

# DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol 3 | Issue 4 | April 2024



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 Addresses Army Commanders' Conference
- Raksha Mantri Visits Siachen
- Adm Dinesh K Tripathi PVSM, AVSM, NM Assumes Command of IN
- CDS Addresses 79<sup>th</sup> Staff Course at DSSC, Wellington
- CDS Chairs Maiden Tri-Service Conference on Jointness & Integration
- CDS Gen Chauhan Visits France
- INS Sharda Awarded on the Spot Unit Citation
- Naval Investiture Ceremony 2024 Held
- COAS Visits Republic of Uzbekistan
- Defence Secretary leads Indian delegation to SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting
- Operation Meghdoot Anniversary Celebrated
- Visit by Admiral Adoong Pan-Iam, Commander-in-Chief Royal Thai Navy
- Visit by Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, Chief of Royal Australian Navy
- ICG & Royal Oman Police Coast Guard officials Meet in New Delhi
- Army Medical Corps Celebrates 260<sup>th</sup> Raising Day
- Indian Navy Conducts Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast
- INSV Tarini Returns after Historic Transoceanic Expedition

### **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**

- Defence Exports Touch Record Rs 21,083 Crore in FY 2023-24
- New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime Successfully Flight-Tested
- Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System Trials Successful
- DRDO Workshop on 'Emerging Technologies & Challenges for Exoskeleton' Held
- Testing & Evaluation Hub for Sonar Systems for Indian Navy Inaugurated
- Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile Successfully Flight-Tested by DRDO
- DRDO Hands Over Indigenous Equipment to HAL for LCA Tejas Mk1A
- Steel Cutting of Third Cadet Training Ship at M/S L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli Held
- DRDO develops Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket
- Successful Test of New Version of Medium-Range Ballistic Missile
- Steel Cutting of First Fleet Support Ship for IN at HSL Held

### **Defence Diplomacy**

- ICG's Pollution Control Vessel Makes port Call in Vietnam, Muara, Brunei
- India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Held

## KEY EVENTS

### Raksha Mantri Addresses Army Commanders' Conference

The Army Commanders' Conference was [held](#) in New Delhi in virtual mode on 28 March and thereafter in physical mode from 1-2 April 2024. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in his keynote address [reaffirmed](#) the Indian Army's indispensable role in national security. Apart from the existing security scenario, issues related to organisational restructuring, human resource management, modernisation through indigenisation, and induction of niche technologies, among others, were discussed.

### Raksha Mantri Visits Siachen

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh on 22 April 2024 [visited](#) Siachen, the world's highest battlefield. He was accompanied by COAS General Manoj Pande, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar and General Officer Commanding, 14 Corps Lt Gen Rashim Bali.

### Adm Dinesh K Tripathi PVSM, AVSM, NM Assumes Command of IN

Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM, assumed [command](#) of the Indian Navy on 30 April 2024 as the 26<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Naval Staff. He succeeded Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC. A Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, he has served on frontline warships of the Navy as Signal Communication Officer and Electronic Warfare Officer and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of the Guided Missile Destroyer INS Mumbai.

### CDS Addresses 79<sup>th</sup> Staff Course at DSSC, Wellington

CDS General Anil Chauhan [highlighted](#) the need for military leaders to adapt to the changing character of war and underscored the importance of inter services synergy, while addressing the 79<sup>th</sup> Staff Course titled 'Future Leaders of the Indian Armed Forces' at the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington on 5 April 2024.

### CDS Chairs Maiden Tri-Service Conference on Jointness & Integration

Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering Tri-Service Conference aimed at generating new initiatives and reforms to propel Jointness and Integration efforts, was [held](#) in New Delhi on 8 April 2024. It was chaired by CDS, General Anil Chauhan.

### CDS Gen Chauhan Visits France

CDS General Anil Chauhan [visited](#) France from 21-28 April 2024. He interacted with his counterpart General Thierry Burkhard, Director IHEDN (National Institute for Higher Defence Studies), and Director General Armament. He visited the [French Space Command](#), the Land Forces Command and addressed student officers of the Army and Joint Staff Course at Ecole Militaire (School of Military). Gen Chauhan also had interactions with defence industries such as Safran Group, Naval Group, and Dassault Aviation.

### INS Sharda Awarded on the Spot Unit Citation

Adm R Hari Kumar, CNS during his visit to Southern Naval Command, Kochi, [awarded](#) 'On the Spot Unit Citation' to INS Sharda for successful conduct of anti-piracy operations on 6 April 2024. The ship was involved in the safe release of 19 crew

members (11 Iranian & 8 Pakistani) of Iranian fishing vessel Omari held hostage by pirates off East coast of Somalia.

### **Naval Investiture Ceremony 2024 Held**

Naval Investiture Ceremony 2024 was [held](#) at INS Hansa, Goa on 14 April 2024 to felicitate naval personnel who have demonstrated gallantry, leadership, professional accomplishment and distinguished service of a high order. CNS Adm Hari Kumar conferred Gallantry and Distinguished Service awards to the recipients on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India.

### **COAS Visits Republic of Uzbekistan**

General Manoj Pande, the COAS, [visited](#) the Republic of Uzbekistan from 15-18 April 2024. He held discussions with the Defence Minister of Uzbekistan, the First Deputy Minister of Defence and Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, and the Deputy Minister and Chief of Air and Air Defence Forces.

### **Defence Secretary Leads Indian delegation to SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting**

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane [led](#) the Indian delegation to Astana, Kazakhstan from 25-26 April 2024 for the annual meeting of the Defence Ministers' of SCO Member States. A protocol was [signed](#) and a Joint Communique was issued, in which the SCO Defence Ministers agreed, amongst other initiatives, to develop the idea of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future', rooted in the ancient Indian philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

### **Operation Meghdoot Anniversary Celebrated**

Operation Meghdoot was [launched](#) on 13 April 1984, when the Indian Army and IAF

advanced to the Siachen glacier to secure the heights dominating the Northern Ladakh region. IAF helicopters have been operating in the Siachen Glacier since 1978, when a Chetak helicopter landed on the glacier in October 1978. RM Rajnath Singh [termed](#) the operation as a golden chapter of the country's military history.

### **Visit by Admiral Adoong Pan-Iam, Commander-in-Chief Royal Thai Navy**

Admiral Adoong Pan-Iam, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Navy visited India from 1-3 April 2024. He [interacted](#) with Adm R Hari Kumar, the CNS, at New Delhi on 01 April 2024. He also called on the CDS, COAS, Defence Secretary, and the National Maritime Security Co-ordinator. The Admiral also met representatives of Indian defence industries and had an interactive session with IN officials from the Warship Design Bureau.

### **Visit by Vice Admiral Mark Hammond, Chief of Royal Australian Navy**

VAdm Mark Hammond, Chief of Royal Australian Navy, [interacted](#) with Adm R Hari Kumar, CNS, at New Delhi on 3 April 2024. Discussions focused on avenues to strengthen bilateral maritime cooperation. VAdm Mark Hammond also visited IN's Southern Naval Command (at Kochi) and Western Naval Command (at Mumbai).

### **ICG & Royal Oman Police Coast Guard officials Meet in New Delhi**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual High-Level Meeting between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Royal Oman Police Coast Guard (ROPCG) took [place](#) in New Delhi on 23 April 2024. The ROPCG delegation also met with representatives from SIDM Delhi on 25 April 2024.

### **Army Medical Corps Celebrates 260<sup>th</sup> Raising Day**

Army Medical Corps [celebrated](#) its 260<sup>th</sup> Raising Day on 3 April 2024. Raised in the year 1764, the Corps has rendered selfless service to the nation over centuries of progress, development, dedication & sacrifice, both in combat and in peace, living up to the Corps motto of ‘Sarve Santu Niramaya’ meaning ‘let all be free from disease’.

### **Indian Navy Conducts Exercise Poorvi Lehar on the East Coast**

Indian Navy [conducted](#) Exercise Poorvi Lehar on East Coast under the Operational Control of the Flag Officer C-in-C, Eastern Naval Command on 20 April 2024, towards assessment of IN’s preparedness to meet maritime security challenges. The exercise also witnessed participation of assets from IAF, Andaman & Nicobar Command and the Coast Guard.

### **INSV Tarini Returns after Historic Transoceanic Expedition**

The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini [returned](#) triumphant to her base port at Goa on 21 April 2024 after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months duration. The expedition was undertaken in double-handed mode by Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, women officers of the Indian Navy. The expedition was flagged off from Goa by renowned circumnavigator and their mentor Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd) on 28 February 2024.

## **ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **Defence Exports Touch Record Rs 21,083 Crore in FY 2023-24**

Defence exports [touched](#) a record Rs 21,083 crore (approx. US\$ 2.63 Billion) in

FY 2023-24, a growth of 32.5 per cent over the last fiscal when the figure was Rs 15,920 crore. Defence exports have grown by 31 times in the last 10 years. Export authorisations have risen from 1,414 2022-23 to 1,507 in 2023-24.

### **New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime Successfully Flight-Tested**

Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with DRDO, [conducted](#) the successful flight-test of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime off the coast of Odisha on 3 April 2024. The launch was witnessed by the CDS, Chief of SFC and senior officials from DRDO & the Indian Army. RM Rajnath Singh noted that the successful development and induction will be an excellent force multiplier for the Armed Forces.

### **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System Trials Successful**

Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System, indigenously designed and developed by DRDO, has been field [evaluated](#) in different flight configurations with the objective of proving the technology with high superiority.

### **DRDO Workshop on ‘Emerging Technologies & Challenges for Exoskeleton’ Held**

The first international workshop on ‘Emerging Technologies & Challenges for Exoskeleton’ was [held](#) in Bengaluru on 16-17 April 2024. The workshop was organised by the Defence Bio-Engineering & Electromedical Laboratory of DRDO, and was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat, along with Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Lt Gen JP Mathew.

### **Testing & Evaluation Hub for Sonar Systems for Indian Navy Inaugurated**

The Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) was [inaugurated](#) by Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat at Underwater Acoustic Research Facility, Kulamavu in Idukki, Kerala on 17 April 2024. The facility, set up by the Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory of DRDO, is a testing and evaluation hub for sonar systems.

### **Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile Successfully Flight-Tested by DRDO**

DRDO [conducted](#) a successful flight-test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) off the coast of Odisha on 18 April 2024. The test established the reliable performance of the indigenous propulsion system developed by Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), Bengaluru. The missile is developed by Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) along with contribution from other laboratories and Indian industries.

### **DRDO Hands Over Indigenous Equipment to HAL for LCA Tejas Mk1A**

DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) [handed](#) over the first batch of the indigenous Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to HAL on 19 April 2024. The successful completion of flight trials paves the way for production clearance, enabling HAL to gear up for equipping the Mk-1A variant of LCA Tejas.

### **Steel Cutting of Third Cadet Training Ship at M/S L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli Held**

The steel cutting ceremony of the [third Cadet Training Ship](#) (Yard-18005) was held at M/s L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, on 20

April 2024, presided over by Giridhar Aramane, Defence Secretary in the presence of Arun Ramchandani, Executive VP, L&T Precision Engineering & System.

### **DRDO develops Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket**

DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has successfully [developed](#) the lightest bullet proof jacket in the country for protection against 7.62 x 54 R API (Level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition. Recently, this bullet proof jacket was successfully tested at TBRL, Chandigarh as per BIS 17051-2018.

### **Successful Test of New Version of Medium-Range Ballistic Missile**

A successful launch of the new variant of a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile was [carried](#) out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command on 23 April 2024. The user launch has proven the operational capability of the Command and validated new technologies.

### **Steel Cutting of First Fleet Support Ship for IN at HSL Held**

The 'Steel Cutting' ceremony of the first of the five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) was [held](#) at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam on 10 April 2024, in presence of Giridhar Aramane, Defence Secretary, VAdm Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command and Cmde Hemant Khatri (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director, HSL. On induction, the ships will bolster the 'Blue Water' capabilities of the IN through replenishment of fleet ships at sea. They will also be equipped for HADR operations.

## DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

### ICG's Pollution Control Vessel Makes port Call in Vietnam, Muara, Brunei

ICG Pollution Control Vessel Samudra Paheredar, with an integral helicopter, [made](#) a port call at Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam on 2 April 2024 as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to ASEAN countries. The ICG's PCV Samudra Paheredar then made a port [call](#) at Muara, Brunei on 9 April 2024. The visit of the vessel is in pursuance

with India ASEAN Initiative for marine pollution announced during the 2022 meeting of the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus.

### India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Held

An Indian Army contingent [participated](#) in the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of annual India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK conducted from 15-28 April 2024 at Termez, Uzbekistan.

'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'.