




drishti

India-Russia Nuclear Attack Submarine Deal

 drishtias.com/printpdf/india-russia-nuclear-attack-submarine-deal

India and Russia have inked a \$3 billion nuclear submarine deal.

- The Indian Navy will get the submarine— **re-christened as Chakra III**— on lease from Russia and is expected to serve the Indian Navy for at least a decade
- Chakra III is the Russian Navy's **K-322 Kashalot (Akula II-class) SSN** (Submarine Nuclear).
- The SSN will be fitted with the indigenously-developed USHUS integrated sonar system as well as the Panchendriya sonar, a unified submarine sonar, and tactical control system.
- The Akula II-class, the 8,140-ton Chakra III will have a submerged speed of 30 knots and an operating depth of 530 meters. It will hold a crew of 73.
- The submarine could be delivered to the Indian Navy by 2025.

Significance of Leasing

- The main purpose behind leasing the Russian nuclear-powered submarines is to **train Indian naval personnel in manning the country's own fleet of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines.**
- The Chakra-III is expected to give **India an edge over its rivals in the Indian Ocean region** given one of the major strengths of a nuclear submarine is its ability to remain underwater for months, making detection difficult.
- The addition of this submarine will be a **major boost to India's role as the net security provider in the Indian Ocean region**, which has some of the busiest shipping lanes.

History of Leasing

- In **1988**, the Indian Navy leased for three years a nuclear-powered cruise missile submarine that was christened **INS Chakra.**
- In **2012**, Indian Navy took on lease for 10 years, a second submarine christened

Chakra II, which currently serves with the Eastern Naval Command.

India's own SSBN fleet

- India is also developing the Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) fleet under the **Advanced Technology Vehicle (ATV) project**.
- India's first indigenously-built nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, **the INS Arihant**, entered service in 2016. A second, **the INS Arighat**, was launched in 2017 and is undergoing sea trials.

India-Russia Defense Cooperation

- Recently, India and Russia have also signed a deal for the **S-400 Triumph air defense missile system for over \$5 billion**
- India and Russia have also signed agreements for **construction of frigates under Project 1135.6** and formation of joint venture to manufacture **Ka-226T helicopters in India**.
- Russia is also establishing a manufacturing unit for **AK-203 assault rifles under a joint venture in Amethi, Uttar Pradesh**.

India-Russia Relations

India's Nuclear Triad Complete