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KEY EVENTS

Raksha Mantri lays wreath at National War Memorial on Vijay Diwas

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh [laid a wreath](#) at the National War Memorial, New Delhi, on the occasion of Vijay Diwas on 16 December 2022. The Raksha Mantri, along with Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane and Vice Chief of the Naval Staff Vice Admiral SN Ghormade paid homage to the Armed Forces personnel who fought courageously in the 1971 war and laid down their lives in service to the nation.

Visit of Chief of the Naval Staff to Sri Lanka

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) [visited Sri Lanka](#) from 13 to December 16 2022. The CNS was invited as the Chief Guest and Reviewing Officer for the Commissioning Parade at the Naval and Maritime Academy (NMA), Trincomalee, held on 15 December 2022. During the visit, the CNS interacted with senior political and defence leadership of Sri Lanka.

Vice Chief of Army Staff's visit to Malaysia

Lieutenant General BS Raju, the Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS), [visited Malaysia](#) from 08 to December 10, 2022. During the visit, the Vice Chief took forward the excellent defence cooperation between India and Malaysia through multiple meetings with the country's senior military and civilian leadership.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Successful test firing of Brahmos missile

The Indian Air Force (IAF) [successfully fired](#) the Extended Range Version of Brahmos Air missile launched against a ship target from a SU-30MKI aircraft. The missile achieved the

desired mission objectives in the Bay of Bengal region. With this, IAF has achieved a significant capability boost to carry out precision strikes from SU-30MKI aircraft against land/ sea targets over very long ranges. The dedicated and synergetic efforts of the IAF, Indian Navy, DRDO, Brahmos Aerospace Limited (BAPL) and HAL have been instrumental in achieving this feat.

DRDO hands over AHSP of Akash Weapons system to MSQAA

DRDO [handed over](#) Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP) of Akash Weapon System (Indian Army Version) to Missile Systems Quality Assurance Agency (MSQAA) in Hyderabad on 3 December 2022. The handing over was held at Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), which, as a nodal agency, designed and developed the Akash weapon system. Raksha Mantri congratulated DRDO, the Indian Army and the industry, terming the AHSP transfer a landmark event. Akash is the first state-of-the-art indigenous surface-to-air missile system which has been with Armed Forces for nearly a decade.

iDEX signs 150th contract for defence innovation

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), the flagship initiative of the Department of Defence Production (DDP), has reached a milestone with the [signing of its 150th contract](#). Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the iDEX framework in 2018 to provide a platform for co-creation and co-development in the defence sector, engage start-ups and develop defence and aerospace set up in the country. iDEX is working at a path-breaking pace to ensure that its agreements with the start-ups and innovators reach logical conclusions timely, eventually opening a myriad of options for the budding soon-to-be-unicorns and, at the same time, addressing the requirement of the Services.

Defence Secretary lays keel of ASW warships in Kolkata

The keel laying of two warships (Yard 3033 and Yard 3036) of the Anti-submarine Warfare Shallow Craft (ASW SWC) project under construction by GRSE, Kolkata, [was undertaken](#) on 31 December 2022, by Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane. Speaking on occasion, Defence Secretary appreciated GRSE's efforts towards achieving the significant milestone. The ASW SWC ships will have over 80 per cent indigenous content, ensuring that large-scale defence production is executed by Indian manufacturing units, thereby generating employment and capability build-up within the country.

Scorpene submarine 'Vagir' delivered to Indian Navy.

The fifth submarine of the Project – 75 Kalvari Class submarines [was delivered](#) to the Indian Navy on 20 December 2022. These submarines are being constructed at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai, in collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.

Raksha Mantri launches INS Mormugao

Indian Naval Ship (INS) Mormugao, the second warship of the P15B class of stealth guided-missile destroyers, [was commissioned](#) in the presence of Raksha Mantri at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, on 18 December 2022. The event marked the formal induction of the second of the four 'Visakhapatnam' class destroyers, indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Warship Design Bureau and constructed by MDL, Mumbai. With over 75 per cent indigenous content, all her major weapons and sensors have been developed and manufactured in India either through design and development by Indian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) or through strategic tie-ups and Transfer of Technology (ToT) with reputed foreign OEMs.

Indian Coast Guard ALH Mk-III squadron commissioned in Chennai

In a significant boost to further strengthening the Coast Guard Region East, 840 Sqn (CG), an Indian Coast Guard Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mk-III squadron, [was commissioned](#) by DG Shri VS Pathania at ICG Air Station, Chennai on 30 November 2022. The aircraft can switch roles from an offensive platform with a heavy machine gun to that of a benign one carrying a Medical Intensive Care Unit to facilitate the transfer of critically ill patients. A total of 16 ALH Mk-III aircraft have been inducted into the Indian Coast Guard in a phased manner, and four of these aircraft are positioned in Chennai.

'Arnala' ASW ship launched in Chennai

'Arnala', the first of 08 x ASW SWC Project, being built by GRSE for the Indian Navy, [was launched](#) on 20 December 2022 at M/s L&T, Kattupalli, Chennai. Arnala class of ships will replace the Abhay class ASW Ships of the Indian Navy and are designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and Low-Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO), including subsurface surveillance in littoral waters. The ASW SWC ships will have over 80 per cent indigenous content.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Joint Staff talks with Maldives held in New Delhi

The 6th Joint Staff Talks (JST) between India and the Maldives [were held](#) in New Delhi on 20 December 2022. The JST is a forum established to boost defence cooperation between India and the Maldives through annual talks at the strategic and operational levels between HQ Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).

India China-Corps Commander level meeting held

The 17th round of India-China Corps Commander Level Meeting [was held](#) at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the

Chinese side on 20 December 2022. Building on the progress made after the last meeting on 17 July 2022, the two sides exchanged views on the resolution of the relevant issues along the LAC in the Western Sector in an open and constructive manner. The two sides agreed to maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels, and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest.

Indian Navy participates in International Fleet Review hosted by Bangladesh

An Indian Navy delegation led by Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command and three warships of the Indian Navy [participated](#) in the maiden International Fleet Review (IFR) hosted by Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar on 7 December 2022. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina reviewed the International Fleet comprising ships from Bangladesh Navy and eight ships from six foreign countries. The IN contingent was the largest amongst the participating foreign navies in this IFR. The other five participating ships were from China, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand and USA.

Indo-Nepal joint training exercise held

The 16th edition of Indo-Nepal joint training Exercise 'Surya Kiran-XVI' [was conducted](#) at Nepal Army Battle School, Saljhandi (Nepal), from 16 - 29 December 2022. The exercise is conducted annually to enhance interoperability in jungle warfare and counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain and HADR under UN mandate.

Indo-Kazakhstan joint military exercise held at Umroi (Meghalaya)

The 6th edition of the Indo-Kazakhstan joint training exercise 'KAZIND-22' [was conducted](#) at Umroi (Meghalaya) from 15 to

December 28 2022. The joint annual training exercise with the Kazakhstan Army was instituted in 2016 as Exercise Prabal Dostyk, which was later upgraded to a company-level exercise and renamed Ex Kazind in 2018. The exercise aimed at enhancing the ability to undertake counter-terrorist operations in semi-urban/jungle scenarios under a UN peace enforcement mandate.

India-Indonesia CORPAT held

The 39th edition of India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) [was conducted](#) from 8–19 December 2022. The CORPAT was executed along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) from 15 to December 16 2022, and concluded with a de-brief at Port Blair. INS Karmuk, L-58 (indigenously built Landing Craft Utility vessel) and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft participated in the CORPAT. KRI Cut Nyak Dien, a Kapitana Pattimura Class Corvette, represented the Indonesian side. As part of the Government of India's vision SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to enhance maritime security in the region.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Chief of the Naval Staff Visits Nagaland

Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) [visited Nagaland](#) on 7 December 2022. The visit coincided with activities undertaken by the IN as part of its outreach in the North East, including organising a medical camp in Niuland, Nagaland. The CNS called on Shri Neiphiu Rio, Chief Minister of Nagaland and attended the Hornbill Festival at the Naga Heritage Village Kisama as the Chief Guest, and also interacted with Naval veterans.

'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'.