

US okays sale of torpedoes worth \$175m to India

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The United States govt has approved a proposed sale of 53 MK-54 lightweight torpedoes worth \$175 million to India for the multi-mission MH-60R Seahawk helicopters being inducted by the Indian Navy.

The Biden administration's notification to the US Congress on Monday said the sale will support Washington's foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to strengthen the bilateral strategic relationship and improving the security of major defence partner India, which "continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions".

"The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by increasing the size of its anti-submarine weapons stockpile for its MH-60R helicopters," it said.

The Navy in March had commissioned its first squadron of six submarine-hunting MH-60R Seahawk helicopters, armed with Hellfire missiles, MK-54 torpedoes, and precision-kill rockets, at INS Garuda in Kochi, as was then reported by **TOI**.

By next year, India is slated to induct all the 24 heavy-duty Seahawks, which are also equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices, under the Rs 15,157 crore (\$2.13 billion) contract inked with the US in Feb 2020.

Navy officers say the induction of Seahawks, which operate from decks of aircraft carriers and other frontline warships, represents a "significant capability jump" in detecting and destroying enemy submarines prowling in the Indian Ocean Region.



Navy officers said the induction of Seahawks (in pic) represents a 'significant capability jump' in detecting and destroying enemy submarines prowling in the IOR

India & Germany discuss boosting def-industrial ties

India and Germany Tuesday discussed measures to further strengthen their defence-industrial collaboration and enhance supply chain resilience.

The two sides reviewed ongoing bilateral defence cooperation activities, including exercises in the air and maritime domains, during a telephonic conversation between defence minister Rajnath Singh and his German counterpart Boris Pistorius.

"The two ministers planned to meet in the near future to give concrete shape to the defence engagements and joint projects," an official said.

As part of its overall policy to bolster defence-strategic cooperation, Germany has speeded up clearances and simplified the licensing regime for military sales to India, which include lifting restrictions on the sale of small arms and their spare parts. Germany is keen to step up ties with India in areas ranging from arms sales and joint production of advanced military hardware like submarines to military interoperability in Indo-Pacific. **TNN**

PM to visit Laos on Oct 10-11 for ASEAN-India, East Asia summits

NEW DELHI, Oct 8 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi will be on a two-day visit to Laos on October 10 and 11 during which he will attend the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday.

Laos is the current chair of ASEAN. On the invitation of his Laos counterpart Sonexay Siphandone, Prime Minister Modi will visit Vientiane on October 10-11, the MEA said in a statement.

During the visit, Modi will attend the 21st ASEAN-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit being hosted by Laos as the current chair of ASEAN, it said.

Modi is also expected to hold bilateral meetings on the margins of the two summits, according to the MEA.

“India is marking a decade of the Act East Policy this year. Relations with ASEAN are a central pillar of the Act East Policy and our Indo-Pacific vision,” the MEA said.

Afspa extended in 4 Assam dists for 6 mths over B'desh unrest

Gawahati: Union home ministry has approved Assam govt's proposal to continue enforcing Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (Afspa) in four districts for six more months from Oct 1 because of recent disturbances in neighbouring Bangladesh, reports **Prabin Kalita**. The four districts are Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo and Sivasagar.

A notification of state home department on Tuesday mentioned "recent disturbances in Bangladesh and its potentially inimical effect on internal law

The four districts are Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charaideo and Sivasagar

and order situation".

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had earlier warned that the evolving situation in Bangladesh was fraught with the risk of the neighbouring country turning into a sanctuary for insurgent groups from the Northeast again. Sarma had pointed out that militant activities in Northeast were curbed successfully with the cooperation of the previous Bangladesh govt of Sheikh Hasina.

Tuesday's state notification mentioned that "due to sustained efforts and proactive counter insurgency measures of the security forces, the overall scenario in Assam has significantly improved during the last few years and particularly during the last three years".

Bibi: Israel has taken out Nasrallah's 'successors'

Says Lebanon Will Face Destruction Like Gaza If Not Freed Of Hezbollah

Beirut: Israeli forces have taken out the would-be successors of late Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said on Tuesday without naming them. "We've degraded Hezbollah's capabilities. We took out thousands of terrorists, including Nasrallah himself and Nasrallah's replacement, and the replacement of the replacement," he said in a pre-recorded video message.

"Today Hezbollah is weaker than it has been for many, many years," Netanyahu said in the video directed at the people of Lebanon. He warned them that they could face "destruction and suffering" like the Palestinians in war-battered Gaza if they don't "free" the country from Hezbollah.

Earlier, Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant said Hashem Safieddine, the man expected to replace the slain Nasrallah, had probably been "eliminated". It was not immediately clear whom Netanyahu meant by the "replacement of the replacement".

More Israel Troops In Lebanon

Israel's military said Tuesday it had deployed a fourth army division into southwest Lebanon, signalling an expanding ground offensive against Hezbollah. The military said it had sent the 140th Division into Lebanon, the first reserve division to have been deployed over the border. The statement didn't specify how many soldiers were now inside Lebanon, but



Smoke rises in Beirut's southern suburbs after an air strike on Tuesday

Hezbollah No. 2 backs Lebanon ceasefire bid

In a 30-minute televised speech, Hezbollah's deputy chief Naim Qassem said he supported attempts to secure a truce, and for the first time did not mention the end of war in Gaza as a pre-condition to halting combat on the Lebanon-Israel border.

Qassem said Hezbollah supported attempts by speaker of parliament Nabih Berri, a Hezbollah ally, to secu-

re a halt to fighting. Speaking from an undisclosed location, Qassem said the conflict with Israel was a war about who cries first, and Hezbollah would not be the first to cry. The group's capabilities were intact despite "painful blows" from Israel. "Dozens of cities are within range of the resistance's missiles. We assure you that our capabilities are fine," said Qassem. *AP/WIDE*



thousands of soldiers were likely on Lebanese soil. The military announced Oct. 1 that troops had entered Lebanon, initially with commando units that were then followed by armoured units and infantry units.

Hezbollah Logistics Boss Killed

Overnight, Israel again bombed Beirut's southern suburbs where Hezbollah is headquartered and said it had killed a figure responsible for the heavily armed Iranian proxy militia's budgeting and logistics, Suhail Hussein Hussein — the latest in a string of assassinations of some of Hezbollah's top officials. In northern Israel not far from the Lebanon border, warning sirens sounded regularly throughout

Tuesday as authorities said Hezbollah fired almost 300 rockets into Israel. Targets again included Haifa, the northern port city where there were multiple reports of damage to buildings from missile debris. Israel's military said it had struck Hezbollah launchers.

Iran Warns Israel Not To Attack

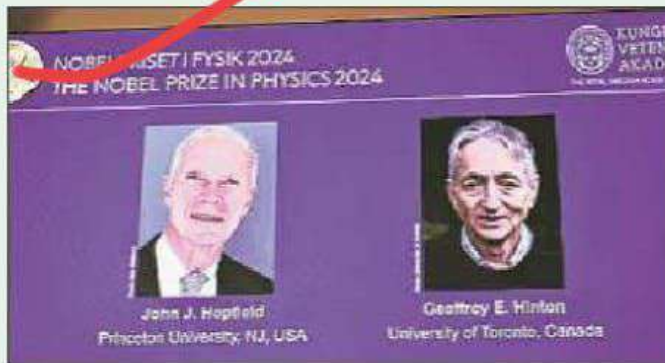
On Oct. 1, Iran, sponsor of both Hezbollah and Hamas, fired missiles at Israel. On Tuesday Iran warned Israel not to follow through on threats of retaliation. Its foreign minister said any attack on Iran's infrastructure would be avenged. The West is seeking a diplomatic solution, fearing the conflict could roil the wider, oil-producing West Asia. *AP/WIDE*

Nobel Physics to 2 pioneers of AI

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8 (AP)

TWO pioneers of artificial intelligence – John Hopfield and Geoffrey Hinton – won the Nobel Prize in Physics Tuesday for helping create the building blocks of machine learning that is revolutionising the way we work and live but also creates new threats to humanity, one of the winners said.

Hinton, who is known as the Godfather of artificial intelligence, is a citizen of Canada



and Britain who works at the University of Toronto and

Hopfield is an American working at Princeton.

“This year’s two Nobel Laureates in Physics have used tools from Physics to develop methods that are the foundation of today’s powerful machine learning,” the Nobel committee said in a press release.

Ellen Moons, a member of the Nobel committee at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, said the two laureates “used fundamental concepts from Statistical Physics to design artificial neural
(Contd on page 6)