Navy to get 8 indigenous warships in Rs 53K cr deal

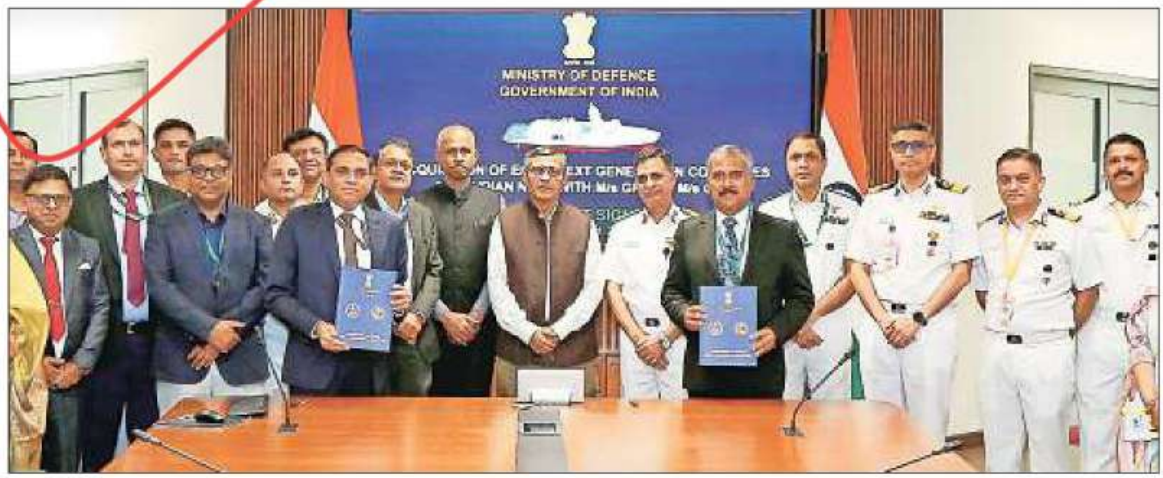
NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (PTI)

THE Defence Ministry said it has sealed contracts worth Rs 53,866 crore with two state-run shipbuilders to procure eight warships for the Indian Navy.

The contracts were signed with Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for acquisition of eight Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs), the Ministry said.

"Under the contracts, GRSE will construct five corvettes, while GSL will construct the remaining three," it said.

"The project marks a significant milestone in India's indigenous warship design and construction capabilities, as it is the first project in which the ships will be indigenously-designed by the Indian Navy and constructed by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) selected through a competitive process," the Ministry said in a statement.



Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh during the contract signing between the Ministry of Defence, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the acquisition of eight Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs) for the Indian Navy, in New Delhi. (PTI)

Brazilian Army delegation visits India to strengthen defence ties



A 41-member delegation from the Brazilian Army Command and General Staff College during a visit to New Delhi on Monday. (PTI)

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (IANS)

A 41-MEMBER delegation from the Brazilian Army Command and General Staff College visited Delhi and Agra, fostering professional exchanges as part of its Foreign Study Tour, strengthening military camaraderie and further deepening India-Brazil defence cooperation.

In a post on X on Monday, the Indian Army said, "A 41-member delegation from the Brazilian Army Command and General Staff College visited Delhi and Agra as part of its Foreign Study Tour. The delegation visited key defence establishments and places of historical and cultural significance, gaining insights into India's military capabilities, rich heritage and cultural diversity."

"The visit fostered professional exchanges, strengthened military camaraderie and reaffirmed the growing India-Brazil defence partnership," it added.

This visit comes amid continued high-level engagements between the two countries aimed at deepening bilateral ties.

Last week, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar met his Brazilian counterpart Mauro Vieira on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, discussing bilateral and international issues.

India, Vietnam pledge to deepen defence ties

NSA Doval meets Vietnamese Minister General Quang

HANOI, Nov 2 (PTI)

NATIONAL Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Monday held high-level discussions with Vietnam's Minister of Public Security, General Luong Tam Quang on ongoing cooperation in the security domain and agreed to further enhance the existing "multifaceted" ties.

Both the leaders also exchanged views on regional and global developments.

"NSA Ajit Doval held delegation-level talks with General Luong Tam Quang, Politburo Member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Minister of Public Security of Vietnam, today," the Indian Embassy in Hanoi posted on X.

"Bilateral security cooperation reflects the deep and mutually trusted civilisational partnership between India and Vietnam."

"Both sides discussed ongoing cooperation in the security domain and agreed to further enhance the existing multifaceted ties. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments," the post said.

Earlier, Doval met Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence, General Phan Van Giang and reviewed ongoing bilateral defence cooperation and agreed to further deepen engagement in the sector.



National Security Advisor Ajit Doval visits the Quan Su Pagoda, in Hanoi, Vietnam. (PTI)

Doval arrived in Vietnam on Sunday on an official visit.

"National Security Advisor of India Ajit Doval met today with General Phan Van Giang, Member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence of Vietnam," the Embassy said.

"Both sides reviewed the status of ongoing bilateral defence cooperation and agreed to continue further strengthening activities in this field," it said.

DOVAL VISITS HISTORIC QUAN SU PAGODA IN HANOI: Spotlighting Buddhism being a civilisational bridge between the people of India and Vietnam, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval on Monday visited the historic Quan Su Pagoda in Hanoi.

"He was received by Most Venerable Thich Thanh Nhieu, Standing Vice President and the Chief Abbot of the Pagoda, and Most Venerable Thich Duc Thien, Vice President and Secretary General of the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS). Buddhism is the civilisational bridge between the people of India and Vietnam," the Indian Embassy in Vietnam wrote on X while sharing glimpses from NSA Doval's visit.

India will achieve 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030: PM

- Over 44,000 Govt buildings connected to solar power, saving Rs 700 crore annually, said Modi

NEW DELHI, Nov 2 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said India's economic growth is strong despite the ongoing West Asia crisis, and the country is set to add about 500 GW of renewable energy capacity over the next 10-11 years.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026, Modi said that the country's non-fossil fuel capacity is over 300 GW and expressed confidence that India will achieve the 500 GW renewable energy target by 2030.

He said that over the next 10 to 11 years, about 500 GW of renewable energy capacity will be added. He noted that it is a tough call, but "we have to do it".

"If India had not created renewable energy capacity in the last 10 years, then the energy crisis in India could have been worse than in other parts of the world. India's economic growth is high despite ongoing West Asia crisis."

The West Asia crisis disrupted energy supplies worldwide earlier this year and created difficulties for many countries.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspects an exhibition stall during the inauguration of the 'Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026' at Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi. (PTI)

Modi also asked investors to invest in India, saying the country offers huge investment opportunities in renewable energy as it provides political and policy stability. The Prime Minister stated that by the end of the decade, investment opportunities worth over Rs 20 lakh crore will emerge in the renewable energy sector. Modi also said that India is among the top three countries in the solar and renewable energy sector.

"Over the last 12 years, we have worked to connect industries and farms with solar power. More than 44,000 Government buildings across India are now connected to solar energy, generating annual savings of around Rs 700 crore," PM Modi stated.

"We need to connect every Government building, school, college, hospital, street-lighting system to solar energy. We need an indigenous storage solution and must develop new battery storage capacity," he stated.

India is progressing rapidly to take a big leap in green hydrogen and has a target of annual production capacity of 50 lakh tonnes, Modi said while highlighting progress in the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

He also highlighted the Green Energy Corridor (inter-state transmission lines), which will help evacuate power from the upcoming renewable energy capacity.

India's east coast braces for 'Murasu'

AMARAVATI/CHENNAI/BHUBANESWAR, Nov 2 (PTI)

HEAVY rains lashed India's eastern coastal States that braced for a second severe cyclone within a week, cancelling several flights, putting disaster response teams on alert and shifting thousands of people to safety on Monday.

Cyclone Murasu, a name meaning war drum, is expected to make landfall between Nellore and Narsapur in south Andhra Pradesh between Monday midnight and Tuesday early morning with wind speeds of 100-110 kmph, gusting up to 120 kmph.

At least 19 domestic flights were cancelled at Vijayawada, Tirupati and Visakhapatnam airports in Andhra Pradesh on Monday.

The approaching severe cyclone poured rain on northern Tamil Nadu, inundating several parts of Chennai, where authorities declared a holiday for schools on Monday as the weather department forecast very heavy rainfall.

Chennai Airport authorities cancelled certain flights and requested passengers to contact the airline concerned for assistance.

Many parts of Chennai, Chengalpattu and Tiruvallur districts have been receiving torrential rains since Sunday night. The weather office warned that the threat of heavy to very heavy rainfall persists for Chennai and Tiruvallur districts as the cyclone moves to the south Andhra Pradesh coast.

While gearing up for the severe cyclone, Tamil Nadu extended a helping hand to Andhra Pradesh, which is expected to be in the eye of the approaching storm. It sent three NDRF teams comprising 90 personnel and 25 teams from the electricity department, consisting of 500 personnel, with essential equipment to Andhra Pradesh.

Karnataka announced that it would deploy 500 skilled power personnel, along with necessary equipment, to Andhra Pradesh to assist in restoring power infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Arnab.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to remain alert as moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in the South coastal region and Rayalaseema district under the cyclone's influence.

He, however, hoped the cyclone's impact would be limited as forecasts indicated that wind speeds and rainfall intensity were expected to be lower compared to Cyclone Arnab.

Odisha expedited moving people from vulnerable areas to safety, with IMD indicating that the southern part of the State was likely to receive heavy rainfall under the impact of the storm. Search operations for 10 people missing in a landslide gathered pace as the weather worsened again. Some southern Odisha districts have announced closure of schools and colleges till November 3 as several parts of the State started witnessing light rainfall under the influence of the approaching weather system.

Odisha's Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari said though the storm is likely to make landfall along the Andhra Pradesh coast, it would impact several parts of Odisha, particularly the southern districts of Ganjam, Gajapati, Rayagada, Koraput and Malkangiri that have been bruised by Cyclone Arnab a few days ago.

He said all District Collectors have been put on alert, while disaster response teams which were deployed during Cyclone Arnab continued to remain positioned in the same places. More than 300 rescue teams from NDRF, ODRAF and Odisha Fire Service have been put on standby, the minister said.

The fresh cyclone has deepened the anxiety of farmers struggling to save their ready-to-be-harvested crops.



Fibre boats remain anchored at Kasimedu fishing harbour following sea turbulence and rainfall warnings triggered by Cyclone Murasu, in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on Monday. (PTI)

US must end naval blockade before any pact on Hormuz: Iran

TEHRAN, Nov 2 (ANI)

IRANIAN Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei on Monday said that the responsibility for advancing negotiations now lies entirely with US, emphasising that Iran's logical demand, starting with an end to the US naval blockade, must be met before Strait of Hormuz can be reopened or secured.

"The ball is in America's court; because our demands have been stated very clearly and transparently, and Iran's demands are reasonable and logical," Baghaei said. "No final agreement can be initiated and the Strait cannot be opened or secured unless the US naval blockade is ended, Iran's demands are met, and Iran's legitimate demands are implemented. After that, we can discuss the continuation of the process."

Addressing questions regarding a recent diplomatic letter sent by the US Vice President JD Vance to the Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Mohsen Razaei, Baghaei noted that Tehran evaluates the US based on concrete performance rather than tone or rhetorical style. "It is common for different people to write letters or speak in different ways," Baghaei explained. "The style of writing letters, expressing oneself may differ; but for us, the performance of the US Government is important."