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Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

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KEY EVENTS

President Pays Homage to 1971 War Heroes on the Occasion of Vijay Diwas

President Smt Droupadi Murmu [led](#) the nation in paying homage to the valiant soldiers of the 1971 war on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, celebrated on 16th December every year to commemorate India's historic victory over Pakistan.

President's Colours Awarded to College of Defence Management, Secunderabad

President Smt. Droupadi Murmu [awarded](#) the President's Colours to the College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad on 20 December 2024. The award acknowledges the college's outstanding contributions to professional military education.

Raksha Mantri Visits Russia

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited the [Russian Federation](#) from 8-10 December 2024. The RM and Russian Defence Minister Andrey Belousov co-chaired the 21st meeting of India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) in Moscow on 10 December 2024. The RM stressed on [new opportunities](#) for enhancing participation of Russian industries in the 'Make in India' projects. The RM [called](#) on President Vladimir Putin on 10 December 2024. Both leaders expressed that partnership between both countries held immense potential.

INS Tushil Commissioned

The Indian Navy [commissioned](#) its latest multi-role stealth guided missile frigate,

INS Tushil (F 70), at Kaliningrad, Russia, on 9 December 2024. The ceremony was presided over by the Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi accompanied the RM for the commissioning ceremony.

RM Chairs Consultative Committee Meeting on New DPSUs

A meeting of Consultative Committee for the Ministry of Defence (MoD) under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh was [held](#) in New Delhi on 17 December 2024. The committee members were apprised on the financial figures, modernisation, capital expenditure, exports, new products developed and ongoing R&D projects.

RM Addresses Indian National Academy of Engineering's Annual Convention

The RM [called](#) upon the scientists and engineers to gain command over high-end technologies, such as AI & Quantum Computing, to further strengthen India's position in the field of frontier and cutting-edge innovation. He was addressing the inaugural session of Indian National Academy of Engineering's Annual Convention at IIT Delhi on 19 December 2024.

RM Lauds Efforts of Indian Army Training Institutes

The Raksha Mantri [lauded](#) the contribution of the training institutions of the Indian Army. He was on a visit to the three Premier Training Institutes of the Indian Army - Army War College (AWC), Infantry School and Military College of Telecommunication & Engineering (MCTE) in Mhow, Madhya Pradesh on 29

December 2024, accompanied by Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi and other senior officers of the Indian Army.

Indian Navy Showcases Spectacular Operational Demonstration at Puri

On the occasion of Navy Day 24, the Indian Navy [displayed](#) its operational might and prowess through an Operational Demonstration (Op Demo) at Blue Flag Beach, Puri, Odisha on 4 December 2024. President Smt. Droupadi Murmu was the Chief Guest for the event hosted by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff. The Op Demo [saw](#) the participation of 15 warships, aircraft comprising MiG 29K and MH 60R, along with combat beach reconnaissance by the Marine Commandos of the Indian Navy.

Chief of Naval Staff Visits Indonesia

Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), was on a four day [visit](#) to Indonesia from 15-18 December 2024. The CNS met with Lt Gen Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin (ret), Defence Minister of Indonesia, General Agus Subiyanto, Commander of Indonesian Armed Forces and Admiral Muhammad Ali, Chief of Staff of Indonesian Navy.

CAC Commanders' Conference Held

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff [visited](#) Headquarters Central Air Command (CAC) from 18-19 December 2024 for the CAC Commanders' Conference 2024.

WAC Commanders' Conference Held

A two day Commanders' Conference of Western Air Command (WAC) of the IAF

was [held](#) on 6-7 December 2024 at New Delhi, with Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) as the chief guest.

DG DIA Visits Greece

The Director General, [Defence Intelligence Agency](#) (DIA) Lieutenant General DS Rana visited Greece from 10-11 December 2024. DG DIA interacted with Deputy Chief of Defence Vice Admiral Christos Sasiakos and Directors at the Hellenic National Defence General Staff.

ICG Holds Bilateral Meeting with Philippine Coast Guard

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) [conducted](#) a bilateral meeting with Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) on 9 December 2024, at ICG HQs, New Delhi. The meeting focused on enhancing collaboration in Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR), Maritime Law Enforcement, Marine Pollution Response, and Capacity Building.

Chief of Army Staff, Nepali Army Visits India

Suprabal Janasewashree [General Ashok Raj Sigdel](#), Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) of the Nepali Army, visited India from 11-14 December 2024. General Sigdel [called](#) on Ajit Doval, NSA, General Anil Chauhan, the Chief of the Defence Staff, Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary and Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary. Gen Sigdel [called](#) on Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on 12 December 2024. The RM congratulated the Chief of Army Staff of Nepal for the conferment of Honorary rank of General of the Indian Army.

9th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue Held in New Delhi

The 9th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue took [place](#) in New Delhi on 12 December 2024. Both sides agreed for early establishment of JWG to monitor defence industry cooperation.

Combined Graduation Parade Held at Air Force Academy

The Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) was [held](#) at the Air Force Academy (AFA) Dundigal Hyderabad on 14 December 2024. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), was the Reviewing Officer (RO) of the parade.

DRDO, IIT Delhi and Industry Sign Tripartite Agreements

At an event organised by DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence ([DIA-CoE](#)) at IIT Delhi on 19 December 2024, 10 tripartite agreements were signed among DRDO, IIT Delhi and industry partners, in the presence of Chairman DRDO Samir Kamat, Director, IIT Delhi Prof Rangan Banerjee and industry representatives.

Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade Held

To mark the successful completion of training of Air Force Special Forces operatives of 'Garud' force, Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade was [held](#) on 21 December 2024 at Garud Regimental Training Centre.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

DAC Approves Capital Acquisition Proposals worth Rs. 21,772 Crores

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on 3 December 2024, [accorded](#) Acceptance

of Necessity (AoN) for 5 capital acquisition proposals amounting to over Rs. 21,772 Crores. These related to procurement of Fast Interceptor Craft, Electronic Warfare Suite (EWS), Next Generation Radar Warning Receiver, and Advanced Light Helicopters, among others.

Annual Idea and Innovation Competition 2024 'Inno-Yoddha' Held

The Indian Army [conducted](#) the Idea & Innovation Competition and Seminar, Inno-Yoddha 2024-25 in New Delhi on 5 December 2024, in the presence of General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff. The selected innovations are taken forward through product improvement by Research and Development (R&D) / Design and Development (D&D) / Army Technology Board (ATB) Projects and Base Workshops.

MoD Signs Contract with HAL for Procurement of 12 Su-30MKI Aircraft

The contract for procurement of 12 Su-30MKI aircraft along with associated equipment was [signed](#) between MoD and HAL on 12 December 2024, at an approximate cost of 13,500 Crore. The aircraft would have an indigenous content of 62.6 per cent.

Indian Light Tank Achieves Major Milestone

Indian Light Tank (ILT) [achieved](#) a major milestone by firing a number of rounds at different ranges at an altitude of more than 4200m with consistently accurate results. This was subsequent to the Phase I trial in desert environment in September 2024. The light tank has been designed and

developed by Combat Vehicles Research & Development Establishment (CVRDE) and manufactured by Larsen & Toubro.

RRM Presides over Commissioning of INS Nirdeshak

INS Nirdeshak, the second ship of Survey Vessel (Large) project, was [commissioned](#) into the Indian Navy, in a ceremony presided over by Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth on 18 December 2024 at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam. The ship is designed to conduct hydrographic surveys, aid in navigation, and support maritime operations.

MoD Inks Rs 7,629 Crore Contract with L&T for K9 VAJRA-T Guns

The MoD [signed](#) a contract on 20 December 2024 with Larsen & Toubro Limited for procurement of 155 mm/52 calibre K9 VAJRA-T Self-Propelled Tracked Artillery Guns for the Indian Army under Buy (Indian) category at a total cost of Rs 7,628.70 crore.

Yard 12707 (SURAT) and Yard 12651 (Nilgiri) Delivered to Indian Navy

Two warships, a destroyer (Surat) and a frigate (Nilgiri) were [delivered](#) to the Indian Navy on 20 December 2024. The ships have been designed and constructed indigenously by the Warship Design Bureau of Indian Navy and M/s MDL, respectively. Surat is the fourth and final Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyer, after INS Visakhapatnam, Mormugao and Imphal.

MoD Signs Two Contracts for AIP and EHWT

MoD [signed](#) contracts on 30 December 2024 worth Rs 2,867 crore for the construction of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) Plug for DRDO-AIP system (with MDL) and integration of Electronic Heavy Weight Torpedo (EHWT) on board the Kalvari-Class submarines (with Naval Group, France).

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

India and Cambodia Hold CINBAX Exercises

The first edition of Joint Table Top Exercise, [CINBAX](#), between the Indian Army and the Cambodian Army was held from 1-8 December at Foreign Training Node, Pune.

India-Malaysia Joint Military Exercise Harimau Shakti Held

The 4th edition of India- Malaysia Joint Military Exercise [HARIMAU SHAKTI](#) was held at Bentong camp, Malaysia from 2-15 December 2024.

Sri Lanka-India Exercise SLINEX-24 Held

Bilateral naval exercise SLINEX 2024 was [conducted](#) from 17-20 December 2024 at Visakhapatnam under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command.

ICG Vessels Make Port of Call in Maldives

Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Vaibhav and Fast Patrol

Vessel ICGS Abhiraj [made](#) a port of call at Male, Maldives on 16 December 2024 as part of their overseas deployment to the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

INS Sarvekshak Arrives at Port Louis

INS Sarvekshak arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius on 26 December 2024 to [undertake](#) Joint Hydrographic Survey.

INS Tushil at Casablanca, Morocco

As part of strengthening the bilateral relations and naval cooperation between India and Morocco, INS Tushil [arrived](#) at Casablanca, Morocco on 27 December 2024. Both navies engaged in a PASSEX at sea to improve interoperability and share the best practices.

'The Defence 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'.