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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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KEY EVENTS

'Shaurya Sandhya' celebrations held in Bengaluru

'Shaurya Sandhya' [was organised](#) in Bengaluru on the occasion of 75th Army Day on 15 January 2023. The event showcased the valour of the Indian Army. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh commended the armed forces for ensuring the country's territorial integrity since independence. The RM recalled the bravery of the armed forces during the 1962, 1965, 1971 & 1999 wars and the recent incidents in Galwan and Tawang. He stated that the spirit and bravery of the soldiers have not only enhanced India's respect around the world but have also increased faith in the hearts of all Indians.

Tri-Services amphibious exercise AMPHEX 2023 held

The biennial Tri-Services Amphibious Exercise, AMPHEX 2023, [was conducted](#) at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, from 17-22 January 2023. AMPHEX is aimed at joint training of elements of all three services in various facets of amphibious operations to enhance interoperability and synergy. The exercise witnessed the participation of a number of amphibious ships consisting of Large Platform Dock (LPD), Landing Ships and Landing Crafts, Marine Commandos (MARCOS), helicopters and aircraft from the Indian Navy. Indian Army participated with over 900 troops, including Special Forces, Artillery and Armoured vehicles. Jaguar fighters and C-130 aircraft from the IAF also participated in the exercise.

Maritime exercise TROPEX commences in the Indian Ocean Region

The 2023 edition of the Indian Navy's maritime exercise TROPEX, [commenced](#) in the Indian Ocean Region. This operational level exercise is conducted biennially and

witnesses participation not only by Indian Navy units but also of Indian Army, IAF and Coast Guard assets. TROPEX 23 is being conducted from January-March 23. The exercises provide an opportunity to test the combat readiness of the combined Fleets of the Indian Navy to operate in a multi-threat environment.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Prithvi-II training launch successful

A successful training launch of the short-range ballistic missile, Prithvi-II, [was carried out](#) on 10 January 2023, from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. The Prithvi-II missile is an integral part of India's nuclear deterrence. The user training launch successfully validated the missile's operational and technical parameters.

Keel of Fourth Diving Support Craft Ship Laid

The keel laying ceremony for the fourth Diving Support Craft (DSC), DSC A23 (Y-328) project [was held](#) on 17 January 2023 at M/s Titagarh Wagons Ltd, Kolkata. R.Adm. Sandeep Mehta, Assistant Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition (ACWP&A), presided over the function. The ships are scheduled to be inducted into the Indian Navy, commencing the end of 2023 onwards, to provide diving assistance for underwater repairs, maintenance and salvage for ships close to the harbour. The main and auxiliary equipment is being sourced from indigenous manufacturers.

Submarine 'Vagir' commissioned

Indian Navy's fifth stealth Scorpene class Submarine INS Vagir [was commissioned](#) into the Indian Navy on 23 January 2023, at the Naval Dockyard Mumbai in the presence of Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff. Six Scorpene Class submarines are being built

by the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, under collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France. The Scorpene Submarines have advanced stealth features and are equipped with both long-range guided torpedoes as well as anti-ship missiles.

DRDO's Fuel Cell-based AIP system to be fitted onboard INS Kalvari

In a major boost to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the Fuel Cell-based Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) system of DRDO's Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL) [will soon be fitted](#) onboard INS Kalvari. An agreement was signed to this effect between senior officials of NMRL and Naval Group France in Mumbai on 23 January 2023. The AIP has a force multiplier effect on the lethality of a diesel-electric submarine as it enhances the submerged endurance by several folds. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh complimented DRDO, Indian Navy and MDL for taking the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative forward in the underwater domain.

DRDO displays Indigenous defence technology at the Republic day Parade

The DRDO [showcased](#) one tableau and one piece of equipment during the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path on 26 January 2023. The tableau displayed various surveillance, neutralising and communication platforms and a semi-conductor R&D facility. The indigenously-developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP), a modular 8X8 wheeled combat platform carried on a 70-ton Trailer, was displayed by DRDO in the form of actual equipment.

Startup 20 Held

Startup20, the two-day event under India's G20 presidency, [was held](#) on 28-29 January 2023 at Hyderabad. The Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) showcased medical innovations undertaken by Indian Naval officers during the inception meeting of

the Startup20 Engagement Group under India's G20 presidency. Delegates from G 20 countries and senior functionaries, including G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant and CEO Niti Aayog Parameswaran Iyer interacted with the naval officers and praised the innovative work being done by the Indian Navy under the theme 'Indian Navy–Innovating towards Nation Building'.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

21st Edition of Indo-French bilateral naval exercise 'VARUNA' held

The 21st edition of the bilateral naval exercise between India and France, Exercise Varuna, [was held](#) on the Western Seaboard from 16-20 January 2023. The bilateral exercise initiated in 1993 was christened as 'VARUNA' in 2001 and has since become a hallmark of India–France strategic bilateral relationship. This edition saw the participation of indigenous guided missile stealth destroyer INS Chennai, guided missile frigate INS Teg, maritime patrol aircraft P-8I and Dornier, integral helicopters and MiG29K fighter aircraft. The French Navy was represented by aircraft carrier Charles De Gaulle, frigates FS Forbin and Provence, support vessel FS Marne and maritime patrol aircraft Atlantique.

INS Delhi visits Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

India's first indigenously built destroyer, INS Delhi, [visited](#) Trincomalee, Sri Lanka, from 15–17 January 2023. The ship participated in various activities with the Sri Lanka Navy (SLN), including professional and social interactions, cross-deck visits and sports fixtures. The ship is a part of the Indian Navy's Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam.

Indo-Egypt Joint Training Exercise Cyclone-I held in Rajasthan

The first-ever joint exercise between the special forces of the Indian Army and the Egyptian Army, named 'Exercise Cyclone-I',

[was held](#) at Jaisalmer in Rajasthan from 14-28 January 2023. The exercise helped share professional skills and interoperability of Special Forces in desert terrain while undertaking counter-terrorism, reconnaissance, raids and other special operations.

ICGS SHAURYA and RAJVEER deployed to Bangladesh

Indian Coast Guard Ships ICGS Shaurya and Rajveer [were on a six-day visit](#) to Chattogram, Bangladesh from 13-19 January 2023 to enhance the cooperative engagements and interoperability under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Indian and Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG). A joint exercise was held at sea with BCG ships to validate the established Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in the area of environmental protection and Search and Rescue.

Joint Air Defence Exercise with Japan 'Veer Guardian 2023' held

The inaugural edition of the bilateral air exercise 'Veer Guardian 2023' between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF) was [concluded](#) in Japan on 26 January 2023. The JASDF participated in the exercise with its F-2 and F-15 aircraft, while the IAF contingent participated with the Su-30 MKI aircraft. The IAF fighter contingent was complemented by one IL-78 flight refueling aircraft and two C-17 Globemaster strategic airlift transport aircraft. During the joint training spanning 16 days, the two Air Forces engaged in complex and comprehensive aerial manoeuvres in multiple simulated operational scenarios. Exercise 'Veer Guardian 2023' provided the two Air Forces with an opportunity to enhance mutual understanding and enabled them to obtain invaluable insight into each other's best practices.

'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'.