



P-8I NEPTUNE

21ST CENTURY MARITIME SECURITY FOR THE INDIAN NAVY

News

Ministry of Defence (MoD) approves the procurement of 10 more Boeing "P-8I Neptune Maritime Patrol Aircraft" for the Indian Navy.

WHAT IS P - 8I?



The P-8I Neptune is a variant of long-range "multimission" patrol aircraft P-8A Poseidon manufactured by Boeing.



Designed to protect India's vast coastline & territorial waters, it is "a weapon platform with phenomenal capacity" to give India an enormous reach.



Equipped with anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare as well as intelligence, surveillance & reconnaissance - ISR aircraft, it is capable of broad-area, maritime and littoral operations.

BACKGROUND



In 2009, Boeing signed a contract to deliver eight P-8I aircraft and four additional P-8I aircraft to India. Currently Indian navy operates squadron of P8I with 8 aircraft and rest four will be delivered by 2020.

After 10 more aircraft India will have 22 P8I aircraft serving as "bigger deterrence" with proven technology and the perfect replacement to the ageing Tu-142M maritime patrol aircraft of Soviet origin.



The Indian Navy is the first international customer for the P-8. The P-8I is the first international model of the P-8A.

STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE



P8I with its extraordinary features is enhancing India's capability as "regional power" that serves as a maritime domain for other nations too against transnational threats.



A very potent technology with the speed of 907 kmph and an operating range of over 1200 nm with "360 degree coverage" due to "direct data linked" with Indian submarines capable enough to detect "threats" and neutralize them if required before they reach.



The most modern U.S. ASW technology that aren't present in the US version even -

- a Telephonics APS-143 Ocean Eye aft radar system, top-performing ocean surveillance radar with winged aircraft
- a cutting-edge magnetic anomaly detector(MAD), the ability to detect submarines lurking under the ocean.



Fully integrated with state-of-the-art sensors equipped with indigenous advanced sensors developed by defence PSUs & private manufacturers along with foreign ones.



Armed with U.S. weapons systems including deadly Harpoon Block-II anti-ship missiles & MK-54 lightweight anti submarine warfare torpedoes, rockets etc, they are the country's "intelligent hawk eyes" over the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) that is increasingly getting militarized.

ACHIEVEMENTS



Participation in the search effort for Malaysian Airlines Flight MH 370, the first successful firing of air launched Harpoon Block II missile in the world.

COMCASA-India and U.S. signed "Communications, Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA)" in 2018 that enables closer interoperability between U.S. and Indian military assets. COMCASA allows India to procure transfer specialised equipment for encrypted communications for US origin military platforms like the C-17, C-130 and P-8Is. COMCASA thus enables P-8I aircraft and their U.S. equivalent, the P-8A Poseidon, to share real-time operational intelligence. In 2019, the Indian and U.S. navies conducted their first bilateral anti-submarine warfare exercise.

