning and integration of their requirements; establishment of theatre commands.
3. **DefExpo 2020<sup>3</sup>.** The 11th biennial DefExpo was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi and Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on February 5. The main theme of DefExpo India-2020 was 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and the focus was on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'. Approximately 856 Indian companies and 172 foreign companies participated in the four-day event. Defence Ministers and Service Chiefs of 38 countries also participated. Highlights of the event included:
  - The 5th round of India-Russia Military Industrial Conference was conducted on 6th February. During the conference, a total of 14 MoUs were exchanged between Russian OEMs and Indian companies. The first Request for Proposal for manufacturing of parts in India under the provision of Inter-Governmental

<sup>1</sup> "Defence Budget 2020-21", PIB, February 2, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1601632>

<sup>2</sup> "Creation of New Department of Military Affairs", PIB, February 3, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1601813>

<sup>3</sup> "Curtain Raiser - DefExpo 2020", PIB, February 4, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1601900>

Agreement was also handed over by the Indian Navy to the identified Indian industry<sup>4</sup>.

- The first India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave was held on February 6 and it adopted the Lucknow Declaration. The declaration calls for deeper cooperation in the domain of defence industry; seeks maritime security through cooperation and enhanced cooperation between India and Africa on the evolving concept of Indo-Pacific<sup>5</sup>.
- In a ceremony titled 'Bandhan' on the third day of DefExpo, DRDO handed over 15 licenses for ToT (LATOT) relating to DRDO developed technologies<sup>6</sup> to 17 industries. 13 products were launched, 124 MoUs between DPSUs and private and global defence manufacturing companies were signed. In addition, 23 MoUs were signed between the UP Government and private companies. During the ceremony, a major announcement in the form of issuing the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) certificate of Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) was issued to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Ordinance Factory Board (OFB) launched "Sharang", the 155mm artillery gun with 36 km range, JVPC Alpha gun with 100 mt range, and a Light Machine Gun of 800 mt range with an Under Barrel Grenade Launcher.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) launched Amogha-3, the anti-Tank Guided Missile, and Varunastra, the anti-submarine torpedo<sup>7</sup>.
- On the sidelines of Def Expo 2020, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held bilateral meetings with Defence Ministers of UAE, UK, Maldives, Kyrgyzstan and Oman on February 5. In these bilateral meetings, dignitaries exchanged views on collaborating and

<sup>4</sup> "14 MoUs were exchanged between the Russian OEMs and the Indian companies", PIB, February 6, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602260>

<sup>5</sup> "Lucknow Declaration Adopted at the 1st India-Africa Defence Ministers Conclave, 2020", PIB, February 6, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602300>

<sup>6</sup> "Bandhan, DefExpo 2020: DRDO handed over 15 licenses for ToT (LATOT) to 17 industries", PIB, February 6, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602489>

<sup>7</sup> "DefExpo witnesses signing of Over 200 MoUs, ToTs and product launches", PIB, February 6, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602370>

cooperating on various defence technologies. There was also unanimity on further exploring and strengthening bilateral relations with India in the defence domain to expedite joint projects<sup>8</sup>.

- DGQA conducted a seminar on the Role in MoD schemes for Incentivizing Defence Manufacturing on February 7 to discuss various schemes to facilitate the domestic defence industry<sup>9</sup>.

### *Operations and Exercises*

4. **EX Ajeya Warrior<sup>10</sup>**. The fifth edition of Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-2020 between India and United Kingdom was conducted in the Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom, from February 13-26. 120 infantry soldiers each from Indian and Royal Army participated in the exercise. The aim of this exercise was to conduct company level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorist operations in urban and semi urban areas. The exercise is conducted alternatively in the United Kingdom and India.
5. **Deployment of Hydrographic Survey Ship to Sri Lanka<sup>11</sup>**. From February 6, Indian Navy's Sandhayak class Hydrographic Survey Ship, INS Jamuna deployed to Sri Lanka for two months under a mutual agreement to carry out Joint Hydrographic Survey off the South West Coast of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka Navy personnel will also be provided survey training during every operational turnaround in port.
6. **Operation Vanilla<sup>12</sup>**. INS Airavat deployed for a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief mission as part of 'Operation Vanilla', launched by the Indian Navy to aid the citizens of Madagascar who have been affected by Cyclone Diane. India was the first international responder to this humanitarian crisis in Madagascar. The ship provided relief material

<sup>8</sup> "Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh begins first day of DeExpo 2020 by holding meetings with his counterparts from UAE, UK, Maldives, Kyrgyzstan and Oman", PIB, February 5, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602071>

<sup>9</sup> "DGQA'S Role in MoD Schemes for Incentivizing Defence Manufacturing", PIB, February 7, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602477>

<sup>10</sup> "Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR-2020", PIB, February 10, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602654>

<sup>11</sup> "Jamuna Progresses joint Hydrographic Operations off Sri Lanka", PIB, February 13, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603057>

<sup>12</sup> "INS Airavat Providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief at Antsiranana, Madagascar (Op Vanilla)", PIB, February 1, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1601590>



comprising disaster relief stores, tents, blankets, clothing, food and medicines on February 1 to local government authorities. The Medical Team from the ship also held a medical camp at Antsiranana on February 1-2.

7. **EX Indradhanush V 2020<sup>13</sup>**. The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force (RAF) jointly conducted fifth edition of Ex Indradhanush at Air Force Station Hindan on February 24. The focus of the exercise was 'Base Defence and Force Protection'. The RAF team comprised of 36 specialised combatants of the RAF Regiment while the IAF was represented by 42 combatants of the GARUD Force. The exercises included para drops from C-130J aircraft, tactical insertions by Mi-17 V5 helicopters and use of various airborne sensors.

### *Capability Development*

8. **Joint Venture to Produce Small Arms<sup>14</sup>**. Jindal Defence entered into a joint venture with Taurus Armas S.A. of Brazil for manufacturing small arms in India. With equity participation from both Jindal Defence and Taurus Armas S.A in the ratio of 51:49, manufacturing of small arms will be based on Transfer of Technology from Taurus.
9. **Production of Rafale Spare Parts in India<sup>15</sup>**. Manufacturing of parts of Rafale aircraft started at Nagpur facility. It initially includes the set of doors that cover the twin engines and will probably be used on the 36 French fighter jets ordered by India. This is a joint venture between Reliance Defence and Dassault Aviation.
10. **US Approved sale of IADWS to India<sup>16</sup>**. The US has approved the sale of an Integrated Air Defence Weapon System to India for an estimated cost of \$1.9 billion. The system includes five AN/MPQ-64Fl Sentinel radar

<sup>13</sup> "Joint IAF - RAF EX Indradhanush - V 2020", PIB, February 26, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604402>

<sup>14</sup> "DefExpo 2020: Jindal Defence to manufacture small arms in India, says Abhyuday Jindal", Financial Express, February 3, 2020, <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/defexpo-2020-jindal-defence-to-manufacture-small-arms-in-india-says-abhyuday-jindal/1854525/lite/>

<sup>15</sup> "India begins manufacturing parts for Rafale fighter jets in Nagpur", The Print, February 12, 2020, <https://theprint.in/defence/india-begins-manufacturing-parts-for-rafale-fighter-jets-in-nagpur/363702/>

<sup>16</sup> "US approves sale of Integrated Air Defence Weapon System to India", India Today, February 11, 2020, <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/us-approves-sale-of-integrated-air-defence-weapon-system-to-india-1645161-2020-02-11>

systems; one hundred and eighteen AMRAAM AIM-120C-7/C-8 missiles; three AMRAAM Guidance Sections; four AMRAAM Control Sections; one hundred and thirty-four Stinger FIM-92L missiles; Electrical Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Sensor Systems; AMRAAM Non-Developmental Item-Airborne Instrumentation Units (NDI-AIU); Multi-spectral Targeting System-Model A (MTS-A); Canister Launchers (CN); High Mobility Launchers (HML); and some small arms.

11. **Delivery of ASWC Kavaratti<sup>17</sup>**. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, delivered the fourth Kamorta-class anti-submarine warfare corvette (ASWC) INS Kavaratti to the Indian Navy on February 19. INS Kavaratti is equipped to fight in nuclear, biological and chemical warfare conditions. It has a maximum speed of 25 knots and can accommodate 17 officers and 106 sailors. It joins the three other ships of the class delivered earlier: INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt and INS Kiltan.
12. **Indigenous Sniper Rifle<sup>18</sup>**. SSS Defence has indigenously designed and developed a sniper rifle platform including recon carbine, rapid engagement combat rifle, and a designated marksman rifle. Trials on the .338 sniper platform will be conducted soon. The company owns design and 80% content by cost. SSS Defence is a joint venture with Brazilian CBC Global ammunition will also start produce small & medium calibre ammunition rounds in its new factory in Andhra Pradesh.
13. **Approval for Production of LUH<sup>19</sup>**. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) received initial clearance from DRDO on February 7 to produce light utility helicopter (LUH). It is a single engine, light weight, highly agile 3-ton utility helicopter, developed to meet the operational requirements of Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. LUH will replace the Cheetah and Chetak helicopters.

<sup>17</sup> "Navy gets its 4th anti-submarine warfare corvette", The Statesman, February 19, 2020, <https://www.thestatesman.com/bengal/navy-gets-4th-anti-submarine-warfare-corvette-1502857594.html>

<sup>18</sup> "Developed and designed in India! Check deadly .338 sniper rifles", Financial Express, February 12, 2020, <https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/developed-and-designed-in-india-check-deadly-338-sniper-rifles/1866127/>

<sup>19</sup> "Green light to HAL's light utility helicopter to replace ageing Cheetah, Chetak", Live Mint, February 7, 2020, <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/green-light-to-hal-s-light-utility-helicopter-to-replace-ageing-cheetah-chetak-11581069961974.html>

14. **New Production Hangar of LCH<sup>20</sup>**. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar at Helicopter Division in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Complex at Bengaluru, Karnataka on February 27. The new production hangar will augment the LCH production capacity to 30 helicopters per year. LCH is a 5.5-tonne class combat helicopter designed and developed by HAL. It is powered by two Shakti engines and inherits many technical features of the Advanced Light Helicopter.

### Visits

15. **India-Korea Defence Dialogue<sup>21</sup>**. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of National Defence of South Korea Jeong Kyeong-doo held a Ministerial-level Defence Dialogue in New Delhi on February 4. Indian Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Army Chief General Manoj Naravane and Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh were also present. During the dialogue, India and South Korea recognised that unity and centrality of ASEAN must be a key element in developing an Indo-Pacific vision. Both countries exchanged the Road map on Defence Industries cooperation which includes a list of possible areas of cooperation.
16. **India-Qatar Delegation-Level Talks<sup>22</sup>**. Indian Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs of Qatar Dr Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah held delegation-level talks in New Delhi on February 4. During the meeting, the two Ministers reiterated their commitment to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, including the defence industry relationship.
17. **Visit of Indian Navy Chief to Myanmar<sup>23</sup>**. Indian Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh visited Myanmar from February 17-20. During his visit, the CNS held bilateral discussions with Admiral Tin Aung San, C-in-C Myanmar Navy and also called on H.E. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing,

<sup>20</sup> "Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates new Light Combat Helicopter Production Hangar at HAL Complex in Bengaluru", PIB, February 27, 2020 <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1604533>

<sup>21</sup> "Ministerial-level Defence dialogue between India and South Korea held in New Delhi", All India Radio, February 4, 2020, <http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=380811>

<sup>22</sup> "Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh holds delegation-level talks with Qatar's Deputy PM & Minister of State for Defense Affairs", PIB, February 4, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1601888>

<sup>23</sup> "Visit of Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Naval Staff to Myanmar", PIB, February 17, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603377>

C-in-C Defence Services, and other senior government officials. CNS interacted with trainees of the National Defence College in Nay Pyi Taw. He also visited the Naval Dockyard and Training Command of the Myanmar Navy in Yangon.

### *Other Issues*

18. **Permanent Commission for Women Officers in the Army<sup>24</sup>.** Indian Supreme Court passed a verdict on February 17 that the permanent commission will apply to all women officers in the Army in service, irrespective of their years of service. It also made them eligible for command postings. The Court directed the Centre to grant permanent commission within three months to all women officers in Army who opt for it.
19. **Appointment of Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet<sup>25</sup>.** Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet on February 11. Earlier, he was the Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Policy and Plans) at New Delhi.
20. **Appointment of Flag Officer Commanding Gujarat Naval Area<sup>26</sup>.** Rear Admiral Puruvir Das assumed charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Gujarat, Daman and Diu Naval Area (FOGNA) on February 10. The FOGNA is responsible to the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command for all naval operations in Gujarat, Daman and Diu Naval Area.
21. **Appointment of Flag Officer Sea Training<sup>27</sup>.** Rear Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar assumed charge as the Flag Officer Sea Training (FOST) on February 11. Earlier, he was the Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area.

<sup>24</sup> "Supreme Court clears permanent commission, command roles for women officers in Indian Army", India Today, February 17, 2020, [https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/supreme-court-clears-permanent-commission-for-women-officers-in-army-1647196-2020-02-17?utm\\_source=it\\_sticky\\_footer](https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/supreme-court-clears-permanent-commission-for-women-officers-in-army-1647196-2020-02-17?utm_source=it_sticky_footer)

<sup>25</sup> "Rear Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan takes over as Eastern Fleet Commander", PIB, February 11, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602734>

<sup>26</sup> "Rear Admiral Puruvir Das, NM assumes charge as the Flag Officer Commanding Gujarat Naval Area (FOGNA)", PIB, February 11, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1602809>

<sup>27</sup> "Navy Gets A New Flag Officer Sea Training", PIB, February 12, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603018>

22. **Appointment of Western Naval Fleet Commander<sup>28</sup>.** Rear Admiral Krishna D Swaminathan assumed charge as the Fleet Commander of the Western Fleet of Indian Navy on February 14.
23. **Appointment of Commandant of the Naval War College Goa<sup>29</sup>.** Rear Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh assumed charge as the Commandant of the Naval War College, Goa on February 18. Earlier he was the Flag Officer Commanding, Western Fleet.
24. **Appointment of Chief of Staff Officer (Training)<sup>30</sup>.** Rear Admiral Antony George assumed charge as the Chief Staff Officer (Training) at Headquarters, Southern Naval Command on February 20. Earlier, he was the Assistant Chief of the Naval Staff (Staff Requirements).

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<sup>28</sup> "Change of Command of Western Fleet – 14 FEB", PIB, February 14, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603288>

<sup>29</sup> "Rear Admiral Sanjay J Singh Takes over as Commandant, NWC Goa", PIB, February 20, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603878>

<sup>30</sup> "Rear Admiral Antony George, NM, VSM Takes over as CSO (Training) Southern Naval Command", PIB, February 20, 2020, <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1603879>

## PART II: NEIGHBOURHOOD DEFENCE SCENE

### China

#### Operations and Exercises

25. **Chinese Military Participates in 'Cobra Gold 2020'**<sup>31</sup>. A team of 25 soldiers from the PLA's 75<sup>th</sup> Group Army arrived in Thailand to participate in the largest joint military exercise in Southeast Asia led by Thailand and the United States. Cobra Gold 2020 will run from February 25 to March 6 and will feature high-level forums, amphibious landing exercises, humanitarian construction and disaster relief drills. More than 8,900 soldiers and officers from 29 countries will participate. As per media reports, the U.S. is expected to send 5,500 personnel and 64 fighter jets including the F-35 stealth fighter for the first time, as well as an amphibious assault ship and an amphibious landing dock.
26. **Naval Drills Enhance Ability in Pacific Ocean**<sup>32</sup>. The far sea joint training fleet under the PLA Southern Theater Command Navy, featuring guided missile destroyer Hohhot, guided missile frigate Xianning, electronic surveillance ship Tianshuxing and replenishment ship Chaganhu, held air defense drills at an undisclosed area in the Pacific Ocean, displaying the Navy's high capability. Using a combination of missiles and the close-in weapon system for the first time, the fleet successfully intercepted multiple waves of incoming target drones. As per the head of the exercise's directing team, the drills achieved the goal of testing the weapon systems' performance, the procedures of air defense combat and the results of the fleet's previous basic training.
27. **Chinese Navy Ships Conduct Real Combat Training in Gulf of Aden**<sup>33</sup>. The 34<sup>th</sup> Chinese naval escort task force composed of guided-missile destroyer Yinchuan, guided-missile frigate Yuncheng and comprehensive supply ship Weishanhu conducted an exercise in the Gulf of Aden from

<sup>31</sup> 'China participates in largest joint military exercise in Southeast Asia', ECNS, February 25, 2020. <http://www.ecns.cn/news/military/2020-02-25/detail-ifztvsqr0580086.shtml>

<sup>32</sup> 'Naval drills enhance ability in Pacific Ocean', China Military, February 18, 2020. [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/18/content\\_9745063.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/18/content_9745063.htm)

<sup>33</sup> 'Chinese naval ships conduct combat training in Gulf of Aden'. Naval News, February 17, 2020. <https://navalnews.net/chinese-naval-ships-conduct-combat-training-in-gulf-of-aden/>



February 9 to February 12, 2020. The ships conducted live firing, boarding, emergency rescue and helicopter operation drills during the exercise.

28. **Chinese Air Force's Aerobatics Team at Singapore Air Show<sup>34</sup>**. The Bayi Aerobatics Team of the PLA Air Force took part in the Singaporean air show on invitation. A total of nine planes and 100 personnel demonstrated cooperation between the two militaries.

## Capability Development and Sales

29. **Y-20 Aircraft Tanker Variant and AEW Variant to Debut Soon<sup>35</sup>**. The aerial tanker variant of China's domestically developed Y-20 cargo plane is expected to make its debut soon, while the aerial early warning (AEW) variant is under development, as stated by the commander of an Air Force aviation regiment of the PLA's Western Theater Command. When repurposed for aerial refuelling, the Y-20 will be able to carry about 90 tons of fuel, similar to the Il-78, and much more than the HU-6's capacity of under 30 tons. It will greatly expand the PLA Air Force's operational range, allowing fighter jets and bombers to travel much greater distances, transforming the Air Force from a regional force into a strategic one.
30. **Russia's Ansat Helicopter Certified for Sale in China<sup>36</sup>**. Russian Helicopters' Ansat light multipurpose helicopter has received a completed validation of the type certificate from Chinese aviation authorities that will allow the ROSTEC to commence sale of 20 such helicopters to the Chinese Emergency and Disaster Relief Association, under a previously concluded contract in 2018.
31. **PLA Unveils Latest Z-10 Attack Helicopter Upgrade<sup>37</sup>**. The latest edition of the Z-10 attack helicopter was unveiled in a military exercise with the PLA's 80th Group Army on February 8. The upgrade indicates that the domestic-made attack helicopter is equipped with stronger engines and

<sup>34</sup> 'Chinese Air Force's Aerobatics Team to perform at Singapore Air show', China Military, February 05, 2020. [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/05/content\\_9733702.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/05/content_9733702.htm)

<sup>35</sup> 'Y-20 aircraft tanker's variant to debut soon, AEW variant to follow: Air Force officer', China Military, February 26, 2020. [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/26/content\\_9752203.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/26/content_9752203.htm)

<sup>36</sup> 'Russia's Ansat helicopter certified for sale in China', Defense World, February 19, 2020. [https://www.defenseworld.net/news/26380/Russia\\_s\\_Ansat\\_Helicopter\\_Certified\\_for\\_Sale\\_in\\_China#.XIS\\_92gzblU](https://www.defenseworld.net/news/26380/Russia_s_Ansat_Helicopter_Certified_for_Sale_in_China#.XIS_92gzblU)

<sup>37</sup> 'PLA unveils latest Z-10 attack helicopter upgrade', China Military, February 17, 2020. [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/17/content\\_9744584.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/17/content_9744584.htm)

features exhaust openings that face upward instead of outward lowering the chopper's infrared signal, making it harder to target.

32. **China's Long March-5B Carrier Rocket Unveiled<sup>38</sup>**. China's Long March-5B carrier rocket arrived at the launch site in southern China's Hainan Province on February 05. The rocket took part in a joint rehearsal with the prototype of the Chinese space station's core module at the Wenchang Space Launch Center. It is scheduled to make its maiden flight and launch the prototype of China's new manned spaceship in April. The Long March-5B is a modified version of Long March-5 rocket and will be China's first 1.5-stage large carrier rocket. It has the largest carrying capacity of more than 22 tonnes in low-Earth orbit among all Chinese rockets.
33. **China's Type 055 Warship Larger, More Powerful than Expected<sup>39</sup>**. In a video released by the Chinese Navy, it was revealed that China's most advanced destroyer, the Nanchang, has an actual displacement of more than 12,000 tons. This is in contrast to the earlier assumed displacement of 10,000 tons and indicates that the warship is even more powerful than expected. The video also revealed that Nanchang marks China's achievement of a globally advanced level in terms of surface vessel propulsion technology and that the warship's speed is of the top class.

## Pakistan

34. **General Bajwa Visits Morocco on Official Tour<sup>40</sup>**. Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa, visited Morocco on an official visit for four days beginning February 23. He called on the Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in Charge of the Administration of National Defence and the Inspector General of Royal Armed Forces. During the meetings, matters of mutual interest, bilateral defence, security cooperation & regional peace & stability were discussed. COAS said that Pakistan has and will always stand with Morocco even in most difficult times.

<sup>38</sup> 'China's Long March-5B carrier rocket arrives at launch site', China Military, February 06, 2020. [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/06/content\\_9734096.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/06/content_9734096.htm)

<sup>39</sup> 'China's Type 055 warship larger, more powerful than expected', China Military, February 01, 2020. [http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/01/content\\_9729509.htm](http://eng.chinamil.com.cn/view/2020-02/01/content_9729509.htm)

<sup>40</sup> 'General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Morocco on an official visit for four days.' ISPR, February 23, 2020. <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5634>



35. **9<sup>th</sup> Defence and Security Expert Working Group (EWG) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**<sup>41</sup>. Pakistan hosted the two day meeting on February 20-21 as part of the 'SCO Defence and Security Cooperation Plan-2020'. The event in Islamabad was attended by delegates from seven other countries - China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and India, with Belarus as an observer state. The forum discussed different aspects of cooperation between the SCO member states' and regional security. The participants also exchanged information and opinions on important issues of mutual interest including joint training and military exercises.
36. **Pakistan COAS Visits Kuwait**<sup>42</sup>. General Qamar Javed Bajwa visited Kuwait on a day long official visit. The COAS held separate meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defence and the Chief of General Staff of the Kuwait Armed Forces. The political and military leadership of Kuwait highly appreciated the professionalism of Pakistan Army and determination of the Pakistani nation in combating terrorism. Both sides agreed to increase bilateral cooperation in multiple fields of defence & security including export of defence products, training, provision of trained manpower / human resource and cooperation in counter terrorism domain.
37. **Pakistan Conducted Successful Flight Test of "Ra'ad-II" ALCM**<sup>43</sup>. On February 18 Pakistan conducted the successful flight test of Air Launched Cruise Missile "Ra'ad-II" which has a range of 600 Km, significantly enhancing air delivered strategic standoff capability. The missile is equipped with state of the art guidance and navigation systems ensuring engagement of targets with high precision. The Director General Strategic Plans Division termed the launch "a major step towards complementing Pakistan's deterrence capability".

<sup>41</sup>'Pakistan hosts SCO's Defence Experts Working Group meeting', The News, February 21, 2020. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/617443-pakistan-hosts-sco-s-defence-experts-working-group-meeting>

<sup>42</sup>'General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) visited Kuwait on a day long official visit.' ISPR, February 20, 2020. <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5629>

<sup>43</sup>'Pakistan conducted successful flight test of Air Launched Cruise Missile Ra'ad-II'. ISPR, February 18, 2020. <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5625>

38. **US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation Meets General Bajwa<sup>44</sup>.** Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation called on the Pakistani Chief of Army Staff, General Bajwa on February 17. During the meeting, matters of mutual interest including overall regional security situation and ongoing Afghan Reconciliation Process were discussed.
39. **Minister of National Defence, Turkey Meets General Bajwa<sup>45</sup>.** General Hulusi Akar (Retired), Minister of National Defence of Turkey called on General Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff on February 14. General Bajwa said that Pakistan values its unique relationship with Turkey and would always stand by its brothers. The visiting dignitary appreciated Pakistan's contributions for conflict prevention in the region and for standing by Turkey & pledged the same for Pakistan.
40. **Pakistan - Bahrain Joint Exercise 'AL BADAR-IV 2020'<sup>46</sup>.** The closing ceremony of the Pakistan - Bahrain Joint Exercise "AL BADAR-IV 2020" was held at on February 13. Troops from the Kingdom of Bahrain National Guard and Pakistan's Special Service Group (SSG) participated in the two week long exercise. The drills focused on counter terrorism techniques including cordon and search operations, built up area clearance with combat aviation support.
41. **Commissioning Ceremony of Pakistan Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel Held at Romania<sup>47</sup>.** The Commissioning Ceremony of the 2300 ton Corvette PNS YARMOOK was held on February 15 at Constanta Port in Romania. The Pakistani Vice Chief of Naval Staff was the Chief Guest and underscored the importance of corvettes in the maritime domain. He said that induction of these platforms would act as force multipliers in enhancing the Navy's capability of safeguarding maritime interests. PNS YARMOOK is a state of the art electronic warfare, anti-ship & anti-air

<sup>44</sup>Mr Zalmay Khalilzad, US Special Representative for Afghan Reconciliation called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) at GHQ, today.', ISPR, February 17, 2020. <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5624>

<sup>45</sup>General Hulusi Akar (Retired), Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Turkey called on General Qamar Javed Bajwa, Chief of Army Staff (COAS), today.', ISPR, February 14, 2020. <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5621>

<sup>46</sup>'Closing Ceremony of Pakistan - Bahrain joint Exercise "AL BADAR-IV 2020" was held at National Counter Terrorism Centre Pabbi.', ISPR, February 13, 2020. <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5620>

<sup>47</sup>Commissioning Ceremony of Pakistan Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel – PNS YARMOOK Held at Romania', ISPR, February 15, 2020. <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5622>

warfare platform with cutting edge self-protection and terminal defence systems. The ship is capable of performing a variety of maritime operations, transporting helicopters & Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) simultaneously.

42. **Pakistan Navy's Maritime Exercise 'SEASPARK-2020'**<sup>48</sup>. The Pakistan Navy's major biennial maritime exercise SEASPARK-20 commenced at Karachi on February 12. The exercise is structured to assess war preparedness & validate operational plans of Pakistan Navy in response to emerging regional and global challenges. The Deputy Chief of Naval Staff (Operations) affirmed that the Pakistan Navy remains combat ready and fully committed to protect national maritime interests during peace and war. He further emphasized that exercise SEASPARK-20 would provide impetus to Pakistan's resolve of maintaining peace and stability by promoting safe and sustainable maritime environment in the region. The exercise was conducted in the Arabian Sea along the coast from Jiwhani to Sir Creek.

### *Bangladesh*

43. **India-Bangladesh Joint Military Exercise 'SAMPRITI-IX'**<sup>49</sup>. The ninth edition of India - Bangladesh military training 'SAMPRITI- IX' took place in Meghalaya from February 03-16. The main focus was counter-terrorism in difficult terrains like mountains and jungles with Command Post and Field Training Exercises conducted. The Bangladesh Army's contingent was part of the 42nd infantry regiment.
44. **Reshuffle in Top Army Positions**<sup>50</sup>. The Bangladeshi Army made changes to some of its top-level positions, including that of the Adjutant General, DG of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), and GOC of the 9th Infantry Division. Maj Gen Md Saiful Abedin, the outgoing Director General of DGFI was appointed as GOC of 9th Infantry Division at Savar Cantonment, while Maj Gen Saiful Islam has taken charge as DG of DGFI. The outgoing GOC of the 9th Infantry Division Maj Gen Akbar

<sup>48</sup> Pakistan Navy's Dynamic Maritime Exercise SEASPARK-2020 Commences at Karachi' ISPR, February 12, 2020. <https://www.ispr.gov.pk/press-release-detail.php?id=5619>

<sup>49</sup> 'India-Bangladesh Military training begins in Meghalaya', WION, February 04, 2020. <https://www.wionews.com/india-news/9th-edition-of-india-bangladesh-military-training-begins-meghalaya-278442>

<sup>50</sup> 'Major reshuffle in top army positions', Dhaka Tribune, February 25, 2020. <https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/military-affairs/2020/02/25/major-reshuffle-in-top-army-positions>

Hossain has been appointed as Commandant of Defence Services Command and Staff College at Mirpur and Maj Gen Enayet Ullah has been made the Adjutant General.

## *Sri Lanka*

45. **Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Ground Forces Visits Sri Lanka<sup>51</sup>.** General Oleg Salyukov, Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces of the Russian Federation, was on an official visit to Sri Lanka from February 03. He met the Defense Secretary, offered more training facilities for Sri Lankan military and pledged to increase assistance to improve air operation capabilities of the Sri Lanka Air Force. General Salyukov also expressed Russia's willingness for counter terrorism cooperation and intelligence sharing between the two nations.
46. **Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force Ship in Sri Lanka on Goodwill Visit<sup>52</sup>.** Japanese ship Takanami arrived at the port of Colombo on February 21 on a goodwill visit. The Commanding Officer of the ship, Commander Ryouichi Nihara called on the Commander Western Naval Area, Rear Admiral Sumith Weerasinghe and held cordial discussions on several matters of bilateral importance, and exchanged mementoes to mark the significance of the occasion.
47. **Indian and Sri Lankan Navy on Joint Hydrographic Survey<sup>53</sup>.** The Indian Navy Hydrographic Survey Ship, INS Jamuna is on a two-month deployment to carry out a joint Hydrographic Survey off the South-West coast of Sri Lanka that began on February 06. The ship has undertaken several survey activities as part of the Foreign Cooperation Survey along with Sri Lanka Navy hydrographers.
48. **Zambian Army Commander Visits Sri Lanka<sup>54</sup>.** Zambian Army Commander, Lieutenant General W.M Sikazwe) arrived in Sri Lanka on

<sup>51</sup> 'Russia offers training facilitates to Sri Lankan military, assistance to improve air operation capabilities', Colombo Page, February 04, 2020. [http://www.colombopage.com/archive\\_20A/Feb04\\_1580756944CH.php](http://www.colombopage.com/archive_20A/Feb04_1580756944CH.php)

<sup>52</sup> 'Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force ship in Sri Lanka', MENAFN, February 22, 2020. <https://menafn.com/1099742892/Japanese-Maritime-Self-Defence-Force-ship-in-Sri-Lanka>

<sup>53</sup> 'Indian, Sri Lankan Navy joint hydrographic survey op progresses: Defence Ministry', Indus Dictum, February 21, 2020. <https://indusdictum.com/2020/02/21/indian-sri-lankan-navy-joint-hydrographic-survey-op-progresses-defence-ministry/>

<sup>54</sup> 'Commander of the Zambian Army Calls on the Commander' Sri Lankan Air Force, February 24, 2020. <http://airforce.lk/news.php?news=4490>

February 21 on a goodwill visit. During his meeting with his Sri Lankan counterpart Acting Chief of Defence Staff Lt. Gen. Shavendra Silva, he requested the Sri Lanka Army to provide training to the Zambian Army.

49. **Pakistani Air Force Head Visits Colombo<sup>55</sup>**. Pakistan's Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of his counterpart Air Marshal Sumangala Dias from February 05. During his meeting with PM Rajapaksa he said that Pakistan hoped to offer professional expertise and technical training assistance to the Sri Lankan Air Force. In response the Sri Lankan PM acknowledged Pakistan's unwavering support to Sri Lanka in its hour of need and also underscored the need for learning from each other's experience.

### *Nepal*

50. **Bangladesh Army Chief Visits Nepal<sup>56</sup>**. Chief of Army Staff of the Bangladesh Army General Aziz Ahmed arrived in Kathmandu on February 07 at the invitation of his Nepalese counterpart Purna Chandra Thapa. During his five day stay, General Ahmed called on President Bidya Devi Bhandari, Prime Minister K.P Sharma Oli, Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Ishwor Pokharel and CoAS Thapa. He also visited the Nepal Army's Western Division Headquarters.
51. **British Army Chief Inspects Gurkha Recruits in Nepal<sup>57</sup>**. The head of the British Army General Sir Mark-Carleton Smith visited Nepal on February 19 to inspect the 420 Gurkha recruits that have joined the British Army. The Gurkhas have been serving the British crown since 1815.

### *Maldives*

52. **U.K. Ambassador Meets MNDF Chief<sup>58</sup>**. The UK Ambassador to the Maldives Caron Röhsler met the Chief of Defense Force Major General Abdulla Shamaal on February 10. The two discussed areas in which assistance can be provided to increase the capacity of Maldives National

<sup>55</sup> 'Pakistan military offers assistance to Sri Lankan Air Force', Economic Times, February 11, 2020. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/pakistan-offers-assistance-to-sri-lankan-air-force/articleshow/74055199.cms>

<sup>56</sup> 'Bangladesh Army Chief arrives on five-day visit to Nepal', My Republica, February 07, 2020. <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/army-general-of-bangladesh-in-nepal/>

<sup>57</sup> 'Army Chief Inspects More Than 400 New Gurkhas In Nepal' Forces Network, February 19, 2020. <https://www.forces.net/news/army-chief-inspects-more-400-new-gurkhas-nepal>

<sup>58</sup> 'UK Ambassador meets with MNDF Chief', Avas, February 11, 2020. <https://avas.mv/en/77940>

Defence Force (MNDF), the strategic direction of MNDF and strengthening relations between the two countries on maritime security and counterterrorism.

53. **Maldives Defence Minister Visits India<sup>59</sup>**. Maldives Minister of Defence Mariya Ahmed Didi travelled to India on February 3 on the invitation of the Indian government. During the visit, she met her Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh and discussed strengthening military relations between both countries. The ministers also discussed the provision of emergency protective gear to the Maldives. She expressed the Maldives' interest in obtaining a similar vessel to 'CGS Kaamiyaabu', a 28-metre vessel equipped with state-of-the-art technology for coastal patrolling, surveillance, high-speed interception and search-and-rescue operations that was gifted by the Indian government in December 2019.

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<sup>59</sup> 'Defence Minister concludes visit to India', Avas, February 08, 2020, <https://avas.mv/en/77817>



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