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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

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## KEY EVENTS

### President Confers Gallantry awards at Defence Investiture Ceremony

President Smt Droupadi Murmu, who is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, conferred [eight Kirti Chakras](#), including five posthumous, and 29 Shaurya Chakras, including five posthumous, to the personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces and State/Union Territory Police during Defence Investiture Ceremony (Phase-1) in New Delhi on 9 May 2023. The Gallantry awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty.

### Prime Minister inaugurates programme marking National Technology Day

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi [inaugurated](#) a programme marking National Technology Day 2023 at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on 11 May 2023. The PM laid the foundation stone and dedicated multiple projects related to scientific and technological advancement worth more than Rs 5,800 crore to the nation. The PM noted that 11 May is one of the most prestigious days in the history of India as it was on this day that India achieved the astonishing feat in Pokhran, which made the nation proud.

### Raksha Mantri attends swearing-in ceremony of President-elect of Nigeria

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [attended](#) the swearing-in ceremony of President-elect of Nigeria Bola Ahmed Tinubu in Abuja on 29

May 2023. The RM's delegation to Nigeria included top executives of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). These executives held a series of meetings with Nigerian military and Government representatives for identifying their requirements which can be fulfilled by the Indian Defence companies. B2B meetings were held with Nigerian companies for enhancing cooperation.

### Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visits Maldives

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [arrived](#) in Maldives on 1 May 2023, on a three-day official visit at the invitation of his Maldivian counterpart Mariya Ahmed Didi. During his visit, Singh and Didi [held bilateral](#) talks to enhance defence cooperation and strengthen the longstanding partnership between India and Maldives. The RM paid a courtesy call on the President of Maldives Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and met Foreign Minister Abdulla Shahid. The RM and Minister Didi [attended the ceremony](#) for the commissioning of the replacement ship for Huravee, in the presence of the President Solih. Minister Singh also gifted MNDF an additional Landing Craft and laid the foundation stone for the MNDF Coast Guard 'Ekatha Harbour'.

### Raksha Mantri meets Israeli Foreign Minister Eli Cohen

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [met with an Israeli delegation](#), led by Foreign Minister Eli Cohen, in New Delhi on 9 May 2023.

The RM underlined the MoD's priority towards indigenisation in accordance with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat Policy'. He acknowledged the cooperation being extended by Israeli companies and encouraged them to do more investments in India and for forging joint ventures with Indian partners to manufacture defence equipment in India. The Israeli Minister affirmed continued cooperation in India's endeavour for indigenisation and conveyed the willingness to cooperate and partner in advanced technologies.

### **Chief of The Army Staff Visits Egypt**

General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) [visited](#) Egypt from 16-17 May 2023. The Army Chief met Egypt's senior military leadership where he discussed avenues for further enhancing India-Egypt defence relations. The Army Chief interacted with the Commander-in-Chief of Egyptian Armed Forces, Minister of Defence and Military Production, Chief of Staff, Egyptian Armed Forces and the Chief of Egyptian Armed Force Operations Authority.

### **17<sup>th</sup> India-US Defence Policy Group meeting Held in Washington DC**

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl [co-chaired](#) the 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) in Washington DC on 17 May 2023. The two sides reviewed the progress made in furthering defence industrial cooperation and operationalising the India-US Major Defence Partnership. Important aspects

such as military-to-military cooperation, implementation of foundational defence agreements, exercises and ongoing and future cooperative activities in the Indian Ocean Region were discussed. The meeting also discussed potential areas and projects where Indian and US defence companies could work together in co-development and co-production.

### **Additional Secretary (Defence Production) attends LIMA 2023 at Langkawi**

An Indian delegation, led by Additional Secretary (Defence Production) T Natarajan, [attended](#) the 16<sup>th</sup> Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 23), held at Langkawi, Malaysia between 22-25 May 2023. Additional Secretary Natarajan also called on Malaysian Minister of Defence Dato' Seri Mohamad Hasan on the sidelines of the exhibition.

### **Vice Admiral Priyantha Perera Commander of The Sri Lanka Navy Visits India**

VAdm Priyantha Perera, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy was on a five-day official visit to India from 23-27 May 2023. VAdm Priyantha Perera [presided](#) over the Passing Out Parade of the Spring Term 23 at Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala. VAdm Perera called on Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff on 24 May 2023 at New Delhi and held discussions on collaborative mechanisms towards ensuring peace and security in the region.

### Chief of The Air Staff Visits Sri Lanka

Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), [embarked](#) on a four-day official visit to Sri Lanka on 1 May 2023. During the visit, the CAS met the President of Sri Lanka, Prime Minister, the State Minister of Defence, the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Commanders of Sri Lanka Air Force, Army and Navy, and the Defence Secretary. The CAS visited Sri Lanka on the invitation of the Commander of Sri Lanka Air Force, Air Marshal SK Pathirana.

### 75<sup>th</sup> International Day of UN Peacekeepers Celebrated

The Indian Army [commemorated](#) the 75<sup>th</sup> International Day of UN Peacekeepers on 29 May 2023. Wreaths were laid at the National War Memorial, New Delhi, by the Chief of the Army Staff, Vice Chief of Army Staff and representatives from the Navy and the Air Force, the Ministry of External Affairs and United Nations. This is the day when in 1948 the first UN peacekeeping mission, UN Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO), began operations in Palestine.

### Chief of Naval Staff presents Medals at Naval Investiture Ceremony

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), [presented](#) the Gallantry and Distinguished Service awards on behalf of the President of India at an impressive Naval Investiture Ceremony, held at the Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam on 31 May 2023. Thirty-three awards were conferred, which included Nao Sena Medal

(Gallantry) to Vineet Kumar LA(AH) and Cdr Nishant Singh (Posthumous), 13 Nao Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 16 Vishisht Seva Medal, and two Jeevan Raksha Padak.

### Sudan Rescue Operation by IAF

An IAF C-17 Globemaster aircraft from Hindan [flew](#) to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 3 May 2023, refueled and undertook a nonstop flight from Jeddah via war-torn Sudan. The aircraft carried 192 passengers, who either were NRIs, foreign nationals or OCIs (Overseas Citizens of India).

### ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

#### MoD approves 4<sup>th</sup> Positive Indigenisation List

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [approved](#) the 4<sup>th</sup> Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) of 928 strategically-important Line Replacement Units (LRUs)/Sub-systems/Spares & Components, including high-end materials & spares, with import substitution value worth Rs 715 crore. These will only be procured from the Indian industry as per the timelines indicated in the list.

#### DRDO and Indian Navy test indigenous Air Droppable Container

DRDO and Indian Navy [conducted](#) the successful maiden test trial of 'ADC-150' from IL 38SD aircraft off the coast of Goa on 27 April 2023. 'ADC-150' is an indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container with a 150 kg payload capacity. The trial was conducted to enhance the naval operational logistics capabilities by providing quick response to

meet the requirement of critical engineering stores to ships under distress.

### **DRDO conducts Design Validation Trial of Vertical Shaft**

The Centre of Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), a Delhi-based laboratory of the DRDO, has designed and developed a Vertical Shaft-based Underground Ammunition Storage Facility. It enables upward vertical dissipation of blast effects, considerably reducing the blast effect on surrounding utilities. The Design Validation Trial of this Underground Ammunition Storage Structure was successfully conducted on 30 April 2023. The instrumented blast trial was carried out in the presence of the Armed Forces by detonating 5,000 kgs of TNT in one of the chambers of the underground facility.

### **iDEX-DIO signs 250<sup>th</sup> contract in New Delhi**

The Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the MoD, has reached a milestone with the signing of its 250<sup>th</sup> contract –first under Mission DefSpace, and 100<sup>th</sup> SPRINT (Navy) contract, in New Delhi on 15 May 2023. The contracts were signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and other senior civil and military officials by Additional Secretary (Defence Production) & CEO Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) T Natarajan and CEO, InspeCity Arindrajit Chowdhary, one of the winners of the challenge 'Micro-propulsion

system for Cubesats'. The Defence Space Agency led this challenge.

### **164 Positive Indigenisation List items successfully indigenised**

In another boost to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, 164 Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) items, with an import substitution value of Rs 814 crore, that were to be indigenised by December 2022, have met the target within the timelines. The indigenisation of these items has been achieved by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) either through Industry partners, including MSMEs, or in-house.

### **First Sea Sortie of Sixth Scorpene Submarine 'Vaghsheer' Commences**

The sixth submarine of Project 75, Yard 11880, Indian Navy's Kalvari class, commenced her sea trials on 18 May 2023. The submarine was launched on 20 April 2022 from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). Vaghsheer is scheduled for Delivery to the Indian Navy in early 2024 after the completion of these trials.

### **Defence production crosses Rs 1 lakh crore mark for the first time**

As a result of the consistent efforts of the MoD, the value of defence production in the Financial Year (FY) 2022-23 crossed the figure of Rs one lakh crore for the first time. The value currently stands at Rs 1,06,800 crore. During FY 2021-22, the figure was Rs 95,000 crore.



### **Night trials of MiG-29K aboard INS Vikrant Held**

INS Vikrant, the first indigenous aircraft carrier, has undergone extensive Sea trials since her maiden sailing on 4 August 2021. The Carrier is undergoing Air Certification and Flight Integration Trials with Rotary Wing and Fixed Wing aircraft to achieve the 'Combat ready' state at the earliest. As part of the trials, the maiden day landing of MiG-29K and the indigenous LCA (Navy) was achieved on 6 February 2023. Since then, Day and night landing trials of all Naval inventory helicopters have progressed. In continuance with the impetus on the Aviation Trials, the Navy has achieved another historic milestone by undertaking the maiden night landing of MiG-29K on 24 May 2023. Within three months of the maiden day landing, this accomplishment demonstrates the resolve, skill and professionalism of the Indian Navy, the INS Vikrant crew and naval pilots.

## **DEFENCE DIPLOMACY**

### **ASEAN India Maritime Exercise-2023 Held**

The inaugural ASEAN India Maritime Exercise (AIME-2023) was held from 2 to 8 May 2023 at Singapore. The Harbour Phase of the exercise was held at Changi Naval Base from 2 to 4 and the Sea Phase was conducted from 7 to 8 May 2023 in the South China Sea. Approximately 1400 personnel manning nine ships participated in the Sea Phase of the multilateral naval exercise. India's indigenously designed and built

ships- destroyer INS Delhi & stealth frigate INS Satpura, maritime patrol aircraft P8I and integral helicopters exercised with ASEAN naval ships from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, co-officiated the inaugural ceremony of AIME 2023 at Changi Naval Base on 2 May 2023. The inaugural edition of AIME is being co-hosted by the Republic of Singapore Navy and Indian Navy; and witnessed participation of ships and personnel from other ASEAN countries. In addition to representing India and the Indian Navy during the AIME 2023, Adm R Hari Kumar, also attended the opening ceremony of International Maritime Defence Exhibition (IMDEX-23) and delivered a talk on 'Cooperation and Collaboration in the Future Maritime Environment' during a panel discussion at 8<sup>th</sup> International Maritime Security Conference (IMSC), being conducted on the side lines of IMDEX-23.

### **35<sup>th</sup> Edition of Indo-Thai Coordinated Patrol Held**

The 35<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy was conducted from 3–10 May 2023. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari, an indigenously built LST (L) and His Thai Majesty's Ship (HTMS) Saiburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate, along with Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies participated in the CORPAT along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Andaman Sea. The Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy have been

undertaking CORPAT bi-annually since 2005 along the IMBL.

### **Indian Naval Ships Visit Sihanoukville, Cambodia**

As part of Indian Navy's deployment to ASEAN countries, Indian Naval ships Delhi and Satpura, under the command of Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet (FOCEF), [made](#) a port call at Sihanoukville, Cambodia from 11-14 May 2023. Apart from social interactions with senior dignitaries from the Defence ministry and Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, personnel from both navies [engaged](#) in a wide range of professional interactions, cross deck visits and friendly sports exchanges.

### **Indian Naval Ships Visit Da Nang, Vietnam**

As part of Indian Navy's deployment to ASEAN countries, Indian Naval ships Delhi and Satpura, under the command of Rear Admiral Gurcharan Singh, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, [arrived at](#) Da Nang, Vietnam on 19 May 2023. The ships exercised with the Vietnam People's Navy at sea to share best practices and enhance interoperability.

### **Exercise Samudra Shakti-23 Concludes**

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the Indo-Indonesia bilateral Exercise Samudra Shakti-23

[concluded](#) on 19 May 2023. The sea phase was held from 17-19 May 2023, which witnessed the participation of ASW corvette INS Kavaratti with integral Chetak helicopter and a Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft. The Indonesian Navy assets included KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda with integral helicopter Panther and a CN 235 Maritime Patrol Aircraft. A series of complex exercises including tactical manoeuvres, weapon firings, helicopter operations, Air defence and Anti-Submarine warfare exercises were undertaken.

### **India-Saudi Arabia Bilateral Maritime Exercise Al Mohed Al Hindi 23 Held**

The sea phase of second edition of bilateral exercise 'Al Mohed Al Hindi 23', between Indian Navy and Royal Saudi Naval Force (RSNF) [was held from](#) 23-25 May 2023 off Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia. INS Tarkash, INS Subhadra and Dornier MPA participated in the exercise from the Indian side. The RSNF was represented by HMS Badr and Abdul Aziz, MH 60R helo and UAV.

### **INS Trishul makes Port Call at Mombasa**

Furthering India- Africa ties, Indian Navy [commenced](#) a five -nation deployment to the continent as INS Trishul, under the command of Capt Kapil Kaushik, made a port call at Mombasa, Kenya from 26-29 May 2023.

'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'.