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Contents

Key Events

- PM Modi is Guest of Honour at Bastille Day Parade
- Nation Pays Tribute to Kargil War Heroes on 24th Kargil Vijay Diwas
- Raksha Mantri Inaugurates HAL's Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur
- Raksha Mantri Chairs MoD 'Chintan Shivir' in New Delhi
- Defence Minister of Argentine Republic Visits New Delhi and Bengaluru
- Defence Secretary Visits Myanmar
- DAC Approves Procurement of 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft and 3 Scorpene Submarines
- India-Russian Intergovernmental Commission Meeting Held
- 8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks Held in Canberra
- 10th India-Malaysia Sub Committee Meeting on Military Cooperation Held
- Government Committed to QA in Military Aviation: Defence Secretary
- ICG rescues 36 NIO crew off Karwar Coast
- Conference on Classification Regulations and Advanced Naval Technologies Held

Aatmanirbhar Bharat

- Mission Gaganyaan: First Batch of Crew Module Recovery Divers Complete Training
- MoD and HAL Sign Contract for Two Upgraded Dornier Aircraft for ICG
- MCA Barge Contract Concluded; Second ACTCM Barge Launched

Defence Diplomacy

- Adm R Hari Kumar Hands Over INS Kirpan to Vietnam
- Chief of Naval Staff Visits Oman
- INS Sunayna Visits Port Beira, Mozambique
- IN-FN Maritime Partnership Exercise Held off Visakhapatnam
- Lebanese Armed Forces Delegation visits Southern Naval Command
- Japan India Maritime Exercise 2023 (Jimex 23) Held
- IN-USN Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise, Salvex, Held
- INS Sunayna Participates in CMF Ex 'Op Southern Readiness 2023'
- India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise 'Nomadic Elephant 2023' Held
- INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata Visit Jakarta, Indonesia
- INS Khanjar Makes Port Call at Trincomalee

KEY EVENTS

PM Modi is Guest of Honour at Bastille Day Parade

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the [Guest of Honour](#) at the Bastille Day Parade in France on 14 July 2023. This year also marked 25 years of the India-France Strategic partnership. The parade [witnessed](#) a 269-member Tri-Services contingent of the Indian Armed Forces marching alongside their French counterparts.

The Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit noted that the India France defence and security partnership was string and extending from ‘[seabed to space](#)’. Both countries adopted the [Horizon 2047 Roadmap](#), pledging to build sovereign defence capabilities together. A Shareholders’ Agreement between HAL and Safran Helicopter Engine was concluded for engine development for Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH). It was noted that both countries were working towards adopting a roadmap on defence industrial cooperation.

Nation Pays Tribute to Kargil War Heroes on 24th Kargil Vijay Diwas

The nation paid rich tributes to the brave soldiers of the 1999 Kargil war on the 24th anniversary of India’s historic victory, which is [celebrated](#) as ‘Kargil Vijay Diwas’ on 26 July every year. To mark the day, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited the Kargil War Memorial at Dras in Ladakh, laid a wreath and paid homage to the valiant soldiers who displayed unparalleled bravery during ‘Operation Vijay’. The ceremony at Dras also witnessed a gathering of war heroes, Veer Naris and the families of the fallen heroes.

Raksha Mantri Inaugurates HAL’s Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited [Malaysia](#) from 10-11 July 2023, with focus

on further consolidating bilateral defence cooperation and Enhanced Strategic Partnership. The RM [held](#) extensive discussions with his Malaysian counterpart Dato’ Seri Mohamad Hasan in Kuala Lumpur on 10 July 2023. He also called on Prime Minister YB Dato’ Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim, besides meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs Dato’ Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir. The RM [inaugurated](#) the Regional Office of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 11 July 2023. It will also serve as a hub for the HAL’s engagement with the wider South-East Asian region and act as a window for other Indian Defense PSUs.

Raksha Mantri Chairs MoD ‘Chintan Shivir’ in New Delhi

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [chaired](#) a ‘Chintan Shivir’ of MoD in New Delhi on 6 July 2023. The day-long deliberations were spread over six sessions, covering important issues pertaining to Department of Defence (DoD), Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD (Finance), Department of Military Affairs (DMA), Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW) and Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). Several innovative proposals emerged related to defence indigenisation, health care and pension reforms, aspects relating to collaboration with DRDO, among others.

Defence Minister of Argentine Republic Visits New Delhi and Bengaluru

Defence Minister of Argentine Republic Jorge Enrique Taiana [arrived](#) in New Delhi on 17 July 2023 on a four-day visit to India. He held bilateral talks with Raksha Mantri on 18 July 2023 to further consolidate defence cooperation between the two countries. The Argentine Defence Minister visited Bengaluru too, where a [Letter of](#)

[Intent \(LoI\)](#) on productive cooperation and acquisition of light and medium utility helicopters was signed.

Defence Secretary Visits Myanmar

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane visited [Myanmar](#) from 30 June to 1 July 2023. He called on Chairman, State Administrative Council, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Defence Minister Gen (Retd.) Mya Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief, Myanmar Navy, Admiral Moe Aung and Chief of Defence Industries Lt Gen Khan Myint Than. Among issues discussed during the meetings included maintenance of tranquillity in the border areas, illegal trans-border movements and transnational crimes such as drug trafficking and smuggling.

DAC Approves Procurement of 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft and Scorpene Submarines

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), [held](#) under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri on 13 July 2023 granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft for the Indian Navy from the French Government based on Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA). The DAC also granted the AoN for procurement of three additional Scorpene submarines under Buy (Indian) category which will be constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

India-Russian Intergovernmental Commission Meeting Held

The 3rd meeting of the Working Group on Military Cooperation of the India-Russia Intergovernmental Commission on Military and Military-Technical Cooperation was [held](#) from 18–19 July 2023 at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The meeting was co-

chaired by Lt. Gen Johnson P Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), HQ-IDS, and Lt.Gen Dylevsky Igor Nikolaevich, Deputy Chief of the Main Operational Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation. The meeting discussed aspects relating to ongoing defence engagements between the two sides and mulled new initiatives under the ambit of the existing bilateral defence corporation mechanism.

8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks Held in Canberra

The 8th India-Australia Defence Policy Talks (DPT) was [held](#) at Canberra from 24-25 July 2023. Both sides reviewed bilateral defence cooperation, explored new initiatives to further strengthen and deepen defence engagements and focused on identifying ways to strengthen partnership in co-development and co-production of defence equipment. The Indian side highlighted the potential of the Indian defence industry with capacity and capability to cooperate with Australian Armed forces in its shipbuilding and maintenance plans.

10th India-Malaysia Sub Committee Meeting on Military Cooperation Held

The 10th meeting of Sub Committee on Military Cooperation between India and Malaysia was [held](#) in New Delhi on 27 July 2023. The Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), MoD Amitabh Prasad, while the Malaysian side was headed by Assistant Chief of Staff, Defence Operations and Training Division Maj Gen Dato' Khairul Anuar bin Abd Aziz. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to fully implement the India-Malaysia Enhanced Strategic Partnership, established in 2015.

Government Committed to Quality Assurance in Military Aviation: Defence Secretary

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane stated that the government was committed to ensure Quality Assurance (QA) in military aviation and is taking appropriate measures to remove obstacles in defence indigenisation. He was [delivering](#) keynote address at a workshop on QA Reforms in Military Aviation on 3 July 2023 in New Delhi. The objective of the workshop was to highlight the handholding initiatives undertaken by Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA), which facilitates the entry of Indian manufacturers into the defence aerospace manufacturing business.

ICG rescues 36 NIO crew off Karwar Coast

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) successfully [rescued](#) 36 crew including eight scientists on board a research ship, RV Sindhu Sadhana of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), in the Arabian Sea off Karwar Coast in Karnataka on 27 July 2023. The state-of-the-art research vessel was carrying valuable scientific equipment and research data. The proximity of the ship to the ecologically sensitive Karwar coastline posed an imminent threat of grounding, which could have resulted in a major oil spill.

Conference on Classification Regulations and Advanced Naval Technologies Held

The second edition of Conference on Classification Regulation and Advanced Technologies for Naval Ships and Auxiliaries was [organised](#) by Directorate of Naval Architecture, IHQ MoD (Navy) on 27-28 June 23 at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New

Delhi. The conference provided a technical forum to understand advancements in the role of Class Societies to promote indigenous warship building and its maintenance in line with international standards.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Mission Gaganyaan: First Batch of Crew Module Recovery Divers Complete Training

The first batch of crew recovery team of Mission Gaganyaan [completed](#) Phase-1 of training at Indian Navy's Water Survival Training Facility (WSTF) at Kochi on 2 July 2023. The team comprising of Indian Naval Divers and Marine Commandos underwent recovery training of crew module in varied sea conditions. The two weeks training capsule covered a brief on the conduct of the mission, actions to be taken during medical exigencies, familiarisation with different aircraft and their rescue equipment and also validated the SoPs formulated jointly by the Indian Navy and ISRO.

MoD and HAL Sign Contract for Two Upgraded Dornier Aircraft for ICG

The MoD [signed](#) a contract with HAL for procurement of two Dornier Aircraft for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) along with associated Engineering Support package at an overall cost of Rs 458.87 crore, on 7 July 2023. The aircraft will be procured under the Buy (Indian) Category.

MCA Barge Contract Concluded; Second ACTCM Barge Launched

The contract for construction of eight Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barges was [concluded](#) with M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd, Visakhapatnam, an MSME. The barges will

facilitate transportation, embarkation and disembarkation of articles/ammunition to IN Ships alongside jetties and at outer harbours. The second Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge, Yard 126 (LSAM 16) was [launched](#) on 19 July 2023 at M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Adm R Hari Kumar Hands Over INS Kirpan to Vietnam

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, on an official visit to Vietnam presided over the Decommissioning followed by handing over ceremony of [INS Kirpan](#), an indigenously built in-service Khukri-class missile corvette, to Vietnam People's Navy (VPN), on 22 July 2023 at Cam Ranh, Vietnam. The transfer of INS Kirpan reflects India's commitment to assist its like-minded partners in enhancing their capacity and capability, and is in consonance with the Government of India's policies of 'Act East' and 'Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR)'. The ship has been handed over with the complete weapons complement.

Chief of Naval Staff Visits Oman

Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, was on a three-day official [visit](#) to the Sultanate of Oman from 31 July to 02 August 2023. The visit aimed to consolidate existing bilateral defence relations. Coinciding with the visit, Indian Navy's indigenously designed and constructed Guided Missile Destroyer INS Visakhapatnam arrived at Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat on 30 July 2023 for a three-day port call, during which various naval cooperation events were scheduled with the Royal Navy of Oman, which

culminated with a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) on 3 August 2023.

INS Sunayna Visits Port Beira, Mozambique

INS Sunayna [visited](#) Beira, Mozambique from 28-30 June 2023 reinforcing India's cordial ties with maritime neighbours and vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). Joint training sessions were conducted on various aspects of navigation, fire-fighting, damage control, Visit Board Search & Seize (VBSS) and asymmetric warfare. Spreading the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam-One Family One Health', a joint yoga session was conducted with Mozambique Navy personnel on board Sunayna and a medical checkup camp was organised. Joint EEZ patrol off Mozambique coast was also part of the deployment.

IN-FN Maritime Partnership Exercise Held off Visakhapatnam

INS Rana, a guided missile destroyer, and INS Sumedha, an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel [undertook](#) a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy ship FS Surcouf, in the Bay of Bengal on 30 June 2023. These exercises included tactical manoeuvres, replenishment at sea (RAS) approaches, air defence against fighter aircraft and cross deck helicopter operations.

Lebanese Armed Forces Delegation visits Southern Naval Command

A five-member training delegation from [Lebanese Armed Forces](#) led by Brigadier General Hussein Bazzi visited Southern Naval Command, Kochi and Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala from 3-8 July 2023.

Japan India Maritime Exercise 2023 (Jimex 23) Held

The 7th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) [hosted](#) by the Indian Navy, was conducted at/ off Visakhapatnam from 5-10 July 2023. This edition marked the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012. The exercise was conducted over six days in two phases - a Harbour Phase at Visakhapatnam comprising professional, sports and social interactions, after which, the two navies jointly honed their warfighting skills at sea through complex multi-discipline operations in the surface, sub-surface and air domains.

IN-USN Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise, Salvex, Held

The 7th edition of Indian Navy–US Navy Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX was [conducted](#) from 26 June–06 July 2023 at Kochi. These joint salvage and EOD exercises have been held since 2005. The Diving teams of both the countries shared experiences on Maritime Salvage and trained together in various facets of EOD Operations on land as well at sea.

INS Sunayna Participates in CMF Ex ‘Op Southern Readiness 2023’

INS Sunayna visited Seychelles from 10-12 July 2023 to [participate](#) in Op Southern Readiness 2023 conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), a multinational initiative aimed at enhancing maritime security, countering piracy and ensuring

freedom of navigation in the region. Naval personnel from the US, Italy, UK, Seychelles Defence Forces & Marine Police, and member nations of European Union Naval Force (EUNAVFOR) participated in the exercises.

India-Mongolia Joint Military Exercise ‘Nomadic Elephant 2023’ Held

An Indian Army contingent comprising 43 personnel [participated](#) in the 15th edition of India-Mongolia joint military exercise ‘Nomadic Elephant 23’ at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from 17-31 July 2023. Soldiers of the Mongolian Armed Forces Unit 084 from and Indian Army soldiers from the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment participated in the exercise.

INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata Visit Jakarta, Indonesia

INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata, mission [deployed](#) in South Eastern IOR, arrived in Jakarta on 17 July 2023. Upon completion of the operational turnaround, the two ships participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) at sea with the Indonesian Navy.

INS Khanjar Makes Port Call at Trincomalee

INS Khanjar, an indigenously designed and built Khukri class missile corvette of the Eastern Fleet, mission [deployed](#) in the Southern IOR, arrived at Trincomalee, Sri Lanka for an operational turnaround, on 29 July 2023. The port call was aimed at further enhancing the close ties and interoperability between the Indian Navy and Sri Lanka Navy.

'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'.