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## US Approves Sale of Military Hardware

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### Why in News

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The **US State Department** has approved the sale of missiles and torpedoes worth **\$155 million to India**.

- The sale of **10 AGM-84L Harpoon Block II air launched missiles** is estimated to cost USD 92 million.
- The sale of **16 MK 54 All Up Round Lightweight Torpedoes** and **3 MK 54 Exercise Torpedoes** are estimated to cost \$63 million.
- Indian Government has requested the US for these military hardware.

### Key Points

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- India intends to utilize MK 54 Lightweight Torpedoes on its **P-8I aircraft**.  
The MK 54 Lightweight Torpedo would provide the capability to conduct **anti-submarine warfare missions**.
- The Harpoon missile system would be integrated into the P-8I aircraft to conduct **anti-surface warfare missions** in defense of critical sea lanes.  
This will also enhance interoperability with the United States and other allied forces.
- **Harpoon Block II Missile**
  - It is capable of **executing both land-strike and anti-ship missions**.
  - To strike targets on land and ships in port, the missile uses GPS-aided inertial navigation to hit a designated target aimpoint.
  - It can be used against a wide **variety of land-based targets**, including coastal defense sites, surface-to-air missile sites, exposed aircraft, port/industrial facilities and ships in port.

- **MK 54 Torpedoes**

- Torpedo is a cigar-shaped, self-propelled underwater missile, launched from a submarine, surface vessel, or airplane and designed for exploding upon contact with the hulls of surface vessels and submarines.
- The MK 54 uses sophisticated processing algorithms to analyze the information, edit out false targets or countermeasures, and then pursue identified threats.

### **P-8I Aircraft**

- The P-8I aircraft is a variant of the P-8A Poseidon aircraft that Boeing company developed as a replacement for the US Navy's ageing P-3 fleet.
- With a maximum speed of 907 kmph and an operating range of over 1,200 nautical miles, the P-8Is **detect threats and neutralize them** if required, far before they come anywhere near Indian shores.
- **Indian Navy became the first international customer for the P-8 aircraft** with the conclusion of the nearly US \$ 2.1 billion contract on 01 Jan 2009 for a total of eight aircraft. The **P-8s Indian variant is referred to as P-8I.**
- The aircraft are **based at INS Rajali.**

**Source : IE**