Defence Ministry signs ₹53,866-cr. deal for corvettes

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

In a first, indigenous warships will be constructed by Defence Public Sector Undertakings

The Defence Ministry on Monday signed contracts worth ₹53,866.50 crore with Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the construction of eight Next Generation Corvettes (NGCs) for the Indian Navy, in a major boost to indigenous warship building capabilities.

According to the Defence Ministry, under the contracts, the GRSE will construct five corvettes, while the GSL will build the remaining three.

The project marks a significant milestone as it is the first time that warships indigenously designed by the Indian Navy will be constructed by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), the Ministry said.

The NGCs will be equipped with advanced missiles, weapons, and sensor suites, enabling the Navy to undertake operations across the air, surface and sub-surface domains. The induction of these warships is expected to significantly enhance the Navy's capabilities in anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, coastal defence, littoral combat, and maritime surveillance.

Boost for self-reliance

The project is expected to provide a major boost to the domestic defence manufacturing ecosystem by involving DPSUs, private shipyards, Indian industrial partners, and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The Ministry further said that the programme is expected to generate around 72 lakh person-days of employment in the shipyards and another 460 lakh person-days in ancillary industries and MSMEs over the next 10 years.

SHAURYA SSB TRG (8368101529)

Clean energy softened global crisis impact on India: Modi

At the Renewable Energy Summit and Expo, PM warns that excess dependence on fossil fuels could risk exposure to global disruptions; he emphasises need for solutions to spur solar adoption

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

The impact of the West Asia crisis on India would have been more severe than the rest of the world had the country not made investments in renewable energy over the last decade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the inauguration of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo (2026) in New Delhi on Monday.

"Had India not made the investments it did in clean energy and building the requisite mechanisms [and infrastructure], the impact of the crisis would have been far more severe than in the rest of the world," Mr. Modi said in his address. He also said that India's economy continued to grow despite the crisis.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with participants at the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit and Expo 2026 in New Delhi. ANI

Renewable energy pitch

The Prime Minister put forth that the West Asia crisis exemplified how energy security was directly tied to economic security, adding that the future of energy security rested in clean energy.

He warned that excess dependence on fossil fuels could risk increased exposure to global disruptions.

Mr. Modi also said that India's renewable energy sector would have investment opportunities of about $220 billion by the end of the decade.

In his pitch to potential investors, Mr. Modi held that it would be difficult to find the scale, scope and demand that India has in any other part of the world, alongside political and policy stability.

Solar revolution

Mr. Modi emphasised that the next phase of solar revolution would rest on innovation.

He pointed to opportunities in the realm of indigenous manufacturing of essential hardware and battery storage systems, as well as in enhancing storage capacities.

Explaining his vision, the Prime Minister said, "We must carve out a dynamic where the country's middle class has the option of an electric vehicle, and where they would be able to charge their scooty, bike, or car with solar-based energy. This would help save them a lot of money."

He said the country would also require solutions that would help spur solar adoption in the dairy sector, animal husbandry, and farming.

"We must not stop here; we must connect every government building, school, college, hospital, and the entire street lighting network to solar energy and at a rapid pace," he said.

The Prime Minister further suggested that there must exist healthy competition among States and local bodies about their performance in renewable energy adoption.

SHAURYA SURTI 9[illegible]04529

SC permits green crackers for two days in Delhi-NCR

The bursting of firecrackers constitutes a religious practice meant to celebrate Deepavali, the top court says; but allowing environmental degradation defeats the purpose of festivities, it observes

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Terming the bursting of firecrackers during Deepavali a "religious practice", which, if left unregulated, takes a heavy toll on the environment and on public health, the Supreme Court on Monday permitted their conditional use in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) for the festival.

"Bursting of firecrackers, though constitutes a religious practice meant to celebrate the occasion, shall result in severe environmental pollution, especially air and noise, apart from the creation of solid wastes... Amongst human beings, children, disabled and the elderly people constitute the most vulnerable groups," a Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B. Varale observed in an order.



The court permitted the bursting of certified green firecrackers from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on November 7 and 8 in Delhi-NCR.

"There shall not be any bursting of fireworks within a 300-metre radius of hospitals, nursing homes, primary and district health centres, old age homes, and any notified silence zones. These areas will be declared 'no-cracker zones', and shall be marked on the ground and published," the court said in the 23-page order.

The same restriction would be applicable to educational institutions.

"We are conscious that the celebration of Deepavali has a religious, social, psychological, and emotional connotation amongst people, creating a positive atmosphere of hope, welfare and prosperity. That being said, allowing the environment to degrade, which results in a health hazard to all the living beings, defeats the very purpose of the festivities, and the celebrations would be rendered nugatory," the Bench reasoned.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
FESTIVITY OR FALLOUT?
» PAGE 7

SHAURYA SINGH RE... 8710452...

PM: India to add 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity in the next 10-11 years

Pratyush Deep
New Delhi, November 2

INDIA WILL add 500 gigawatts (GW) of new non-fossil fuel capacity over the next 10-11 years, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

"This target is somewhat difficult, but I have faith in the capabilities of our country. And that is why I say, 'We will do it!'," PM Modi said while speaking at the inaugural session of the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit & Expo 2026.

"Under the Paris pledge, India had also set a target of meeting half of its installed power capacity from non-fossil sources, and achieved this in 2025 itself. That means we achieved it five years ahead of schedule. Today, more than 50% of our installed power capacity is based on non-fossil sources," he added.

He said India is also working resolutely towards achieving the target of 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 and has achieved nearly 300 GW.

"Today, India is among the top three countries in the world in solar and renewable energy," he added.

Currently, India has 308 GW of installed non-fossil capacity, about 55.1% of the total power generation capacity of 558.89 GW, according to data from the Central Electricity Authority.

Modi said that investments in the renewable energy space in India helped the country avert an energy crisis amid the West Asia war.

"If India had not invested in clean energy and created new systems for it over the past decade, our crisis could have been much more serious than that faced by the rest of the world," he added.

"And we all know that the future of energy security lies in clean energy. If we continue to depend heavily on fossil fuels, the global economy will keep facing disruptions...," he added.

Modi said more than $164 billion has been invested in the renewable energy sector over the past decade.

In just two years since the RE-INVEST Summit in 2024, he said investments of around $63 billion have come into the sector.

"It is estimated that by the end of this decade, investment opportunities worth more than Rs 20 lakh crore, or around $220 billion, will emerge in this sector. Therefore, a new horizon of opportunities is going to open up for all of you in India's clean energy sector," he added.

SHAURYA ASSET TRG (8368104529)

Iran ready to reopen Hormuz if U.S. agrees to demands: Baqaei

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran on Monday said it was ready to reopen the Strait of Hormuz within two days if Washington agrees to conditions, as U.S. President Donald Trump issued his latest war threat at a rally for midterm elections.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said the offer to open the vital energy corridor showed "good faith".

Tehran has blockaded Hormuz since the war started in February, sending energy prices soaring and posing an electoral challenge for Mr. Trump.

"The possibility of implementing this plan in two days is another indication of Iran's good-faith approach," Mr. Baqaei said.

"We have stated that, if Iran's demands are met, it would be possible to restore security to the Strait of Hormuz and resume the negotiating process within a short period."

Mr. Baqaei said messages were being exchanged with the U.S. through mediators, adding that "everything depends" on the U.S. side accepting the Iranian demands. "Only then can we discuss the subsequent stages."

Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi also said indirect talks were taking place via mediators.

"Given the sensitivity and gravity of the current situation, consultations and deliberations are very intensive," Mr. Araghchi told the official IRNA news agency.

But Mr. Trump has kept up his threats against Iran, telling a campaign rally in Iowa that at "some point we're going to have to give them [Iran] the hammer".

SHAURYA SSB TPC (8368104599)

Many U.K. social care migrant workers to get PR in five years

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Foreign social and home care workers, who arrived in the U.K. before May 2025, will be able to settle (become permanent residents) in five years, rather than in 15 years, as was first proposed in the British government's 'earned settlement' scheme announced in November that year.

Those earning more than £50,271 per annum, doctors, nurses and teachers will be able to settle in five years, while those earning more than £1,25,140 per annum could settle in three years, as was proposed in the November 2025 draft rules.

The news of softer final rules for care workers is likely to impact thousands of Indians who came in on the Health and Care Worker visa scheme, which began in October 2020 and ran until July 2025. The scheme is associated with reports of Indian care workers – including many from Kerala – being subject to abuse, including unpaid wages, illegal recruitment fees, threats and other forms of exploitation at the hands of employers.

Under the scheme, finalised on Monday, social care workers earning at least £25,000 per year, who arrived in the U.K. before May 2025, would be eligible for 'indefinite leave to remain' (ILR) after five years. Those who have fallen afoul of the initial visa conditions would be given "a second chance", U.K. Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood said, with a fresh five-year qualifying period.

"The government has already stripped around 1,800 exploitative employers of their licenses," Ms. Mahmood said.

Softening stance

The softening of the conditions for residency in the final version of the earned settlement rules, announced by Ms. Mahmood, was a response to pressure from the left flank of the Labour Party and health unions, as well as a response to a public consultation on the draft policy, conducted earlier this year. The U.K. government said that over 2,02,000 responses were received, most (73%) of whom were visa holders.

Net migration hit a record of 9,44,000 in the year ending March 2023. However, following a tightening in policy started by the Rishi Sunak government and continued by Keir Starmer's Labour government, the net figure as of December 2025 dropped to 1,71,000.

"10 billion pounds. That is the cost of today's U-turn," shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp said in the House of Commons on Monday, using Ms. Mahmood's own cost estimate against her.

Other low-income workers could now obtain ILR in 10 years rather than the 15 years. Those with ILR have the right to live and work in the U.K. permanently and to potentially apply for benefits.

SHAURYA SSB TRG (8368104529)

RUSSIA USED OLESHKY CEASEFIRE TO BUILD UP ITS MILITARY POSITIONS, ALLEGES UKRAINE

18 killed as Russia struck village school acting as an aid centre, says Zelenskyy

'After the first strike, there was a repeat with 9 more bombs'

Reuters
Kyiv, November 2

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Monday that Russian forces had bombed a village in southeastern Zaporihzhia region, killing 18 people and injuring five.

Zelenskiy, writing on Telegram, said Russian forces initially dropped aerial bombs on a school in the village of Komyshuvakha, used for distributing humanitarian assistance.

"After the first air strike, there was a repeat strike with nine more bombs, directly on the shelter where people were gathered," Zelenskyy wrote.

"The Russians could not have been unaware that every week residents who have remained in Komyshuvakha were receiving assistance aid right there. This is yet further proof that Russia does not want any kind of de-escalation, any real justice."

On Monday, Ukraine's General Staff said that Russian forces had used a humanitarian ceasefire last week in the Russian-held southern town of Oleshky to strengthen their military positions, which Moscow said it assumed Kyiv had also done.



A screen grab of a video shows Russian military personnel during a demining operation in Oleshky city. REUTERS

The six—day ceasefire, brokered through US First Lady Melania Trump, was meant to allow aid deliveries and civilian evacuations from the frontline town. In total, nearly 800 people were evacuated, Melania Trump said on X.

However, Ukraine's General Staff said it recorded rotations of Russian units, fortification of positions, expansion of anti—drone measures along roads, and logistics activity including deliveries of ammunition.

"Under the ceasefire introduced for the humanitarian operation in Oleshky, units of the Defence Forces of Ukraine ensured that the ceasefire was observed, and acted exclusively within the framework of the agreements reached," the General Staff said on X. "The enemy, by contrast, used humanitarian pause to improve its positions."

In response, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he had no specific information about Russian military operations, but assumed Ukrainian forces had also used ceasefire to regroup. "This is standard practice in such situations. But I'm not familiar with the specifics," he said.

In a video address on Facebook, Ukraine's 34th Separate Marine Brigade "Borysfen" urged residents of the Kherson region not to ignore air raid sirens, saying Russia had "used the ceasefire to prepare and strengthen its capabilities".

Hackers hit emergency apps, send fake nuclear, chemical attack alerts

Reuters
Kyiv, November 2

UKRAINE AND Russia said their emergency alert apps had been hacked overnight, sending false warnings to citizens about impending air raids and chemical and nuclear attacks.

Ukraine's public air raid app started to send false alerts just before 11 pm on Sunday for the capital Kyiv and other areas, warning of radiation and chemical attacks and also the risk of street combat in some areas.

Hours later, Russian state news agency *TASS* quoted the Emergencies Ministry in Moscow as saying that its own mobile app had also been hit by a cyberattack that resulted in fake public warnings being transmitted.

Reuters was unable to verify which groups were responsible. Experts have linked previous cyber security incidents during the almost five-year-old war to activist hackers as well as intelligence agencies on both sides.

In Ukraine, one of the alarms said Russia had launched a hypersonic Oreshnik missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, and that a nuclear alert had been declared.

Ukraine's air force said shortly after on Telegram hat the alert system appeared to have been hacked by Russia, noting the alerts were broadcast in Russian. "The air alert app appears to have been subjected to enemy influence," the air force said.

Atesh, a pro-Ukrainian hacking group, posted a screenshot of the alert message seen in Russia on its Telegram channel on Monday, with a message saying: "The Ministry of Emergency Situations app has been hacked!"

However, the Moscow ministry played down the impact, saying the app was not one of its main public warning system channels.

A fake message posted by the hackers did not attempt to mimic an official communication and was laced with colloquialisms, profanities and derogatory language about Russia, calling its regions "swamps".

The message told Russians that nuclear warheads had been launched and advised people to stock up on three weeks of food and shelter in their cellars.

SHARY SOB TRG (8368105 20)