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Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

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## KEY EVENTS

### Prime Minister's Maiden Sortie in LCA Tejas

Prime Minister Narendra Modi [visited](#) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) after his [maiden sortie](#) on Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas' twin-seater aircraft in Bengaluru on 25 November 2023. Shri Modi became the first Prime Minister to take a sortie in Tejas, the indigenously designed and developed fighter aircraft. The Prime Minister also visited HAL to look at production facilities of LCA Tejas aircraft and was briefed about the technology intensive work being done at HAL towards realising the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

### Raksha Mantri inaugurates 'India Manufacturing Show' in Bengaluru

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [inaugurated](#) the sixth edition of three-day 'India Manufacturing Show' in Bengaluru on 2 November 2023. Exhibitors showcased technologies, equipment and R&D in aerospace, defence engineering, automation, robotics and drones.

### India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue Held

US Secretary of Defence Lloyd Austin [visited](#) India on 9–10 November 2023 to co-chair the India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue, with Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh. The two Ministers [discussed](#) defence industrial cooperation and co-development and co-production.

### Raksha Mantri holds conversation with UK Secretary of State for Defence

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) a telephonic conversation with UK Secretary

of State for Defence Grant Shapps on 13 November 2023.

### Raksha Mantri attends 10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Meeting

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh attended the [10<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus](#) (ADMM-Plus) in Jakarta from 16-17 November 2023. The Raksha Mantri [affirmed](#) centrality of ASEAN and appreciated its role in promoting dialogue and consensus in the region. On the side-lines of the event, Rajnath Singh [held](#) bilateral meetings with the Defence Ministers of Indonesia, Vietnam and [Timor Leste](#).

### Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visits Singapore

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, [paid](#) a brief visit to Singapore on 18 November 2023. He paid tributes to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose by laying a wreath at the Indian National Army (INA) marker.

### Second India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue Held in New Delhi

Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles and Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong [visited](#) India from 19-20 November 2023 to co-chair the 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue with Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar. A bilateral meeting on defence cooperation was also held between Minister Marles and Raksha Mantri on 20 November. Both ministers [underscored](#) the need to enhance cooperation in maritime domain awareness, and in niche areas like Artificial Intelligence, anti-submarine, anti-drone and cyber warfare.

### **Raksha Mantri Speaks at DRDO Quality Conclave**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh called upon the Indian defence manufacturers to [create](#) a culture of quality in defence production, terming it as a prerequisite to compete in the international market. He was addressing the plenary session of DRDO Quality Conclave on the theme 'Quality Odyssey for Self-Reliance in Defence Products' in New Delhi on 29 November 2023.

### **Raksha Mantri inaugurates 40<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard Commanders' Conference**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [called](#) upon the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) to continue to work towards bolstering coastal defences and maritime capabilities of the country. He inaugurated the 40<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on 30 November 2023.

### **Chief of the Army Staff Visits Republic of Korea**

General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) visited [Republic of Korea](#) (ROK) from 19 November 2023. The COAS met top RoK Army leadership and visited key establishments relating to acquisition, innovation, drone combat unit, among others. 20 November is a historic day in India-RoK relations, as the 60 Para Field Ambulance of Indian Army landed in Busan in 1950 on this date to provide medical support during the Korean War.

### **15<sup>th</sup> India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue Held**

The 15<sup>th</sup> India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue was [held](#) in New Delhi on 1 November 2023. Both sides agreed to enhance collaboration in Service-to-Service

interactions, bilateral exercises and take forward cooperation in areas like cyber security.

### **IAF Contingent Participates in Dubai Air Show 2023**

An IAF contingent [participated](#) in the Dubai Airshow, from 13 to 17 November 2023. The IAF contingent comprised two indigenous platforms - the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv and a C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft.

### **First INDUS-X Investors Meet Held in Delhi**

The first INDUS-X Investors Meet was held on 8 November 2023 at New Delhi as a pre-cursor to the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue. The INDUS-X Educational Series (Gurukul) was launched during the event. The Gurukul initiative aims to help innovators /startups navigate the defence eco-system of the US and India.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> India-UK JWG meeting on Electric Propulsion Capability Partnership Held**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> India-UK Electric Propulsion Capability Partnership Joint Working Group [meeting](#) took place in New Delhi on 21 November 2023.

### **India-US Joint Exercise Vajra Prahar Commences in Umroi, Meghalaya**

The 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2023' [commenced](#) at Umroi from 21 November 2023. It will conclude on 11 December 2023. Both sides will jointly plan and rehearse a series of Special Operations, Counter Terrorist Operations, and Air Borne operations in simulated conventional and unconventional scenarios.

## HQ, IDS and CSIR ink MoU

A MoU between the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) was [signed](#) on 23 November 2023 in New Delhi for technical collaboration and joint research and development in the field of Defence Technology.

## Annual India and UK Defence Consultative Group Meeting Held

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane [co-chaired](#) the annual India-UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting in New Delhi on 24 November 2023, along with his UK counterpart David Williams, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence. Both sides reviewed defence cooperation activities, including in missile systems and electric Propulsion.

## Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2023 (IPRD-2023) Held

The fifth Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) was [held](#) in New Delhi from 15-17 November 2023 with the theme 'Geopolitical Impacts upon Indo-Pacific Maritime Trade and Connectivity'. Jagdeep Dhankhar, the Hon'ble Vice President of India, gave the Keynote Address.

## MAHASAGAR, 'Indian Navy's outreach initiative between Maritime Heads' Held

The maiden edition of the high-level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR was [hosted](#) by the Indian Navy on 29 November 2023, during which Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff interacted with Heads of Navies/ Maritime Agencies and Senior Leadership from IOR littorals.

## AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

### DAC Approves Capital Acquisition Proposals worth Rs 2.23 lakh Crore

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri on 30 November 2023, [accorded](#) approval in respect of Acceptance of Necessity (AoNs) for various Capital Acquisition Proposals amounting to Rs 2.23 lakh crore, of which, acquisition worth Rs 2.20 lakh crore (98 per cent of total) will be sourced from domestic industries. These included proposals for procurement of Light Combat Helicopters, Light Combat Aircraft Mk 1A, Medium Range Anti-Ship Missiles for surface platforms of Indian Navy as well as acquisition of Towed Gun System for Indian Army.

### Crest of INS Surat Unveiled

The crest of Indian Navy's under-construction, guided missile destroyer 'Surat', was [unveiled](#) by Bhupendra Patel, Chief Minister of Gujarat, in Surat, in presence of Adm R Hari Kumar, the Chief of the Naval Staff on 6 November 2023. The 'Project 15B' programme [involves](#) construction of four guided missile destroyers, of which 'Surat' is the fourth and the last ship.

### INS Imphal Crest Unveiled

The crest of Yard 12706 (Imphal), the third amongst the four Project 15B guided missile stealth destroyers being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was [unveiled](#) in New Delhi on 28 November 2023 by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in the presence of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh. This is the first capital warship to be named after a city in the North-Eastern region of India.

### **MoD Inks Contract with BHEL to Procure 16 upgraded Super Rapid Gun Mount**

The MoD [signed](#) a contract with M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Haridwar on 28 November 2023, for procurement of 16 Upgraded Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) for Indian Navy under Buy (Indian) category at a total cost of ₹2,956.89 Cr.

### **First Four Ships of ASW SWC (CSL) Project Launched**

Mahe, Malvan and Mangrol, the first three ships of 08 x ASW Shallow Water Craft (CSL) project being built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi for the Indian Navy, were [launched](#) on 30 November 2023. 'Amini', the 4<sup>th</sup> of the SWC being built by M/s GRSE, was earlier [launched](#) on 16 November 2023 at M/s L&T, Kattupalli. The first ship of the project is planned to be delivered in early 2024.

## **DEFENCE DIPLOMACY**

### **Maritime Security Meeting between Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy Held**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of annual International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) meeting between the Navies and Coast Guards of India and Sri Lanka was [held](#) on board INS Sumitra on 4 November 2023 off Point Calimere at Palk Bay. Issues relating to maritime security in the Palk Bay and Gulf of Mannar region, safety of fishermen, measures to curtail trafficking of contraband, among other issues, were discussed.

### **India and Bangladesh Navies Undertake CORPAT and Exercise Bongosagar**

The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of bilateral exercises between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was [conducted](#) in the northern Bay of Bengal from 7-9 November 2023.

### **INS Sumedha Makes Port Calls in Namibia and Mozambique**

INS Sumedha, [Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel \(NOPV\)](#) mission deployed to West Africa and Atlantic made a port call at Walvis Bay, Namibia from 10-13 November 2023. The ship arrived in Maputo, Mozambique on 21 November. INS Sumedha also operated in the [Gulf of Guinea](#) (GoG) undertaking a 31 days anti-piracy patrol. Another highlight of the deployment was the ships [participation](#) in the maiden India- EU Joint Exercise in the GoG.

### **India-Sri Lanka Joint Exercise Mitra Shakti 2023 Held**

The 9<sup>th</sup> edition of joint military exercise Mitra Shakti 2023 [commenced](#) on 16 November 2023 in Aundh (Pune). The aim of the exercise is to jointly rehearse conduct of Sub Conventional operations under Chapter VII of UN Charter.

### **Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel Sajag arrives at Muscat, Oman**

The ICG Ship Sajag, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, [arrived](#) at Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat on 29 November 2023, for a three-day visit as part of the deployment of ICG ships to West Asia.

'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'.