

# DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol 2 | Issue 9 | September 2023



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

## Contents

### **Key Events**

- Raksha Mantri Dedicates BRO Infrastructure Projects
- Raksha Mantri Addresses North Tech Symposium in Jammu
- DAC approves AoN for nine capital acquisition proposals
- Indian Army and US Army Co-Host Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference
- Raksha Rajya Mantri Visits CVRDE, Chennai
- Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt visits Andaman & Nicobar Command
- Chief of Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy, Visits India
- Chief of General Staff, Brazilian Navy Visits New Delhi
- Naval Commanders' Conference Held
- Chief of Defence Staff visits Karwar Naval Base and INS Vikramaditya
- Adm Hari Kumar, Chief of The Naval Staff, Visits US
- Defence Secretary visits MDL, Mumbai
- HQ (IDS) Joint Doctrine Review Conference 2023 Held
- 10th India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee Meet Held
- 12th India-Malaysia Defence Cooperation Committee meeting Held
- US Under Secretary (Research & Engineering), DoD interacts with iDEX team
- Offshore Security Coordination Committee meets in Ahmedabad
- IAF and Drone Federation of India Co-Host Bharat Drone Shakti 2023
- Coastal Security Drill conducted by ICG

### **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**

- Deputy Chief of Air Staff Flies Hindustan Turbo Trainer HTT-40
- Stealth Frigate Mahendragiri Launched

### **Defence Diplomacy**

- INS Delhi Visits Colombo, Sri Lanka
- INS Sumedha Visits Alexandria, Egypt for Ex-Bright Star 23
- India France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Varuna' 2023 Held
- INS Sunayna Visits Port Victoria
- ICG Participates in 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting in Istanbul
- ICGS Samudra Prahari on an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries
- INS Nireekshak arrives in Trincomalee for Joint Dive Training
- INS Sharda Visits Mauritius
- Indian Naval Ships, Submarine & LRMP Aircraft Participate in SIMBEX 23
- Maiden India-Indonesia-Australia Trilateral Maritime Exercise Held
- ADMM Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Exercise Held
- Exercise Yudh Abhyas 23 Commences
- Long Range Training Deployment of First Training Squadron to South East Asia
- Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2023 Held

## KEY EVENTS

### **Raksha Mantri Dedicates BRO Infrastructure Projects**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [dedicated](#) to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), worth over Rs 2,900 crore, spread across 11 States/Union Territories, at an event in Jammu on 12 September 2023.

### **Raksha Mantri Addresses North Tech Symposium in Jammu**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [called](#) on the domestic defence manufacturers to invest more in R&D while addressing the North Tech Symposium, jointly organised by the Northern Command of the Indian Army, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT, Jammu on 12 September 2023.

### **DAC approves AoN for nine capital acquisition proposals**

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has [accorded](#) Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for nine capital acquisition proposals of approx. Rs 45,000 crore, on 15 September 2023. The AoN for procurement of Light Armoured Multipurpose Vehicles (LAMV), Integrated Surveillance and Targeting System (ISAT-S), High Mobility Vehicle (HMV), Gun Towing Vehicles, Next Generation Survey Vessels, Dhruvastra Short Range Air-to-Surface Missile for indigenously built ALH Mk-IV Helicopters, among others was cleared by the DAC.

### **Indian Army and US Army Co-Host Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC)**

The Indian Army and the US Army [co-hosted](#) the 13<sup>th</sup> IPACC, 47<sup>th</sup> Indo-Pacific

Armies Management Seminar (IPAMS) and 9<sup>th</sup> Senior Enlisted Leaders Forum (SELF), in New Delhi from 25-27 September 2023. Chiefs of Armies and delegates of 35 countries participated in the conference, held under the theme 'Together for Peace: Sustaining Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region'. Raksha Mantri [delivered](#) the Inaugural Address in which he emphasised that the Indo-Pacific region required concerted efforts for a prosperous, secure future.

### **Raksha Rajya Mantri Visits CVRDE, Chennai**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt [visited](#) DRDO's Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE), Avadi, Chennai on 5 September 2023. He reviewed the progress of on-going projects and appreciated the CVRDE fraternity for their contributions in the development of defence systems. The RRM rode the Main Battle Tank (Arjun Mk I A).

### **Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt visits Andaman & Nicobar Command**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt [visited](#) the headquarters of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) during a two-day visit to the islands that culminated on 18 September 2023. The RRM began his visit by paying homage to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at Sankalp Smarak at INS Utkrosh. It was followed by a courtesy meeting with Lt Governor Admiral DK Joshi (Retd).

### **Chief of Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy, Visits India**

Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, Chief of the Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy, was on five day official [visit](#) to India, from 12-16

September 2023. He met the Chief of the Defence Staff, Chief of the Naval Staff, Defence Secretary, and Foreign Secretary in addition to other high ranking officials. During his meeting with Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, issues related to enhancement of cooperation in the field of operations, training, information exchange and participation in multilateral constructs were discussed. Admiral Hassan later visited Mumbai, where he interacted with the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.

### **Chief of General Staff, Brazilian Navy Visits New Delhi**

A Brazilian Navy delegation led by Admiral José Augusto Vieira da Cunha de Menezes, Chief of General Staff [visited](#) New Delhi and met VAdm Sanjay J Singh, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff on 5 September 2023. The Brazilian delegation also held discussions with VAdm Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel on areas of mutual cooperation, with focus on Indian Navy's indigenisation efforts for achieving self-reliance in submarine maintenance.

### **Naval Commanders' Conference Held**

The second edition of 2023 Naval Commanders' Conference 2023 [was held](#) at New Delhi from 4-6 September 2023. The conference is the apex-level biannual event facilitating interaction between the Naval Commanders. Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt [addressed](#) praised the Navy for the efforts invested towards indigenisation and innovation. Interactions with the NSA, Chiefs of the Indian Army and the IAF analysed the operational environment and deliberated on Tri-Services synergy.

### **Chief of Defence Staff visits Karwar Naval Base and INS Vikramaditya**

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan [visited](#) the Naval Base at Karwar and aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya on 23 September 2023. He assessed the progress of critical infrastructure, accommodation and other strategic initiatives at the Naval Base.

### **Adm Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff, Visits US**

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) [attended](#) the 25<sup>th</sup> International Seapower Symposium (ISS) in the US from 19-22 September 2023. The CNS held bilateral engagements on the side lines with counterparts from the US, Australia, Egypt, Fiji, Israel, Italy Japan, Kenya, Peru, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the UK.

### **Defence Secretary visits MDL, Mumbai**

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane [visited](#) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai on 25 September 2023. He inaugurated a security complex of MDL. Aramane emphasised that efforts should be made by all DPSUs to make India self-reliant.

### **HQ (IDS) Joint Doctrine Review Conference 2023 Held**

The first 'Joint Doctrine Review Conference - 2023' (JDRC-2023) was [conducted](#) at the Manekshaw Centre on 22 September 2023. The first such conference aimed to bridge gaps in understanding between Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and the three Services in formulation of Doctrines, as also to review the progress of Joint Doctrines being formulated.

### **10<sup>th</sup> India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee Meet Held**

The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee on Defence Science, Technology and Industry Cooperation was [held](#) in New Delhi on 18 September 2023.

### **12<sup>th</sup> India-Malaysia Defence Cooperation Committee meeting Held**

The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) was [held](#) in New Delhi on 19 September 2023. Both sides reviewed the outcomes of the two sub-committee meetings – Sub Committee on Military Cooperation held on 27 July 2023 and Joint Sub Committee on Defence Science Technology and Industry Cooperation held on 18 September 2023. Both sides agreed to establish a Strategic Affairs working Group (SAWG) to formulate a consultative mechanism intermediate between the MIDCOM and the two Sub-committees.

### **US Under Secretary (Research & Engineering), DoD interacts with iDEX team**

A US delegation, led by Under Secretary (Research & Engineering), DoD Heidi Shyu, [met](#) a team of Innovations for Defence Excellence-Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) at IIT Delhi on 18 September 2023. Joint Secretary (Defence Industries Production) and Additional CEO of DIO Anurag Bajpai noted that iDEX and Defence Innovation Unit (DIU) teams have finalised two challenges to kick start joint challenges.

### **Offshore Security Coordination Committee meets in Ahmedabad**

The 135<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Offshore Security Coordination Committee (OSCC) was [held](#)

at Ahmedabad on 1 September 2023, under the chairmanship of DG, ICG. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, ONGC, DGH, DG Shipping, MHA, MEA, and DRDO, among others.

### **IAF and Drone Federation of India Co-Host Bharat Drone Shakti 2023**

The IAF partnered with the Drone Federation of India to [co-host](#) the 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' from 25-26 September 2023 at Ghaziabad. The drone industry gave live aerial demonstrations showcasing various drones that can be used for survey, agriculture, fire suppression, tactical surveillance, heavy-lift logistics, loitering munition systems, drone swarms, and counter-drone solutions. More than 75 drone start-ups and corporates participated in the event. The first C-295 MW medium lift tactical aircraft, capable of taking off and landing from unprepared landing grounds, was also inducted at the event. It will replace the HS-748 Avro aircraft.

### **Coastal security Drill conducted by ICG**

'Operation Sajag', a drill involving all stakeholders of the coastal security construct, was [conducted](#) by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast on 18 September 2023. Extensive checking and verification of documents and crew passes of all fishing boats, barges and craft at sea was undertaken.

## **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **Deputy Chief of Air Staff Flies Hindustan Turbo Trainer HTT-40**

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit AVSM VM VSM, Deputy Chief of the Air Staff flew the Hindustan Turbo Trainer Aircraft-40 (HTT-40) [Basic Trainer Aircraft](#), on 8

September 2023 at HAL, Bengaluru. The aircraft has been indigenously designed and developed by the Aircraft Research and Design Centre of HAL.

### **Stealth Frigate Mahendragiri Launched**

Mahendragiri, the seventh Stealth Frigate of Project 17A being built at MDL, was [launched](#) on 1 September 2023 at the shipyard by Dr (Smt.) Sudesh Dhankhar, wife of Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, who lauded MDL for its unwavering commitment and steadfast support to warship production and enhancement of country's defence capabilities.

## **DEFENCE DIPLOMACY**

### **INS Delhi Visits Colombo, Sri Lanka**

INS Delhi, guided missile destroyer, [arrived](#) at Colombo on 1 September 2023. The ship was on a two-day visit that coincided with the visit by the Raksha Mantri to Sri Lanka. The Raksha Mantri hosted the President of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe, along with other prominent dignitaries on board INS Delhi on 2 September 2023. The Raksha Mantri handed over state-of-the-art medical bricks that have been indigenously developed under project BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), on board INS Delhi. The visit concluded with a [Passage Exercise](#) at sea between INS Delhi and SLN ship Vijayabahu.

### **INS Sumedha Visits Alexandria, Egypt for Ex-Bright Star 23**

INS Sumedha [arrived](#) at Port Alexandria, Egypt on 6 September 2023 to participate in

'Exercise Bright Star 23'. It is the largest ever joint military exercise in Middle East and North Africa region, with participation from 34 countries.

### **India France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'Varuna' 2023 Held**

The Phase II of the 21<sup>st</sup> edition of Varuna-23 bilateral exercise between Indian and French Navy was [conducted](#) in the Arabian Sea on 8 September 2023. The exercise witnessed participation of guided missile frigates, tanker, Maritime Patrol Aircraft and integral helicopters from the two sides. The first phase of 'Varuna-2023' was [conducted](#) off India's Western Seaboard from 16-20 January 2023.

### **INS Sunayna Visits Port Victoria**

INS Sunayna, a ship based at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, [visited](#) Port Victoria, Seychelles from 3-6 September 2023.

### **ICG Participates in 19<sup>th</sup> Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting in Istanbul**

The Indian Coast Guard [participated](#) in the 19<sup>th</sup> Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) from 5-8 September 2023 at Istanbul, Türkiye. The independent forum includes 23 Coast Guard Agencies and 2 associate members in the form of ReCAAP and UNODC. Issues relating to maritime law enforcement, safety and security of life at sea, marine environment protection, illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, and humans at sea were discussed.

### **ICGS Samudra Prahari on an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries**

The Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Prahari, a specialized Pollution Control Vessel, is on an overseas [deployment](#) to ASEAN countries from 11 September to 14 October 2023. The ship is scheduled to make port calls in Bangkok, Ho Chi Minh, and Jakarta.

### **INS Nireekshak arrives in Trincomalee for Joint Dive Training**

INS Nireekshak, the Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel of the IN [arrived](#) on 14 September 2023 and undertook joint dive training with Sri Lankan Navy.

### **INS Sharda Visits Mauritius**

INS Sharda, IN's Offshore Patrol Vessel [visited](#) Port Louis, Mauritius 13–15 September 2023. The ship carried out joint EEZ surveillance with Mauritius National Coast Guard (MNCG).

### **Indian Naval Ships, Submarine & LRMP Aircraft Participate in SIMBEX 23**

Indian Naval Ships Ranvijay and Kavaratti and submarine INS Sindhukesari [participated](#) in the 30<sup>th</sup> edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX), which concluded on 28 September. Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I also participated. The INS ships engaged in advanced anti-submarine warfare, surface and air defence exercises, as well as tactical manoeuvres and weapon firings with assets of the Singapore Navy.

### **Maiden India-Indonesia-Australia Trilateral Maritime Exercise Held**

Indian Navy's indigenously built warship INS Sahyadri, mission deployed in Indo-Pacific, [participated](#) in the maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise with the ships and aircraft from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Indonesian Navy from 20-21 September 2023.

### **ADMM Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Exercise Held**

An Indian Army contingent consisting of 32 personnel from a battalion affiliated to the Rajputana Rifles [participated](#) in the ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023 conducted from 25-30 September 2023 in Russia. Russia is the co-chair of the EWG along with Myanmar.

### **Exercise Yudh Abhyas 23 Commences**

The 19<sup>th</sup> edition of EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS is being [conducted](#) from 25 September to 8 October 2023 at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, USA with the theme 'Employment of an Integrated Battle Group in Mountain/ Extreme Climatic Conditions' under Chapter VII of UN mandate.

### **Long Range Training Deployment of First Training Squadron to South East Asia**

The ships of First Training Squadron (1TS) - INS Tir, INS Sujata, Sail Training Ship

Sudarshini and CGS Sarathi are on a long-Range training [deployment](#) to South East Asia. The ships will visit Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam. Trainees from Bangladesh, Maldives, Mauritius and Vietnam are embarked onboard ITS for the deployment. In addition, personnel from Indian Army, Indian Air Force and NCC cadets are also embarked.

### **Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2023 Held**

The Maritime Information Sharing Workshop 2023 (MISW 23) [hosted](#) by the Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR), brought together 31 countries of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and the Djibouti Code of Conduct/ Jeddah Amendment (DCoC/JA), from 14-16 September 2023.

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