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KEY EVENTS

Raksha Mantri Calls for Effective Utilisation of Financial Resources

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, at the 276th Annual Day celebrations of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) on 1 October 2023, called for effective utilisation of financial resources to create stronger Armed Forces with modern arms and equipment. The RM Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [launched](#) several digital initiatives of DAD.

Raksha Mantri Holds Talks with Italian Defence Minister

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) talks with Italian Defence Minister Guido Crosetto in Rome on 9 October 2023, on the first leg of his visit to Italy and France. Both sides discussed defence cooperation issues, including training, sharing of information, maritime exercises and maritime security. The meeting was followed by the signing of the Agreement on Cooperation in the field of defence to help promote bilateral cooperation in varied defence domains. The RM also [met](#) with the CEOs and top industry leaders of Italian defence companies on 10 October 2023.

Raksha Mantri and French Minister of Armed Forces hold Defence Dialogue

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [conducted](#) the 5th Annual Defence Dialogue with French Minister of Armed Forces Sebastien Lecornu in Paris on 11 October 2023. Shri Singh visited the Safran Engine Division's R&D Centre at Gennevilliers near Paris and witnessed the latest developments in aero-engine technology. He also met with the CEOs of the top French defence companies with a focus on their plans for collaboration with India.

Raksha Mantri visits forward posts in Arunachal Pradesh

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh on 24 October 2023 [visited](#) forward posts in Arunachal Pradesh and carried out on-ground assessment of the operational preparedness. He interacted with the troops deployed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and celebrated Dussehra with them.

Goa Maritime Conclave 2023 Held

The 4th edition of Goa Maritime Conclave (GMC) 2023 was [held](#) from 29 to 31 October 2023 under the aegis of Naval War College, Goa. Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff hosted the Chiefs of Navies/ Heads of Maritime Forces/Senior Representatives from 12 Indian Ocean littorals. [Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh](#), delivering the Keynote Address, called for synergising efforts towards successfully combating threats that manifest either at or from the sea.

Adm Hari Kumar called for cooperative endeavours to resolve oceanic challenges. VAdm MA Hampiholi, the FOC-in-C Southern Naval Command, emphasised the persistent commitment of the Indian Navy towards a secure and inclusive IOR while Adm Arun Prakash (ret), former Chief of the Naval Staff, delivering the conclave address highlighted the value of collaboration among the IOR countries in ensuring open and secure global commons.

Raksha Mantri Inaugurates Air Force Commanders' Conference

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day [Air Force Commanders' Conference](#) in New Delhi on 26 October 2023. The RM emphasised on the need to enhance operational preparedness and highlighted the importance of joint planning. The RM pointed out that new trends have emerged in the field of air

warfare and flagged the need to learn from them to strengthen defence preparedness.

Army Commanders Conference Held

The [Army Commanders' Conference](#) was held from 16-20 October 2023 in New Delhi. The Conference was addressed by Raksha Mantri, General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) and Air Chief Marshall VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS). The RM emphasised on the need to draw lessons from the ongoing geopolitical crisis and conflicts.

Tri-Services Commanders' Conference 2023 (Western Grouping) Held

Tri-Services Commanders' Conference (TSCC)-2023 (Western Grouping) was [held](#) at Subroto park, New Delhi on 3-4 October 2023 under the aegis of Western Air Command. General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff presided over the event.

Chief of Army Staff visits Tanzania

General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of the Indian Army [embarked](#) on a visit to Tanzania from 2-5 October 2023. The visit coincided with the 2nd India Tanzania Mini DEFEXPO conducted at Dar-es-Salaam. Both countries have signed a MoU on Defence Cooperation in October 2003. The second meeting of the India-Tanzania Joint Defence Cooperation Committee was also held in Arusha, Tanzania in June 2023.

Zambian Defence Secretary Meets Defence Secretary

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane [held](#) a meeting with Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Zambia Norman Chipakupaku on 20 October 2023. The 2019 MoU on Defence Cooperation provides a framework for collaboration in various areas of defence.

FOC-in-C ENC Reviews Operational Readiness of the Eastern Fleet

Vice Adm Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command [reviewed](#) the operational readiness of the Eastern Fleet at sea on 9 October 2023. He witnessed various surface, sub-surface, air and anti-air operations by ships of the Eastern Fleet under the command of Rear Adm Gurcharan Singh Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet.

21st India-France Military Sub-Committee Meeting Held

The 21st edition of India-France Military Sub Committee (MSC) meeting was [held](#) on 16-17 October 2023 at Air Force Station, New Delhi. The MSC is a mechanism for regular talks at strategic and operational levels between HQ, IDS and the French Joint Staff HQ.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Fifth Positive Indigenisation List Released

To promote 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and innovation, a number of big-ticket announcements were [made](#) by Raksha Mantri during the plenary session of 'Swavlamban 2.0', the two-day seminar of Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIO), on 4 October 2023. The fifth Positive Indigenisation List of Department of Military Affairs (DMA) comprising 98 items. Highly complex systems, sensors, weapons and ammunition was released.

Shri Singh also launched 76 challenges for the industry under 10th Defence India Start-up Challenges (DISC 10) & DISC 10 PRIME of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and five problem statements under iDEX for Fauji. In addition, two INDUS X challenges under 'INDUS-X Mutual Promotion of Advanced

Collaborative Technologies' (IMPACT) challenges jointly finalised by iDEX and US Department of Defense (US DoD) were also launched. The RM also released the Indian Navy's updated Indigenisation Roadmap 'Swavlamban 2.0'.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Hands over Twin Seater LCA Tejas to the IAF

Raksha Rajya Mantri Ajay Bhatt said that the LCA Tejas [symbolizes](#) India's journey towards self-sufficiency in defence manufacturing. He was speaking at the handing over ceremony of LCA Tejas Twin Seater to the IAF in Bangalore on 4 October 2023.

MoD Signs Contract with CSL for Mid Life Upgrade of INS Beas

The MoD [signed](#) a contract on 16 October 2023 for Mid Life Upgrade and Re-Powering of 'INS Beas' with M/S Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) at cost of Rs. 313.42 Cr. INS Beas is the first of Brahmaputra Class Frigate to be re-powered from Steam to Diesel Propulsion.

Contract for Construction of First Indian Coast Guard Training Ship Signed

The MoD [signed](#) a contract for the construction of one Training Ship for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) with Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai at a cost of Rs 310 crore under the Buy (Indian-IDDM) category in New Delhi on 17 October 2023. The platform will have integral helicopter capabilities to provide basic sea training to 70 Coast Guard and other international under-trainee officers on multi-dimensional maritime aspects.

Third Project 15B Indigenous Destroyer Imphal Delivered to Indian Navy

Yard 12706 (Imphal), the third Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyer, being built

at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was [delivered](#) to the Indian Navy on 20 October, 2023. The Project is a follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers designed by the Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and [built](#) by MDL and is amongst the most technologically advanced warships in the world.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

ICGS Samudra Prahari visits Tanjung Priok Port, Indonesia

The Indian Coast Guard Ship Samudra Prahari, a specialized Pollution-Control Vessel, [arrived](#) at the port of Tanjung Priok, Jakarta, Indonesia, on 1 October 2023. During its overseas deployment from 11 September-14 October 2023, the specialized Pollution Control Vessel earlier made port call in Bangkok, Thailand from 16 September to 20 September 2023.

First Training Squadron in Port Klang, Malaysia

Ships of IN's First Training Squadron (1TS) - INS Tir, INS Sujata, and ICGS Sarathi [visited](#) Port Klang, Malaysia. The ships of First Training Squadron (1TS) - INS Tir, INS Sujata and CGS Sarathi [visited](#) Port Klang, Malaysia from 30 September to 3 October 2023. The trainees of 1TS visited National Hydrographic Centre and facilities at Lumut Naval Base and interacted with the trainees of Royal Malaysian Navy.

Indian and Bangladesh Armies Begin Joint Exercise

India and Bangladesh [commenced](#) the 11th edition of annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI on 3 October 2023 in Umroi, Meghalaya. The exercise was scheduled for 14 days and involved approximately 350 personnel from both sides.

Ships of First Training Squadron Visit Changi, Singapore

Ships of First Training Squadron (ITS) - INS Tir, INS Sujata, Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini and ICGS Sarathi, [entered](#) Changi, Singapore on 4 October 2023. Various cross training visits, professional and community interaction activities were conducted.

Annual Joint HADR Exercise Chakravat 2023 Held

The annual Joint HADR Exercise CHAKRAVAT was held at Goa from 9-11 October 2023. The exercise [concluded](#) with a Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration at Mole Berth, within the Port of Mormugao, to showcase drills on rescue and relief. It involved participation of all three Services, Paramilitary Forces, as well as several disaster response organisations, NGOs, academic institutions and representatives from eight countries of the Indian Ocean Region.

INS Sumedha Makes Port Call at Lagos, Nigeria

INS Sumedha made a [port call](#) at Lagos, Nigeria on 13 October 2023 as part of its deployment to Gulf of Guinea. Sumedha will also be undertaking Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with NNS Unity, with the aim to augment interoperability between both navies.

Operational Sea Training with South African Ship SAS Mendi Conducted

An eight-member team from Headquarters Sea Training (HQST), Indian Navy (IN) [undertook](#) Operational Sea Training and Safety Audit of SAS Mendi, at Simons Town from 2-13 October 2023, in collaboration with South African Navy (SAN) Operational Sea Training Team (OST).

Exercise Harimau Shakti-2023 Commences in Umroi Cantt

Joint bilateral training exercise Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023 between the Indian and Malaysian Army [commenced](#) in Umroi Cantonment, India on 23 October. The Malaysian Army contingent comprises troops from 5th Royal Battalion while Indian contingent is being represented by The Rajput Regiment. The exercises seek to enhance military capability for conduct of multi domain operations in a sub conventional scenario.

EU and India Carry Out Maiden Joint Naval Exercise

On 24 October 2023, the European Union (EU) and India [conducted](#) their first joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea. The exercise followed the third meeting of the EU-India Maritime Security Dialogue on 5 October 2023 in Brussels. INS Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, was joined by three EU Member States' ships in the Gulf of Guinea – Italian Navy Ship ITS Foscari, French Navy Ship FS Ventôse, and Spanish Navy Ship Tornado.

'INS Sagardhwani' Embarks on Sagar Maitri Mission-4

INS Sagardhwani, an oceanographic research vessel of Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO, [embarked](#) on a two-month long Sagar Maitri (SM) Mission-4 from Kochi on 11 October 2023. Sagar Maitri is a novel initiative of DRDO that supports the objective of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR). DRDO's 'MAITRI (Marine and Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative)' focuses on establishing long-term collaboration with IOR countries in the field of ocean research and development.