

India inks Rs 449 crore deal to buy hi-tech satellite jammers for Navy

NEW DELHI, June 10 (IANS)

THE Ministry of Defence on Wednesday signed a contract with Accord Software and Systems Private Limited (ASSPL), Bengaluru, for the procurement of 20 enhanced capability global navigation satellite system (ECGNSS) jammers for the Indian Navy at a total cost of Rs 449 crore, with the product will have a minimum 75 per cent indigenous content, an official statement said.

The system's capabilities include degrading the satellite signal acquisition and tracking performance of the adversary GNSS receiver and signal spoofing or deceptive jamming. The induction would pave the way for safe operations by the ships



of the Indian Navy in a multi-threat environment, as per the Ministry statement.

The contract, under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) category, was inked here in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh. "The contract reinforces the Government's commitment to Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make-in-India while bolstering the maritime security architecture of the country," the statement said.

India, US exploring possibility of Modi-Trump meeting on margins of G7 summit in France

NEW DELHI, June 10 (PTI)

INDIA and the US are learnt to be exploring the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on the margins of the G7 summit in France next week.

There is no clarity yet on whether the two leaders will be able to meet as it will depend on many factors including the schedule of the two leaders, people familiar with the matter said.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has already announced that Modi will undertake a week-long visit to France and Slovakia beginning Saturday. The G7 summit will be held in France's Evian town from June 15 to 17.

The people cited above said

both New Delhi and Washington are looking at the possibility of a short meeting between Modi and Trump.

There is no clarity yet on it, they said. Following US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India last month, the two sides are now looking at rebuilding the bilateral ties.

The relations witnessed a major downturn after Washington imposed punitive tariffs on India and President Donald Trump made controversial assertions regarding his role in de-escalating the India-Pakistan military clashes last May. Rubio, during his meeting with the prime minister, invited him on behalf of President Trump to visit the White House in the "near future".

From ceasefire to countdown: Trump says Iran's time is up

US Hits Iran After Helicopter Crash. Tehran Fires On Bahrain, Kuwait, Jordan

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Trump warned on Wednesday that Iran would "have to pay the price" for taking too long to negotiate a deal, underscoring his growing impatience with a diplomatic process that he himself has repeatedly said would produce quick results.

"Iran is all talk and no action. They've taken too long to negotiate a deal that would have been great for them, now they will have to pay the price!!!" Trump wrote on social media after American forces resumed air attacks on Iran in retaliation for Tehran bringing down a US Apache helicopter. The two American pilots were rescued, but the episode prompted swift military retaliation.

Later, he told reporters, "We're going to hit them again hard today." He wouldn't say if he planned to follow through on threats he made earlier in the war to attack bridges and utility plants in Iran. He urged Iran to sign a deal with the US. "We were really close to a deal but they keep tapping us along," Trump said.

According to US Central Command, American forces carried out what they described as "self-defence strikes" targeting Iranian air-defence

WEST ASIA: A REGION IN CROSSHAIRS

The US-Iran conflict has drawn in strategic sites across the Gulf and beyond. Mapping how the latest attacks have unfolded

The US struck southern Iran, calling it a response to the downing of a US helicopter



systems, ground-control stations and surveillance radar facilities near the strategic waterway. The mission is a "proportional response to unjustified Iranian aggression," it added. Iran, in turn, launched missile and drone attacks aimed at US military installations in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan, most of which were intercepted, according to initial reports. The tit-for-tat attacks set back a prospec-

ive deal that Trump has repeatedly said is imminent even as global energy supplies continue to be stressed.

Instead, Trump returned to his customary trolling, declaring, "Iran's Military is a complete and total mess. Much of it, like their Navy and Air Force, doesn't even exist anymore — They have been completely defeated. Iran is all talk and no action. The Bully of the Middle East is DEAD!!!" In another

post, he defended the administration's strategy, saying: "The Fake News Media refuses to report how EFFECTIVE the US Naval BLOCKADE is, the most successful Blockade in the history of Naval Warfare. NOTHING GETS THROUGH unless we want it to. IT IS A STEEL WALL!" He added that Iran was "doing ZERO business, not paying their military, or any of their bills, and quickly becoming a FAILED NATION!"

Trump's impatience with Tehran — whose defiance belies the status of a failed nation — reflects a broader feature of the MAGA supremo's approach to international negotiations. Unlike traditional diplomatic processes, he has repeatedly projected confidence that sweeping agreements can be concluded as quickly as a real estate deal.

Even as Trump issued new threats, diplomatic channels remained active. Reuters reported that Qatari negotiators had travelled to Tehran after consultations with US officials in an attempt to salvage an agreement. Pakistan now appears to be less central to the current phase of diplomacy than it was a few weeks ago with Qatar taking the lead.

A new complication is the scope of American retaliation,

which reportedly targeted water supply plants in Iran on Tuesday. Reports that the US is striking civilian infrastructure such as power plants, bridges or water-related facilities — which Trump had threatened before — have raised alarm among international legal experts. Under international humanitarian law, intentionally attacking objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population — including drinking water installations — may constitute a war crime unless they are being used for military purposes and the principles of distinction and proportionality are strictly observed.

For now, Washington insists that military pressure and diplomacy can proceed simultaneously. Yet the latest exchange of fire illustrates the contradiction at the heart of Trump's Iran strategy: demanding rapid concessions from an adversary shaped by decades of hostility, while escalating military and economic pressure that may make compromise impossible. Whether Tehran returns to the negotiating table or whether the region slides toward a wider conflict may depend on whether both sides can overcome the one commodity that is in even shorter supply than energy: trust.

Taiwan fires rockets from HIMARS in China's direction during drill

TAICHUNG, June 10
(AP)

TAIWAN'S military fired rockets in China's direction from "shoot-and-scoot" mobile launchers on Wednesday in a demonstration of how it might try to repel a Chinese attack.

While the US-supplied system known as HIMARS has been tested before, the latest live-fire exercise was the first time its rockets were fired into the waters of the narrow Taiwan Strait that separates the self-governing island from China.



US-supplied HIMARS stands for High Mobility Artillery Rocket System, is a truck-mounted pod of rockets that can be driven out from a hidden position to fire its missiles, then quickly taken to a new hiding place in what are called "shoot-and-scoot" tactics.

US blocks Pak & China's bid at UN to blacklist BLA

The US has blocked a joint bid by Pakistan and China at the UN security council to designate the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and the Majeed Brigade as a terrorist entity. Islamabad and Beijing had in Sept last year submitted their joint bid to the Security Council to blacklist the BLA and the Majeed Brigade under the Council's 1267 Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee.

It is learnt that US, France and UK blocked the bid this month. The US has designated the Balochistan Liberation Army and its alias, the Majeed Brigade, as a foreign terrorist organisation. The state department added the Majeed Brigade as an alias to BLA's previous specially designated global terrorist designation. PTI