

US nod for Excalibur projectiles, Javelin missile system to India

\$93 million sale



NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Nov 20 (PTI)

THE US has approved the sale of Excalibur guided artillery projectiles, Javelin anti-tank missile system and related equipment worth nearly USD 93 million to India, saying it will improve the country's capability to strengthen its defence and deter regional threats.

The proposed sale would be India's first major purchase of US defence equipment after President Donald Trump doubled tariffs on Indian goods to 50 per cent in August for the country's purchases of Russian oil.

The US said the sale will improve the security of a "major defence partner", which continues to be an "important force" for political stability and peace in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions.

The Defence Security Cooperation Agency said on Wednesday that the State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to India of Excalibur Projectiles and related equipment for an estimated

cost of USD 47.1 million and of Javelin Missile System and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 45.7 million.

The Defence Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress about the sales.

"This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the US by helping to strengthen the US-Indian strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defence partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions," the agency said. The Government of India has requested to buy up to 216 M982A1 Excalibur tactical projectiles, it said.

Non-MDE (major defence equipment) items that will also be included in the sale are ancillary items; Portable Electronic Fire Control Systems (PEFCS) with Improved Platform Integration Kit (iPIK); primers; propellant charges; US Government technical assistance; technical data; repair and return services; and other related elements of logistics and programme support, it added.

On the sale of Excalibur projectiles, the agency said, "The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by providing precision capability equipment, which will increase first strike accuracy in its brigades."

India calls Joint Crediting Mechanism key tool for equitable, scalable climate action at COP30

BELÉM (Brazil), Nov 20 (PTI)

INDIA has said the Joint Crediting Mechanism has emerged as an important instrument for driving equitable and scalable global climate action. It has the potential to accelerate advanced low-carbon technologies, and can support New Delhi's emission targets. Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav on Wednesday said cooperative frameworks such as the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) strengthen global mitigation efforts while also aligning with the development priorities of nations like India.

"Mechanisms such as the JCM represent a significant approach in strengthening efforts for climate action while supporting national priorities, particularly for developing countries," Yadav said while speaking at the 11th



Indian delegation, led by Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, at the ongoing UN COP30 Climate Summit in Amazonian city of Belem, in Brazil. (PTI)

JCM Partner Countries' Meeting on the sidelines of COP30 here.

Japan's Environment Minister Hiroataka Ishihara, who chaired the session, said the JCM has

now expanded to 31 partner countries with more than 280 projects being implemented under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Japan aims to scale this collaboration (JCM) globally by enabling long-term investments, boosting participation of partner nations in resilience projects, and supporting capacity-building, Ishihara said at the meet organised by his ministry.

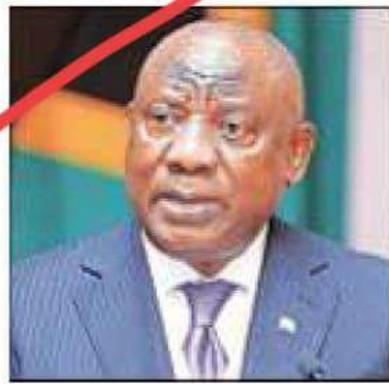
India and Japan signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) in August this year on Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) under Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Reaffirming the India-Japan climate partnership, Yadav said the JCM aligns with the Article 6 cooperative framework and offers both governments and private entities a clear pathway to jointly develop mitigation projects, mobilise finance, deploy advanced technologies and transparently allocate emission reductions.

South African President says at 'the 11th hour' US wants to join G20 summit

■ "Will not be 'bullied by anyone', G20 declaration will proceed," Ramaphosa had earlier said on the sidelines of the closing ceremony of the G20 Social Summit in Boksburg

hour" and was now working on the logistics to accommodate the US. US President Donald Trump had announced that his administration would boycott the two-day



meeting of rich and developing nations in Johannesburg that opens on Saturday. Trump has said the US was boycotting over his claims that Ramaphosa's government is violently persecuting a white minority.

Ramaphosa, who was speaking after a meeting with top European Union officials in Johannesburg, said communications from the US had been received while he was at that meeting.

"The United States is a mem-

ber of the G20, they are an original member of the G20, so they have the right to be here," Ramaphosa told reporters. "And all we are seeking to do is looking at the practicalities ... For them to participate."

Ramaphosa said "hopefully" the US seat at the summit would be occupied when it opens, but gave no indication who might represent the US government.

Trump had said that Vice President JD Vance would represent the US before he announced the boycott.

Ramaphosa earlier Thursday had said that the meeting would issue a joint declaration despite the US boycott and what he said was pressure from Washington not to issue one.

JOHANNESBURG, Nov 20 (AP)

THE United States Government has indicated that it has had a "change of mind" and wants to participate at the Group of 20 summit in South Africa in a reverse of its boycott, the South African President said Thursday.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said the summit host country had received communication from the US at "the 11th

Indian Ocean Region's security our shared responsibility: Doval at CSC

NEW DELHI, Nov 20 (PTI)

THE ocean is the engine that propels economies, and as countries joined by shared maritime geographies, it is "our responsibility" to ensure the safety, security and stability of the Indian Ocean Region, NSA Ajit Doval said at a meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) on Thursday.

In his address at the seventh meeting of the National Security Advisers (NSAs) of the CSC held here, Doval said the "strength and success of this august group" lies in the common vision, consultations and convergence of objectives. "We have been building our capacities through regular engagements across the five pillars of cooperation," he said.

Doval hosted his counterparts from Member States, including the Maldives, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

Seychelles participated as an Observer State, and Malaysia as a Guest.

The CSC was formed to promote closer cooperation between Member States on vital matters of security and to strengthen partnerships for enhancing regional security in the Indian Ocean Region. The signing ceremony for the Founding Documents of the CSC was held in Sri Lanka in 2024.

"The CSC has gained immense significance today in the midst of a rapidly changing and challenging global security environment. Realising the growing importance of strengthening regional partnership amongst the countries of the Indian Ocean Region, we came together in 2020 to reinforce the cooperation in vital matters of security through the establishment of the

Colombo Security Conclave," he said. Doval said he was happy that the engagements had gained momentum since the 6th NSA meeting that was held in



Mauritius in December 2023. "We adopted the CSC Charter and the MoU on the establishment of the CSC Secretariat in August last year. We also appointed the first Secretary General of the CSC ear-

lier this year, and I'm pleased to welcome him to this meeting. I would like to place on record the excellent coordination by the secretariat of the CSC in this regard," he said. "The ocean is our biggest heritage. It is the engine that propels our economies. As countries joined by shared maritime geographies, it is our responsibility to ensure the safety, security and stability of the region," Doval said.

Jaishankar, Afghanistan minister discuss trade, connectivity

NEW DELHI, Nov 20 (IANS)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar and Afghanistan's Industry and Commerce Minister Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi held a meeting in New Delhi on Thursday, discussing ways to strengthen trade, connectivity and people-to-people ties between the two nations.

During the meeting, EAM Jaishankar reiterated India's support for the development and welfare of the people of Afghanistan.

"Pleased to meet Industry and Commerce Minister of Afghanistan, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi in New Delhi this evening. Discussed ways to strengthen our trade, connectivity and people to people ties. Reiterated India's support for the development and welfare of the people of Afghanistan,"



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets Afghanistan's Industry and Commerce Minister Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, in New Delhi. (PTI)

EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday on an official visit to India. The visit of high-ranking

Government delegation from Afghanistan is aimed to activate and effectively utilise the capacities of India-developed Chabahar Port in Iran and attract more investments.

"A warm welcome to Afghan Industry and Commerce Minister, Alhaj Nooruddin Azizi, on his official visit to India. Advancing bilateral trade and investment ties is the key focus of the visit," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) posted on X while extending a warm welcome to Azizi.

The high-level Afghan delegation visited the India International Trade Fair (IITF) on Wednesday evening with an aim of strengthening bilateral trade and investment ties.

The Afghan minister toured various stalls at the fair, including those set up by Afghan traders showcasing local products.

SAMUDRAYAAN

Matsya-6000 to unravel mysteries of the ocean early next year

CHENNAI, Nov 20 (PTI)

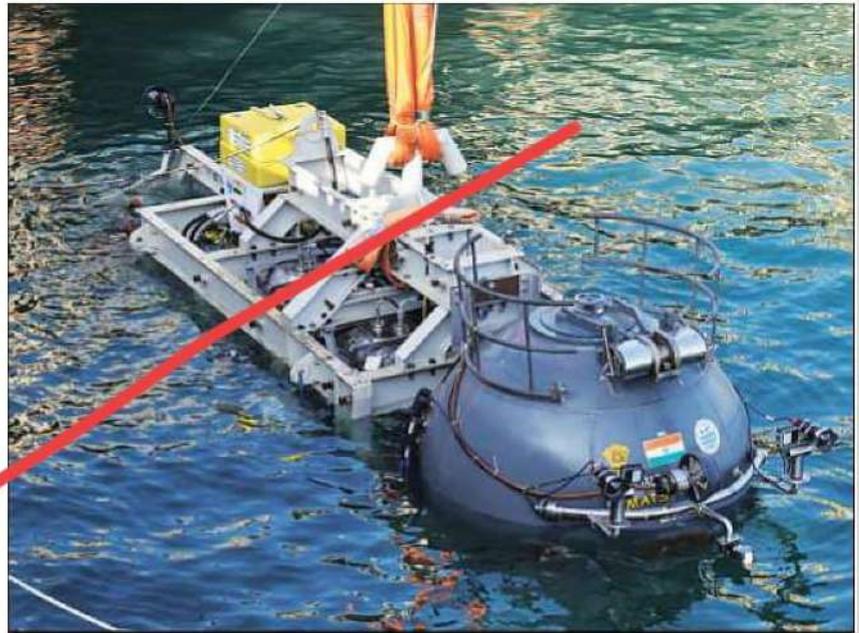
TWO scientists from a top ocean institute will pilot a 28-tonne indigenously built manned submersible up to 500 metres deep off Chennai coast early next year, marking India's entry in the coveted group of select countries with such capabilities.

India's own aquanauts – Ramesh Raju and Jatinder Pal Singh – from the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) will pilot the Matsya-6000 to unravel the mysteries of the ocean as part of India's Deep Ocean Mission.

"We have explored the ocean

bed at greater depths using remotely operated vehicles. This is for the first time we will be sending humans at a depth of 6,000 metres and safety is paramount for this mission," Rajaji Ramakrishnan, Director, NIOT, told PTI here.

India's Samudrayaan project, spearheaded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is also considered as a reflection of the spirit of self-reliance as global tenders were issued twice to procure a manned deep sea submersible, which ran into technology denials, prompting the Government to develop the vessel in-house.



Matsya-6000, India's manned deep sea submersible during harbour trials, in Chennai.

(PTI)

"We took it up as a challenge. We have the expertise to dive under water, but only up to 1000 metres. Once we embarked on the project and started travel-

ling to allied labs, we found that expertise and technologies were available within the country in laboratories of DRDO and CSIR, and institutes of ISRO,"

Ramakrishnan said. The scientists believe that sending humans to explore the under-sea world expands possibilities

(Contd on page 5)

India's Deep Ocean Mission