

INDIA, RUSSIA TO BUILD STEALTH FRIGATES

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A file photo of INS Trikhand , a Talwar class frigate, of the Navy.

India on Tuesday signed a \$500 million deal with Russia to locally manufacture two stealth frigates with technology transfer. The agreement was signed between Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and Rosoboronexport of Russia.

“The deal is for material, design and specialist assistance from Russia for the ships. Balance work will be done by GSL, and it will have a whole lot of Indian equipment, including BrahMos missiles,” Shekhar Mital, CMD of GSL, told *The Hindu* .

Mr. Mital added that work on the two frigates will start in two years by mid-2020 and is expected to be completed by 2026-2027.

The cost of the engines for the ships which would come directly from Ukraine and the cost of constructing them at GSL are in addition. While the ships are built by Russia, the engines are supplied by Zorya Nashproekt of Ukraine. Four gas turbine engines, gear boxes and specialist support will cost around \$50 mn per ship, a Defence source said.

In October 2016, India and Russia signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for four Krivak or Talwar stealth frigates — two to be procured directly from Russia and two to be built by GSL. Of late, GSL has maintained a good track record. It has delivered 28 ships ahead of schedule in the past four years.

India recently signed a \$1 bn deal with Russia for direct purchase of two frigates. The basic structures of the two frigates are already ready at the Yantar shipyard in Russia and will be finished now.

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