

Russia to supply improved variant of man-portable missile system

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Russia on Tuesday said it will supply Igla-S man-portable air defence missile system (MANPADS), which can be fired by an individual or a crew to bring down incoming hostile aircraft, to the Indian armed forces through licenced production by an Indian private company.

"We've already signed the corresponding document and now, together with an Indian private firm, we are organising the production of Igla-S MANPADS in India," said Russian arms exports agency Rosoboronexport chief Alexander Mikheyev, as per agency reports from Moscow.

The Indian armed forces

already have the older versions of Igla missile systems. The Igla-S is an improved variant with a longer interception range of up to 6-km.

Russian officials did not specify which Indian company would be involved in the production of Igla-S MANPADS or when it would start.

IGLA-S MANPADS

Indian defence establishment sources, however, said contracts have been inked with Adani Defence for Igla-S systems under emergency procurements provision. "Adani Defence will produce the short-range air defence missiles in India," a source said.

Under emergency powers

delegated to the armed forces by the defence ministry after the multiple Chinese intrusions into eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020, the first three tranches of the emergency procurements also saw direct deals with countries like Russia, Israel and France, in addition to domestic sources. The fourth and last tranche from September 2022 to September 2023 was reserved for procurements only from domestic manufacturers, as earlier reported by TOI.

India remains in the strategically-vulnerable position of being the world's largest arms importer, accounting for 11% of the total global imports in 2018-22, with Russia still being its largest supplier.

India procuring Igla-S anti-aircraft missiles from Russia

NEW DELHI, Nov 14 (PTI)

INDIA is in the process of procuring a batch of Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles from Russia to bolster the combat capability of the Army units deployed in various sensitive forward locations, people familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. India is also looking at production of the Russian missile systems in the country under the Make-in-India initiative, they said.

The Army, Navy and the Indian Air Force already have Igla man-portable missiles in their inventories.

The Igla is a man-portable air defence system (MANPADS) that can be used to bring down enemy aircraft and helicopters.

The missile has a range of around five to six km.

The people cited above said India sealed a deal with Russia around five months ago to procure a batch of the latest version of the Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles for the Indian Army. The new weapons will replace the Igla missiles inducted into the Army in early 1990s. The exact quantity being procured is not immediately known.

The people cited above said India is looking at production of the missile systems in the country as well under the Make-in-India initiative.

Russia has been a major supplier of weapons to India. The military cooperation including supply of military hardware

from Russia to India are continuing notwithstanding the Ukraine conflict.

Chief Executive Officer of Russia's state arms export agency Rosoboronexport Alexander Mikheev told Russian news agency TASS in Dubai that a contract for license production of Igla-S air defence systems (MANPADS) for India has been signed.

"A respective document has already been signed and now together with a private sector Indian company, we will organise the production of Igla-S MANPADS on Indian territory," he said.

The Indian Armed forces are planning to replace the vintage Soviet-origin Igla systems with cutting-edge Igla-S MANPADS.

Over 5,000 Myanmaris enter Mizoram

AIZAWL, Nov 14 (ANI)

OVER 5,000 Myanmar nationals have crossed over to neighbouring Mizoram in India following Monday's airstrike by the Myanmar Army in its Chin State, said Lalbiakthanga Kiangte, Inspector General of Police, Mizoram Police.

"Now there are as many as more than 5,000 people took refuge in two Mizoram villages along the Myanmar border," the IGP said, adding that many got injured. "As many as about 20 are injured. Eight of them are taken to Aizawl for better medical treatment and the rest are being treated in Champhai," the IGP further said. He said one of the injured succumbed to

his injuries last evening. Asked what the status was on the ground and whether there was any possibility for commotion on the Myanmar side, he said, "Since last night there has been no commotion." "Now it is quite calm but we don't know whether the Myanmar Army will attack from the air. We cannot rule out air strike at present if the Myanmar Government is willing."

The injured are being taken care of by local Mizo non-governmental organisations. Many Myanmar nationals were caught in the crossfire and got injured while crossing over to India on Monday.

The fighting reportedly started after the People's Defence

Force (PDF) attacked two military bases at Khawmawi and Rihkhawdar in Chin state near the Indian border. In retaliation, the Myanmar army launched airstrikes. Several Myanmar nationals who were injured in the Myanmar Army airstrike have crossed the international border entered Mizoram district and were admitted to a hospital.

The latest influx of refugees is in addition to the thousands who have already taken refuge in the north-eastern state since 2021. Mizos share ethnic ties with the Chin community. Myanmar's military junta is facing its biggest test since taking power in a 2021 coup.

CENTRE TAKES COGNI-

SANCE: Central Intelligence agencies are keeping a close watch as the gunbattle in Myanmar triggered a fresh influx of refugees in Mizoram. A senior official confirmed that Mizoram police, along with Central Intelligence agencies, are keeping a close watch on the situation. The centre is trying to identify the exact number of Myanmar nationals who have crossed the border.

Indian officials said that the massive gunfight between Myanmar's Tatmadaw (military) and pro-democratic force People's Defence Force (PDF) have been going on for the past several days causing the fresh influx of refugees from the neighbouring country.

S Korea wary of Russia-N Korea arms deal; its security implications

SEOUL, Nov 14 (AP)

SOUTH Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol slammed the purported illicit arms deal between North Korea and Russia, saying he'll emphasise its far-reaching security implications and discuss international response during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in San Francisco this week.

In written responses to questions from The Associated Press ahead of the APEC meeting, Yoon also said that North Korean provocations will invite immediate retaliation by South Korean and US Forces. There

are concerns that North Korea might miscalculate and make a move against the South while the world is focused on the conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

"An effective way to prevent North Korea from miscalculating is to demonstrate our robust deterrence capabilities and determination towards North Korea based on the solid (South Korea)-US joint defence posture," Yoon said.

"North Korea's provocations will not only fail to achieve its intended goal but also result in immediate and strong retaliation from (South Korea)-US Alliance," he said.

There are concerns that Russia's protracted war on Ukraine and the raging conflict between Israel and Hamas are adding to complexities and uncertainties over the security situation on the Korean Peninsula.

Some experts say North Korea's reported pursuit of sophisticated Russian weapons technologies in return for its supply of conventional arms for Russia's war in Ukraine could help the North modernise its nuclear-capable missiles targeting South Korea and the US. The experts also worry that Washington's preoccupation with Ukraine and Israel might

prompt North Korea to conclude that the US security posture on the Korean Peninsula has weakened and launch surprise attacks or other provocations against South Korea.

Since taking office in May last year, Yoon, a Conservative, has made a reinforced military partnership with the US the centre of his foreign policy in response to North Korea's evolving nuclear threats. Since his inauguration, Yoon said that North Korea has test-launched a total of 87 ballistic missiles.

Despite this, many foreign analysts assess North Korea still doesn't possess functioning nuclear-tipped missiles.

By 2030, world needs to cut emission by 43%: UN report

Massively Off Track To Limiting Warming To 1.5°C: UN Chief Guterres

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New Delhi: The world needs to cut 43% of its emission by 2030, compared to 2019 levels, to be within the 'safe' limit of global temperature rise, but emissions under the current mitigation target are projected to be only 2% below those levels, shows a new UN synthesis report on countries' collective climate actions released on Tuesday. It highlights that peaking of global emissions will, however, occur within this decade.

The synthesis report, released ahead of the upcoming UN climate conference (COP28) in Dubai, also shows that while emissions will not increase after 2030, compared to 2019 levels, they are still "not demonstrating rapid downward trend" — a necessity of this decade to limit warming below the 'danger' level.

Limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of this century is considered safe to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, including more frequent and severe droughts,



Getty Images

Peaking of global emissions will occur in this decade, the report says

TIMES VIEW: The report underlines that the world is way behind the greenhouse reduction targets. Only a radical change in policies and planning can alter the course. With Planet Earth already under extreme duress, switching to more environmentally friendly technologies is an essential and urgent need.

heat waves and rainfall.

The rise in earth's global average surface temperature, however, has already reached around 1.1 degrees C, higher than the pre-industrial average (1850-1900), and 2023 is already on track to be the warmest year on record. Under the current level of mitigation actions, the peak temperature for 2100 is estimated in the range of 2.1-2.8 degree C.

"The world is failing to get

a grip on the climate crisis. That is the message of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's latest report which provides yet more evidence that the world remains massively off track to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and avoiding the worst of climate catastrophe," said Antonio Guterres, UN secretary-general.

The synthesis report shows that if the latest avail-

able nationally determined contributions (NDCs) — climate actions — are implemented, current commitments will increase emissions by about 8.8%, compared to 2010 levels. "This is a marginal improvement over last year's assessment, which found countries were on a path to increase emissions 10.6% by 2030, compared to 2010 levels," it says.

Noting the huge emission gap, Guterres said, "Inch by inch progress will not do. It is time for a climate ambition supernova in every country, city, and sector."

Referring to the findings of the report that shows how national climate action plans "remain insufficient" to limit global temperature rise, the UN chief pitched for acceleration of the 'net zero' (emission) timelines so that developed countries get as close as possible to the target by 2040 and emerging economies by 2050.

The eye-opening findings may set a tone for COP28, scheduled to be held during November 30-December 12 in Dubai.

YOUR TRAIN RIDE JUST GOT LONGER

India International Trade Fair 2023 opens

NEW DELHI, Nov 14 (PTI)

THE 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2023 was inaugurated here on Tuesday.

With nearly 3,500 exhibitors from both India and abroad, IITF 2023 occupies an expansive space of 1,10,000 square meters. This year's theme, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' draws inspiration from ancient Indian philosophy, emphasising the significance of interconnectedness and cooperation in trade for achieving sustainable growth and well-being.

"This time we are fortunate to have the trade fair in this new state-of-the-art complex of

Bharat Mandapam which has recently been dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said while addressing the opening ceremony.

She said this is an effort to showcase the export potential of the country in diverse sectors. Representatives from 13 countries, including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Oman, Egypt, Nepal, Thailand, Turkiye, Vietnam, Tunisia, Kyrgystan, Lebanon, Iran and UAE, are actively taking part in the event.

The timings of the fair which is being held from November 14-27 is 10.00 AM to 7.30 PM.

"The expected footfall during 14 days shall be more than 10 lakh. The tickets are available both online and offline at selected metro stations excluding the Supreme Court Metro Station. Entry inside is from Gate No. 4,6 & 10," organiser India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) stated.

"ITPO has made extensive efforts to improve the overall experience for exhibitors and visitors alike. The layout has been kept spacious with extensive circulation area. New halls with state-of-the art facilities, new toilet blocks, seating facilities, green areas will add to the comfort and experience of the visitors," it stated.