

Indian Navy Expanding To Meet China Threat, Better Team With Allies

By Tim Fish

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For most of its existence, the Indian Navy has been in a state of perpetual modernization. Due to its major shipbuilding programs' long schedules and the continual need to replace older platforms with new ones – especially submarines – Delhi has been unable to meet its shipbuilding goals.

Since 1948 the Indians have wanted a two-carrier navy with a fleet of 142 ships. While the IN remains far off from achieving that goal, it is growing and adding capability to the fleet.

The bet from the Indian Navy is if it can speed up its submarine programs, improve mine-counter measures capability and shape up its carrier force and air wing – the service can stay competitive with China and operate better with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force, Republic of Korea Navy and the Royal Australian Navy.

India sustains a mix of state-owned and private shipbuilders. Despite problems in keeping to schedule and budget, it's a mark of India's status as a major power that most of its ships and submarines – 37 out of 39 – are built in-country instead of procured from overseas. Some of its ships are built with considerable overseas technical assistance and content.



INS Kalvari is the first of six Project 75 SSKs for the Indian Navy

Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, until recently the executive director of India's National Maritime Foundation (NMF), told USNI News construction capability is "the most important point to be recognized." By supplying its navy with ships India can expand at will and with a larger force the IN can enable a "longer presence" in areas of interest and enhance the stature of India as a preferred security partner and first responder in the maritime domain, Parmar said.

Meanwhile, retired Commodore Sujeet Samaddar, the Founder and Secretary of the Society for Aerospace Maritime and Defence Studies (SAMDeS), told USNI News that the "biggest transition" for the Indian Navy took place around the 2004 to 2005 timeframe, when there was a shift in force level requirements planning from a threat-based evaluation to a capability-based perspective. This means that instead of looking at potential rivals and trying to outbuild them or replicate their numbers of platforms, the Indian Navy focused on providing specific capability improvements.

"For example, the force structure is designed to provide security from the shore out to a number of nautical miles by adding more capable ships and aircraft to the inventory with longer ranges and more sensors," Samaddar said.

This is on display with India's development of its surface warship fleet, which has improved with the introduction of successive classes of destroyers, frigates and corvettes. It's also the domain in which Indian shipyards are most proficient, as they are able to build and launch multiple vessels simultaneously and at regular intervals.



Vikrant seen here on sea trials is still awaiting a decision about its carrier-borne aircraft.

For example, the keel was laid for the IN's seventh Project 17A Nilgiri-class frigates on June 28 at Mazagon Docks Limited (MDL). Meanwhile, the third P-17A frigate, Udaygiri, was launched alongside the fourth Project 15B Visakhapatnam-class destroyer, Surat, on May 17.

In November, MDL delivered the first of four new Project 15B Visakhapatnam-class destroyers with the next three due to follow through 2025. At 7,400 tons and 163 meters long, the Visakhapatnam-class are based on the three Project 15A Kolkata-class destroyers that were built and delivered from 2003 to 2016. The Kolkatas themselves followed the Project 15 Delhi-class destroyers and indicates the gradual development of destroyer design and capabilities, with additional stealth, helicopter capability, and modern propulsion, sensors and armaments through the successive classes.

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Chinese business giants lose steam

By Srikanth Kondapalli

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Chinese companies operating in various countries including India have come under the scanner recently. Several of them made huge profits due to the backing of the Communist party-state in terms of subsidies, diplomatic support, managerial skills, mass production, cost advantage and other factors. However, this 'win-win' strategy of China is running out of steam.

The United States government targeted China's companies on espionage cases, unfair trade practices, intellectual property thefts, growing trade deficits, lack of market economy and the consequent discrimination of American companies in the China market. Europe also rolled back Huawei 5G telecom networks. In the backdrop of the Ukraine conflict, NATO's move to target Russia and China has dwindled China's business prospects. India also recently began tightening the screws after the June 2020 Galwan incident.

As Foreign Minister S Jaishankar repeatedly reminded the Chinese leadership, unless and until peace prevails on the borders, bilateral relations — including trade and economic relations — cannot improve. As a result, India initially banned over 200 Chinese IT apps, restricted Chinese investment in infrastructure projects and closed several Confucius classrooms.

Bilateral trade

In the last few months, as a part of 'decoupling strategy', India began exerting pressure on China in trade and economic relations. This was in the backdrop of no progress on the 'de-escalation and disengagement' process in the border areas, despite 16 rounds of corps commanders' meetings. Clearly, the political messaging to China is that after the Galwan incident, it cannot be business as usual, and economic relations come under political control as well.

Trade with India (about \$120 billion last year) is only a minuscule one percent of the overall trade of China (estimated at over \$6 trillion a year). Yet, Beijing was able to earn a whopping \$1.2 trillion through trade deficits with India in the past decade. With such revenues, China could easily subsidise the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (worth \$62 billion), in addition to infrastructure projects in Tibet, Xinjiang or Sri Lanka and Nepal.

After the Galwan incident, India consciously began to diversify from the China market and reduce dependence on an estimated 4,400 items of Chinese merchandise. However, due to the pandemic, bilateral trade ballooned to over \$120 billion last year, despite the protests of the Indian Consul General in Hong Kong on inflated prices of oxygen concentrators.

India also began looking at the operations of Chinese companies. Many Chinese firms — specifically in the telecom sector such as Xiaomi, Vivo, Oppo, Zhongxing (ZTE), Huawei and others, have dominated the retail sector in India. Several of these have been investigated on money laundering charges. For instance, the Enforcement Directorate's raid on Xiaomi this May yielded nearly \$700 million in money laundering and tax evasion charges. A July raid on Vivo yielded over \$3 billion in 'remittances' to China. Many Chinese business leaders fled the country.

Backdoor entry

Another critical area is the backdoor entry of China's capital into the Indian market, even as the total Chinese direct investment is only \$8.2 billion for a \$17 trillion economy. The portfolio investments of the People's Bank of China in startups, and its investment of over one percent in Housing Development Finance Corporation had raised eyebrows in India on the pervasive financial influence that China is intending to build up.

By April, India's Ministry of Home Affairs curbed the automatic route for investors from countries bordering India.

Indian actions thus concern not only telecom security but also financial security. However, while China's official position reiterated the 'law of the land' principle, there is also a veiled criticism of India, implying that these raids would affect future business prospects.

China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said in a recent statement that India should "provide a fair, just and non-discriminatory business environment for Chinese enterprises to invest and operate within their borders". However, there was no mention about China's discriminatory practices towards Indian pharmaceuticals and IT companies in the Chinese market.

Further, on July 5, the spokesperson of China's embassy in New Delhi, Wang Xiaojian said that such investigations "impede the improvement of business environment in India and chills (sic) the confidence and willingness of market entities from other countries, including Chinese enterprises to invest and operate in India."

The Communist party's influence on all walks of life, in China and abroad, is pervasive. Under China's law, all enterprises which have more than seven employees — private or state-owned companies — should establish Communist party cells that report directly to the central committee. Also, by the 2015 national intelligence law, all individuals or institutions are required to cooperate with the country's agencies on all matters of concern to the party-state. This has alerted many countries to the pitfalls of doing business with China.

In this global business environment that has grown generally restrictive for Chinese companies, and in the backdrop of relative economic decline — an estimated 4% this year, China's Communist party is concerned about the blowback effect on domestic politics.

With the 20th Communist party Congress scheduled to happen this November, political jockeying has intensified for the 6th generation of political leadership. It is natural that the economic aspects also come into the limelight. Through the anti-corruption drive since 2012, and the 'common prosperity' campaign since last year, Xi Jinping was able to make a major dent in the money power of Jiang Zemin's faction in the communist party.

State-business connection

Many of Jiang's cronies in the party-state and businesses have been netted. However, Jiang's faction is said to have deep pockets in China. Jiang, who served as the Shanghai party secretary before 1989, has been identified as a part of the 'Shanghai gang'. It would be no exaggeration to say that reformist China was mostly guided by this 'Shanghai gang'.

[Read complete article on website deccanherald.com](http://deccanherald.com)

A Country At War !

By Sanjay Sahay

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The is no enemy. There is no aggressor. And the country has not declared war on anyone. How many organizations, institutions, departments, police, investigative agencies, political parties etc are at peace with themselves and with those they interact with? To top it all, how many of them feel satisfied with their functioning meaning that they have been fulfilling their mandated task and have a vision for the future, in consonance with our democratic vision. How much of center place has the terms / words / usage has caste, creed, race, religion, color, region etc taken, is not left to anyone's imagination. These words were not to have any currency, constitutionally in this country. They are the currency of the land.

Conversely, what all can ensure on only talent and merit, with no other parameter or criteria. At the very best there are very few competitive exams. They keep the democratic flame alive and are the real melting pot. The ruling mechanism of the country is the motley mix of political parties. What role does talent, merit and expertise have to play in them? How does career growth happen? The war is with merit and expertise. The musical chair game of ideologies as per convenience can be termed as a war of attrition with democracy and its people. Who is responsible for keeping the country at war? Inflamed passions! *How are political cadres selected, is there any system at all? Their acts you can see on your TV screens.

We have seen a political party imploding in Maharashtra recently. How many parties have gone this way? Governments being made on quicksand. Strange bedfellows, quite a few times. The voter is at a loss. How many of the political parties are internally at war? Or is that a permanent state? Or they are too centrally controlled to bring out the best in anyone. When we watch the tenor of the spokespersons on national channels, by their facial expressions, it is clear we have come to the end of democratic debates. The end of democratic debate is a state of war. The central government and the capital city's government are at loggerheads, indefinitely. Is it cooperative federalism or a permanent state of political war?

The 2018 SC Judges press conference we all remember of and the issues brought forth. Now the serpentine pendency of cases, crores together, gets debated, who is responsible is a million-dollar question. Arrest, bail and jail is another debate. Politics revolves around criminal cases. We have also seen an ongoing battle at the topmost echelons of the CBI, a few years back. The governor vs elected CM issues keep cropping up to the embarrassment of the democratic system. Police, not to police, how much to police and the methodology thereof, is a long way from maturing. Organizational culture is an issue, in government and governance. The fourth estate seems to be at war with itself, the alignments becoming very clear and lethal at times. Terms like Godi media don't augur well. New age media has also landed in the net.

A NATION AT PEACE WITH ITSELF IS A VIBRANT DEMOCRATIC NATION

India To Deploy 2nd S-400 Squadron At China Front As PLA Jets Buzz Near LAC

By Rajat Pandit

India's capability to detect and destroy hostile fighters, strategic bombers, missiles and drones at long ranges will get another major boost when a new squadron of the S-400 Triumph surface-to-air missile systems becomes operational along the northern borders with China in the next two to three months.

Sources say deliveries of the second operational S-400 squadron through ships and aircraft are now underway from, the first since the Russia-Ukraine war erupted on February 24.

The new S-400 deliveries come at a time when China has cranked up its air activity across eastern Ladakh, with Chinese fighters often flying close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in violation of the 10- km no-fly zone confidence building measure between the two sides. The first S-400 squadron, which was delivered through thousands of containers last December, is already deployed in northwest India to cater for aerial threats from both Pakistan and China.

The IAF also got simulators and other equipment for a 'S-400 training squadron' in April-May this year. The second operational S-400 squadron, in turn, will be positioned for air defence specifically on the China front.

“Chinese fighter deployments and sorties have gone up along the 3,488-km LAC since mid-June, especially across Ladakh but also in other sectors like Arunachal Pradesh. There are often two-three Chinese fighter sorties near the LAC in a day,” a source said.

A Chinese jet had even flown over Indian troop positions at a friction point in eastern Ladakh on June 28, which led IAF to scramble its own jets and later raise the matter with China, amidst the over two-yearlong military confrontation, as was reported by TOI.

China has systematically upgraded all its major air bases facing India like Hotan, Kashgar, Gargunsa and Shigatse, with extended runways, hardened shelters and fuel storage facilities for additional fighters, bombers and reconnaissance aircraft, over the last two years. It has also deployed two Russian-origin S-400 batteries and several other anti-aircraft systems to tackle any air strikes by India.

Apart from matching the military deployments, India till now has also managed to stave off sanctions under the US law called CAATSA (Countering America’s Adversaries through Sanctions Act), which seeks to prevent countries from buying Russian weapons.

has scrapped a long-pending deal for 48 additional Mi-17 V5 medium-lift helicopters as well as “deferred” the acquisition of 21 more MiG-29 and 12 Sukhoi-30MKI fighters from Russia. But India has told the US that the S-400 systems, the acquisition process for which began before CAATSA was enacted in 2017, are an “urgent national security requirement” to counter its hostile neighbours.

US, incidentally, had earlier slapped sanctions on China and Turkey for inducting S-400 systems. IAF is slated to get all the five operational squadrons of the highly-automated S-400 systems, contracted under the \$5.43 billion (Rs 40,000 crore) contract with Russia in October 2018, by end-2023. Each squadron has two missile batteries with 128 missiles each, with interception ranges with interception ranges of 120, 200, 250 and 380-km, as well as long-range acquisition and engagement radars and all-terrain transporter erector vehicles.

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Nation is Indebted to:

Bibi Gulab Kaur

1890-1941

A Fearless Punjabi Woman Who Fought for India's Independence from Philippines



The independence movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, Aruna Asif Ali, etc, is well documented. But history tends to forget some lesser-known freedom fighters who put up a heroic struggle.

Now it is well known fact that the fight for India's freedom was a shared struggle.

The struggle was owned, led, and driven by many ordinary people with minimum resources encompassing a broad spectrum of ethnicity, caste, religion, and many other diversities.

One such story is of Bibi Gulab Kaur. She entered a men-dominated sphere of freedom struggle and even left her husband to fight for the country's independence

She was born in 1890 in Bakshiwala village, Sangrur district, Punjab. She was married off at an early age to Mann Singh. Soon after their marriage, the couple harboured dreams of migrating to America in search of a better future. But they chose to go to Manila first.

In Manila, Gulab Kaur attended lectures of an organisation by Sikh Punjabis called the Ghadar Party founded with the aim to liberate the subcontinent from British rule.

The leaders of the party, Baba Hafiz Abdullah (Fajja), Baba Banta Singh, and Baba Harnam Singh (Tundilat) became a great source of inspiration for her.

The party formed the Ghadhar Movement (1913-14) for the freedom of Indian immigrants in countries like America, Canada, Philippines, Hong Kong, and Singapore.

The party essentially worked towards liberating India from the tyranny of British rule.

Gulab Kaur kept vigil on party printing press in guise. Posing as a journalist with a press pass in hand, she distributed arms to the Ghadar Party members. She mobilised people in Manila and inspired them to join the party, and also encouraged others to join the Ghadar Party by distributing independence literature and delivering inspiring speeches to Indian passengers of ships.

She even distributed arms to the members of the Ghadar Party.

Gulab Kaur with about fifty other freedom Ghadrites of the Philippines joined the SS Korea batch and sailed for India, changing at Singapore from S.S. Korea to Tosha Maru. After reaching India, she with some other revolutionaries were active in the villages of Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur and Jallandhar to mobilize the masses for armed revolution for the cause of the independence of the country.

Later on, she was arrested by British rule in Lahore and imprisoned at Shahi Quila Jail, was perpetually tortured for two years and eventually, died in 1941 as a result of an illness.

Gulab Kaur's life hasn't been documented to a great extent. Some of the works that cover her life include Gadar Di Dhee Gulaab Kaur (Daughter of Gadar; Gulaab Kaur) in Punjabi written by S. Kesar Singh, and a play called Ghookda Charkha (Spinning Wheel is Going On) written by popular playwright Ajmer Singh Aulakh.

The land of Punjab has a great heroic tradition, not only of, courageous and sacrificing men but also of the brave women. Particularly from the Guru period i.e., 15th century onwards, the Punjabi women played a great role in terms of standing for truth, equality, human dignity and freedom. Their struggle continued during the British rule as well.

And in heroics of Bibi Gulab Kaur, we find this great tradition. No words can explain the greatness of Bibi Gulab Kaur's sacrifice and contribution in nations freedom struggle.

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