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Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

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MAJOR EVENTS/NEWS

Honours and Awards for Armed Forces and CAPF personnel on the eve of Independence Day

The Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces, President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, approved [107 Gallantry awards](#) to Armed Forces and CAPF personnel on the eve of Independence Day 2022. These include three Kirti Chakra, 13 Shaurya Chakras, two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 81 Sena Medals (Gallantry), one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and seven Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

Raksha Mantri attends SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh, attended the Annual Meeting of the Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Member States from 23-25 August 2022. The RM called on the SCO to unitedly fight against terrorism. He stated that cross-border terrorism is a '[crime against humanity](#)'. India proposed to host a defence think tank seminar as well as a workshop on 'Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief-Risk mitigation and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure' in 2023.

First-ever repair of a US Navy Ship in India

US Navy Ship (USNS) Charles Drew arrived at [L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli](#), Chennai on 7 August 2022, for undertaking repairs and allied services. This is the first-ever repair of a US Navy ship in India. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar

termed it a red-letter day for the Indian ship-building industry and a boost to the India-US strategic partnership.

Indian Navy's All Woman Aircrew Creates History

On 3 August 2022, five officers of the Indian Navy's INAS 314 based at Naval Air Enclave, Porbandar, created history by completing the first all-women independent [maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission](#) in the North Arabian Sea on board a Dornier 228 aircraft.

Conference on classification regulations and advanced naval technologies

A two-day Conference on Classification Regulation and Advanced Technologies for Naval Ships and Auxiliaries was organized by the Directorate of Naval Architecture, Ministry of Defence (Navy) on 4-5 August 2022 at the [Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis](#), New Delhi. The aim of the conference was to promote indigenous warship building by achieving synergy between Classification Societies as well as quality assurance and survey/certification of naval ships.

India-Bangladesh Tri-services Staff Talks held

The 2nd [India-Bangladesh Tri-services Staff Talks](#) (TSST) was held in New Delhi on 10 August 2022. The TSST is a forum established to boost defence cooperation through regular talks at the strategic and operational levels between HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and Bangladesh Armed Forces Division.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

DRDO successfully test-fires indigenously developed laser-guided ATGMs

DRDO and Indian Army successfully test-fired the indigenously developed [Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles \(ATGM\)](#) from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun, on 4 August 2022. The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

Chief of the Air Staff flies indigenous aircrafts at Bangalore

On a two-day visit to Bengaluru, [Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari](#), Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), flew three indigenous platforms – Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40). The CAS also delivered the Air Chief Marshal LM Katre Memorial Lecture on 6 August 2022 on 'Capability and Force Development Plans of IAF' towards making it a future-ready combat force.

MoU between Indian Navy and Space Applications Centre, ISRO

On 5 August 2022, Indian Navy signed a MoU with the Space Applications Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad, on data sharing and cooperation on Satellite-based Naval Applications in [Oceanology and Meteorology](#). This MoU is an extension of the previous MoU signed in 2017. The broad areas of cooperation include sharing of non-confidential observational data, calibration and validation of ocean models, among others.

Army Design Bureau signs MoU with Drone Federation of India

The Army Design Bureau signed a MoU with [the Drone Federation of India](#) on 8 August 2022 to collaboratively work towards promoting research, development, testing and manufacturing of drones, counter-drone and associated technologies.

Raksha Mantri hands over indigenously-developed equipment to Indian Army

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh handed over [indigenously-developed equipment](#) and systems to the Indian Army in New Delhi on 16 August 2022. These included Future Infantry Soldier as a System (F-INSAS), new generation anti-personnel mine 'Nipun', rugged and automatic communication system with enhanced capabilities, upgraded sights system for tanks and advanced thermal imagers.

Army accelerates procurement of light tank 'Zorawar' and niche technologies

Reports noted that the Indian Army is pushing for the procurement of the [indigenous light tank 'Zorawar'](#), for deployment in eastern Ladakh. The Army is also inducting niche technologies like swarm drones, loitering munitions, anti-drone capabilities and next generation Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities, as part of the modernisation drive of the armoured corps and mechanised infantry.

Successful flight-test of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile

DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully flight tested [Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile](#) (VL-SRSAM) on 23

August 2022. The flight test was carried out from a naval ship against a high-speed unmanned aerial target for demonstration of vertical launch capability. VL-SRSAM is equipped with an indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker.

Successful trial of enhanced range Pinaka rockets

DRDO successfully conducted the trials of enhanced range [Pinaka rockets](#) over the past few weeks. The rockets have been manufactured by Munition India Ltd and Economics Explosive Limited.

Keel laid for the first warship of the Anti-Sub Warfare SWC Project at CSL, Kochi

Vice Adm. Kiran Deshmukh, Controller, Warship Production and Acquisition, IN, laid the keel of the first warship of the [Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Craft](#) (ASW SWC) project at CSL, Kochi, on 30 August 2022. The platforms will undertake sub-surface surveillance in coastal areas with the purpose of detecting and neutralizing underwater threats.

Indian Army Conducts Space Domain Exercise

In order to boost its space-based capabilities, the Indian Army conducted a large-scale exercise codenamed, [Skylight](#), aimed at testing the operational readiness of satellite communication assets. While the Indian Army uses ISRO satellites, it is expected to get its own dedicated satellite by 2025. The Navy and the Air Force have their own dedicated satellites.

DEFENCE EXPORTS

Defence Exports during 2021-22 stood at Rs 12,815 crores

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on 1

August 2022, stated that the value of [defence exports](#) during the financial year 2021-22 was Rs 12,815 crore. This was against Rs 8435 crores during 2020-21.

Interest in LCA Tejas Fighter Aircraft

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, told the Lok Sabha on 5 August 2022 that apart from Malaysia, other countries that have evinced an [interest in the Light Combat Aircraft](#) include Argentina, Australia, Egypt, USA, Indonesia, and Philippines.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

INS Satpura enters Pearl Harbour on completion of RIMPAC 2022

INS Satpura, the guided missile stealth frigate, entered Pearl Harbour on 2 August 2022 on completion of the sea phase of [RIMPAC-22](#), multilateral exercise conducted over off Hawaii, US, over 9,000 nautical miles from the Indian coast. The exercises involved anti-ship, anti-submarine and anti-air warfare operations. RIMPAC-22 is one of the largest multilateral naval exercises, wherein navies from 26 countries participated.

INS Sumedha visits Bali, Indonesia

[INS Sumedha](#), an indigenously designed naval offshore patrol vessel, visited Port Tanjung Benoa, Bali, from 4-6 August 2022. INS Sumedha is en route to Perth, Australia. The ship also undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with KRI Sultan Hasanuddin, of the Indonesian Navy on 2 August 2022.

Ex Vajra Prahar 2022 held at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh

The 13th edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercises "[Ex Vajra Prahar 2022](#)" commenced at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS), Bakloh (HP) on 8

August 2022. This annual exercise is hosted alternatively between India and the US.

Indian Air Force participates in bilateral exercise hosted by Malaysia

A contingent of the IAF, consisting of Su-30 MKI and C-17 aircraft, participated in a bilateral exercise, '[Udarashakti](#)', at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) base of Kuantan, on 12 August 2022.

Indo-Oman joint military exercise Al Najaf IV concludes

The 13 day Indo-Oman Joint [Military Exercise Al Najaf IV](#) concluded on 13 August 2022. The objective of the exercise was to acquaint each other with operational procedures and combat drills in a Counter Terrorism environment under the United Nations mandate. The Indian contingent was represented by the 18th Battalion of Mechanised Infantry Regiment and the Royal Army of Oman contingent was represented by the Sultan of Oman Parachute Regiment.

Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise Vinbax 2022 Concludes at Chandimandir

Vietnam-India bilateral Army [Exercise VINBAX 2022](#) concluded at Chandimandir on 18 August 2022. The exercise was focused on the deployment of Army Engineers and Medical teams in UN Peace Keeping Operations (UNPKO). This is the first time Vietnam People's Army (VPA) was undertaking a field training exercise with any foreign army.

IAF participation in exercise Pitch Black 2022 at Darwin, Australia

An Indian Air Force contingent, made up of 100 air warriors, four Su-30 MKI fighter and two C-17 aircraft, reached Australia for participating in [Exercise Pitch Black 2022](#), scheduled to be held from 19 August-8 September 2022 in Darwin. This is a biennial, multi-national exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF). This year's exercise will see the participation of over 100 aircraft and 2500 military personnel from various air forces and will involve multi-domain air combat missions.

INSV Tarini flagged off from Goa on a sailing expedition to Mauritius

[INSV Tarini](#) was flagged off from Mandovi on 20 August 2022. The ship will undertake a 4,500 km sailing expedition to Port Louis, Mauritius. The expedition is being undertaken by a crew of six, including three women officers. The IN has six ocean-going Indian Naval Sailing Vessels (INSVs) which regularly undertake expeditionary sailing. These expeditions help in inculcating spirit of adventure, enhancing risk taking abilities whilst honing essential seamanship skills. They also enhance INs ability to project its benign presence across the globe.

'The Newsletter is a compilation of media reports and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Manohar Parrikar IDSA or the Ministry of Defence, Government of India'.