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KEY EVENTS

PM Modi's State Visit to US; Defence High on Agenda

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a State visit to the US from 21-24 June 2023, with the visit being seen as a watershed moment in India-US ties. This was PM Modi's first State visit, while he has visited the US six times since 2014. The Prime Minister addressed a Joint Session of the US House of Congress on 22 June. PM Modi held discussions with President Joe Biden on 23 June, with both sides reaffirming the India-U.S Comprehensive Global and Strategic Partnership. The [Joint Statement](#) notes discussions spanning technology, clean energy and the Indo-Pacific. As for the defence partnership, both sides pledged to accelerate defence industrial cooperation, hailed the landmark signing of an MoU between General Electric (GE) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the manufacture of GE F-414 jet engines in India, welcomed India's emergence as a hub for maintenance and repair for forward deployed U.S. Navy assets, welcomed the setting up and launch of the India-U.S Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X), and welcomed India's plans to procure General Atomics MQ-9B HALE UAVs, which will be assembled in India.

GE F414 engines to be co-produced in India

[GE Aerospace](#) announced on 22 June 2023 that it has signed an MOU with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to produce jet engines for the Indian Air Force. The agreement includes the potential joint production of GE Aerospace's F414 engines in India. GE Aerospace noted that

it will continue to work with the U.S. government to receive the necessary export authorization. The engines are to power the IAF's Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk2. GE F 404 engines power the LCA Mk I fighter aircraft. 75 F404 engines have been delivered and another 99 are on order for LCA Mk1A. Eight F414 engines have been delivered as part of an ongoing development program for LCA Mk2.

DAC clears procurement of armed UAVs from the US

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on 15 June 2023 accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for acquisition of [31 MQ-9B](#) (16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian) High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for Tri-Services from the US through Foreign Military Sale (FMS) route. The cost of the deal is estimated to be over \$3 billion but the price will be negotiated once policy approval of the US Government is received.

Raksha Mantri holds talks with US Secretary of Defence

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) talks with the US Secretary of Defence, Lloyd Austin, in New Delhi on 5 June 2023. The two sides discussed bilateral defence cooperation issues and pledged to strengthen industrial cooperation. Both leaders welcomed the recently held inaugural dialogues on Defence Artificial Intelligence and Defence Space.

Raksha Mantri holds talks with the Defence Minister of Germany

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) talks with German Federal Minister of Defence,

Boris Pistorius, in New Delhi on 6 June 2023. Both Ministers reviewed the ongoing bilateral defence cooperation activities and explored ways to enhance the collaboration, particularly defence industrial partnership. The RM highlighted the opportunities that have opened up in the defence production sector, including the possibilities for German investments in the two Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Chief of Army Staff Visits Bangladesh

General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), [visited](#) Bangladesh from 5-6 June 2023. The Army Chief met the senior military leadership of Bangladesh and discussed avenues for further enhancing Indo-Bangladesh defence relations. On 6 June, the COAS reviewed the Passing Out Parade (POP) of officer cadets of the 84th Long Course at the Bangladesh Military Academy (BMA), Chattogram.

Raksha Mantri holds talks with the Minister of National Defence of Vietnam

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) talks with Minister of National Defence of Vietnam General Phan Van Gang in New Delhi on 19 June 2023. Progress on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives was reviewed. Both Ministers identified means to enhance existing areas of collaboration, especially relating to defence industry cooperation, maritime security and multinational cooperation. The RM also announced the gifting of an indigenously-built in-service Missile Corvette INS Kirpan, to the Vietnam People's Navy.

India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) launched

India-US Defence Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS X) was [launched](#) at an event in Washington DC, USA on 21 June 2023. The INDUS X event was co-organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), MoD and US Department of Defence (DoD) and hosted by US-India Business Council (USIBC). Anurag Bajpai, Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Promotion), MoD, led the Indian delegation in the two-day INDUS-X event. 15 Indian start-ups and 10 US start-ups, from multiple domains of maritime, AI, autonomous systems, and space, showcased their technologies to Indian and US stakeholders.

Deputy Chief of Naval Staff visits Kenya

VAdm Sanjay Mahindru, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS), [visited](#) Kenya from 21 - 23 June 2023. His visit coincided with Indian Naval Ship Sunayna making a port call at Mombasa as part of the 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' initiative of the Government of India as part of the 9th International Day of Yoga (21 June 2023) celebrations. The DCNS called on H.E. Aden Bare Duale, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Kenya, on 21 June 2023.

Indian Coast Guard evacuates 50 crew from jack-rig off coast of Gujarat

In a swift and well-coordinated move, Indian Coast Guard (ICG) [evacuated](#) 50 crew from jack-up rig 'KEY SINGAPORE/0' located 25 nm west of Okha, Gujarat on 13 June 2023 at Okha, Gujarat, as a preventive measure against severe cyclone Biprajoy. The Directorate

General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) had requested ICG for the evacuation.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

MoD signs Agreement with MDL for Medium Refit of submarine INS Shankush

MoD [signed](#) a Rs 2725 crore contract with M/S Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai on 30 June 2023 for Medium Refit with Life Certification (MRLC) of Sub-Surface Killer (SSK) Class of Submarine 'INS Shankush'. The submarine will be delivered in 2026.

DRDO Releases List of 75 Technology Priority Areas

DRDO [released](#) a list of 75 technology priority areas during the 'Anusandhaan Chintan Shivir' in New Delhi on 27 June 2023. DRDO Technology Foresight 2023 was also released, which identifies the technology areas on which various DRDO laboratories are currently working on. The technology priority area list will encourage indigenous defence manufacturing and will further promote self-reliance.

Consultative Committee on Promoting Self-Reliance meeting Held in Bengaluru

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) a meeting of the Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence on 'Self-reliance in Defence Manufacturing' in Bengaluru on 16 June 2023. The committee was informed about the measures taken by the MoD to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and the progress that has been made till now. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Defence Secretary Giridhar

Aramane, Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Vijoy Kumar Singh and Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr Samir Kamat also participated in the meeting.

MoD Signs Rs 500 Crore Contract for Radio Communication Systems

MoD signed a contract worth nearly Rs.500 crore under Buy (Indian) Category with ICOMM Tele Limited, Hyderabad on 15 June 2023. 1,035 numbers of 5/7.5 Ton Radio Relay Communication equipment containers will be [procured](#), the delivery of which is scheduled to begin from the current Financial Year 2023-24. The company will source all the equipment and sub-systems from indigenous manufacturers.

First ACTCM Barge delivered to the Indian Navy

M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane, an MSME, [delivered](#) the first Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge to Indian Navy on 9 June 2023. Ten more barges will be delivered as part of the contract. These barges will facilitate Transportation, Embarkation and Disembarkation of articles/ ammunition to Indian Navy Ships both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.

Contract for Procurement of 'Tactical LAN Radio' Signed By the Indian Army

The Indian Army [signed](#) the second procurement contract with M/s Astrome Tech Pvt Ltd, Bangalore on 9 June 2023 through iDEX for procurement of indigenously developed 'Tactical LAN Radio', for use in remote and difficult regions.

Ballistic Missile ‘Agni Prime’ successfully flight-tested by DRDO

‘Agni Prime’, the new generation ballistic missile was successfully [flight-tested](#) by DRDO from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on 7 June 2023. Three successful developmental trials have been held while the latest launch was the first pre-induction night launch, to validate the accuracy and reliability of the system. Raksha Mantri congratulated the DRDO and the Armed forces for the success of the launch.

Rajnath Singh and Boris Pistorius attend iDEX start-up and innovation showcase event

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and German Federal Minister of Defence Boris Pistorius [attended](#) an event of iDEX start-ups at IIT Delhi on 6 June 2023. The event showcased some significant technological innovations by Indian start-ups in Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality, Smart Drones and Anti-drone systems, Energy Systems, Space Propulsion systems and other allied technologies.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

INS Trishul visits Port Anjouan, Comoros

As part of the Indian Navy’s long-range deployment, INS Trishul [visited](#) port Anjouan, Comoros from 31 May to 2 June 2023. Professional interactions with Comoros Armed Forces and Comoros Coast Guard, sports fixtures and a joint Yoga session with Comoros Defence forces were undertaken by the ship during the stay in harbour. The ship also aided the Comorian Coast Guard in repairs of communication equipment and Navigation

Radar display installed at the Port Control. The ship conducted a medical outreach camp for local populace of Anjouan.

India, France and UAE Complete Maiden Maritime Partnership Exercise

India, France and UAE successfully [completed](#) the first ever trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise between three navies from 7-8 Jun 2023. A wide spectrum of operations at sea such as surface Warfare involving tactical firing and drills for Missile engagements, close quarter manoeuvres, Advanced Air Defence Exercise with French Rafale and UAE Dash 8 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, Helicopter Cross Landing Operations, Drills for Replenishment at sea were undertaken by the participating units. The exercise also saw cross embarkation of personnel that facilitated exchange of best practices.

Indo-Maldives Joint Military Exercise ‘Ekuverin’ Held

The 12th edition of joint military exercise ‘Ex Ekuverin’ between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force was [held](#) at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand from 11-24 June 2023. A platoon strength contingent from Indian Army and Maldives National Defence Force participated in the exercises, aimed at enhancing interoperability in Counter Insurgency/ Counter Terrorism Operations under the UN mandate and to carry out joint HADR operations.

Indian Army Contingent Participates in ‘Ex Khaan Quest 2023’ in Mongolia

Multinational Joint Exercise ‘Ex Khaan Quest 2023’ featuring participation from military contingents and observers from over 20 countries [commenced](#) in Mongolia

on 19 June 2023. The exercise is co-sponsored by Mongolian Armed Forces (MAF) and United States Army Pacific Command (USARPAC). The Indian Army was represented by a contingent from the Garhwal Rifles. The 14-day exercise aimed at enhancing interoperability of the participating nations and to train for the UN Peacekeeping Operations (UNPKO). The exercises included Command Post Exercise (CPX), Field Training Exercises (FTX), lectures and demonstration.

INS Tarkash at Muscat

INS Tarkash [made](#) a port call to Muscat, Oman from 19-22 June 2023. The ship undertook various activities in support of Government of India initiative 'Ocean Ring of Yoga' as part of 9th International Yoga Day 2023, in coordination with Embassy of India, Muscat.

INS Trishul Visits Port of Toamasina

INS Trishul [made](#) a port call at Toamasina, Madagascar from 19–22 June 2023. As part of the theme 'Ocean Ring of Yoga', 9th International Yoga Day was celebrated wherein 352 personnel comprising ship's company, officials from Governor's and Mayor's office, Malagasy Armed Forces, Women Police, members of Indian Embassy, doctors, nurses, members of Indian diaspora and local citizens participated.

INS Kirpan sets sail to Vietnam

During the visit of Gen Phan Van Giang, Minister of Defence of Vietnam, to India from 17–19 June 2023, Raksha Mantri

announced [gifting of in-service Khukri class missile corvette](#) INS Kirpan to the Vietnam People's Navy. This is the first time that India has gifted a fully operational Corvette to a friendly foreign country (FFC).

INS Trishul participates in Seychelles National Day Celebrations

INS Trishul [made](#) a port call at Seychelles. Prior to port call, it undertook joint EEZ surveillance. The ship participated in the Seychelles National Day celebrations on 29 June 2023.

INS Sunayna visits Mombasa, Kenya and Beira, Mozambique

INS Sunayna [visited](#) Mombasa, Kenya from 20-23 June 2023 towards strengthening bilateral ties with maritime neighbours on the theme of Ocean Ring of Yoga. Drills in Firefighting and Damage Control, asymmetric threat simulations and Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS) exercises were conducted during the harbour phase. A HADR capsule was also conducted onboard for the Kenya Navy. On departure from Mombasa, INS Sunayna undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Kenya Naval Ship Jasiri on 23 June 2023. INS Sunayna, then [entered](#) Port Beira, Mozambique on 28 June 2023. Both Navies engaged in professional exchanges, cross deck visits and sports fixtures. The ship conducted a medical camp as part of community outreach programme. On completion of harbour phase, a joint EEZ surveillance with Mozambique Navy was also conducted.

'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'.