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## Indian Forces (Defence) Affairs July 2019

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### 1. Indian Forces (Defence)

#### DRDO Research Ship INS Sagardhwani Embarks on Sagar Maitri Mission-2

- SAGAR MAITRI is a unique initiative of DRDO which aligns with the broad objective of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's policy declaration "Safety And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)" to promote closer co-operation in socio-economic aspects as well as greater scientific interaction especially in ocean research among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries. Under the aegis of PM's policy, specific scientific component of DRDO is "MAITRI (Marine & Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative)".
- INS Sagardhwani has been designed and developed by Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi, a premier systems laboratory of DRDO. It conducts ocean research experiments in the Indian waters and spearheads NPOL's at-sea data collection activities

#### Defence Ministry issues RFPs for acquisition of ships, craft worth Rs 15,000 cr

- Ministry of Defence has issued four shipbuilding Requests for Proposal, RPF amounting to 15,000 crore rupees for the acquisition of various ships and craft for the Navy and the Coast Guard.
- The RFP for six Next Generation Missile Vessels has been issued to seven shipyards, RFPs for eight Fast Patrol Vessels, twelve Air Cushion Vehicles and eight Missile-cum-Ammunition Barges have been issued to shortlisted Indian shipyards.

#### IAF to adopt ASRAAM missile

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is looking to adopt a new European visual range air to air missile across its fighter fleet. ASRAAM is widely used as a Within Visual Range (WVR) air dominance missile with a range of over 25km. The Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM) of European missile-maker MBDA has been approved for fitting on Jaguar jets and the IAF was looking to integrating it on the Su-30MKIs and the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) as well, defence sources said.

**INS Tarkash at Tangier, Morocco**

- Indian Naval Ship Tarkash arrived at Tangier, Morocco today for a three day visit. The visit is part of an ongoing Overseas Deployment by the Indian Navy to the Mediterranean Sea, Africa and Europe. The visit seeks to strengthen the bonds of friendship between India and Morocco.

**Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant to be delivered to Navy by February 2021**

- The country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC), Vikrant, is in advanced stage of construction and will be delivered to the Navy in 2021 for advanced trials, according to Vice Admiral A.K. Saxena, Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition in the Navy.

**Two new heavy-lift Chinook helicopters for IAF arrive in Gujarat**

- American aerospace major Boeing has announced the arrival of two new heavy-lift Chinook helicopters for the Indian Air Force at the Mundra port in Gujarat. The Indian Air Force has ordered 15 Chinooks and the first four helicopters arrived in February. The IAF had placed the order in 2015 along with 22 Apache attack helicopters. Boeing India said, the advanced multi-mission helicopter will provide the armed forces unmatched strategic airlift capability.

**Def Expo India-2020**

- The Eleventh biennial edition of DefExpo India - 2020 is scheduled to be held for the first time in Uttar Pradesh capital Lucknow in February 2020. The main theme of the DefExpo India- 2020 will be - India - the Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub and the focus will be on Digital Transformation of Defence.

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