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Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

CONTENTS

KEY EVENTS

- **Raksha Mantri Calls for a Technology-First Defence Ecosystem**
- **Raksha Mantri Calls for Leveraging India's Shipbuilding Ecosystem**
- **Four DPSUs Conferred MINIRATNA Status**
- **Raksha Mantri Visits LBSNAA Mussoorie**
- **Raksha Mantri Visits DMSRDE**
- **India–Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue Held**
- **CDS Highlights Tech-Driven Transformation in Modern Warfare**
- **Chief of the Naval Staff Visits the United States**
- **17th India–Israel JWG Meeting on Defence Cooperation Held**
- **15th India–Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue Held**
- **13th India–Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee Meeting Held**
- **India–Germany High Defence Committee Meets in New Delhi**
- **Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Navy Visits India**
- **IFC-IOR Hosts Maritime Information Sharing Workshop**
- **Tri-Services Joint Exercise TRISHUL Held**
- **DRDO–DGA Sign Agreement to Expand Defence R&D Cooperation**
- **Agreements for MH-60R Sustainment Support Signed**

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

- **GSAT-7R Satellite Launched**
- **BEL–Safran JV to Produce HAMMER Precision-Guided Weapon**
- **MoD Signs Contract for INVAR Anti-tank Missiles**
- **P17A frigate Taragiri Delivered**
- **Indian Army Secures IPR for New Coat Combat (Digital Print)**
- **DRDO Unveils Man-portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles**
- **INS IKSHAK Commissioned**
- **INS Mahe Commissioned**

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

- **INS Sahyadri Visits Manila**
- **India–Nepal Exercise SURYAKIRAN XIX Held**
- **Indian Naval LCUs Visit Colombo**
- **INS Savitri Visits Port Louis, Port Beira and Port Victoria**
- **Exercise MALABAR 2025 Held**
- **India–Sri Lanka Joint Exercise Mitra Shakti XI Held**
- **IAF Deploys Su-30MKI for Exercise Garuda in France**
- **India–UK Exercise Ajeya Warrior-25 Held in Rajasthan**

KEY EVENTS

Raksha Mantri Calls for a Technology-First Defence Ecosystem

At the Delhi Defence Dialogue organised by the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) on 11 November 2025, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh stressed that India cannot afford to remain a technology consumer and must evolve into a genuine technology creator. He highlighted the need for tighter integration across the soldier-scientist-startup-strategist chain to unlock this transition. The RM argued that self-reliance must now extend beyond manufacturing to digital sovereignty—control over algorithms, data and semiconductor supply chains. Strategic autonomy, he emphasised, will be meaningful only when India's codebase becomes as indigenous as its hardware. He also urged the Armed Forces to actively benchmark global standards in training, logistics, planning, and management systems. The RM highlighted MP-IDSA's role in studying and contextualising these best practices for Indian requirements.

Raksha Mantri Calls for Leveraging India's Shipbuilding Ecosystem

Raksha Mantri (RM) Rajnath Singh addressed *Samudra Utkarsh*, a Department of Defence Production seminar showcasing domestic shipyard capabilities, on 25 November 2025. He urged international partners to collaborate with India to co-develop next-generation maritime systems and strengthen global supply chains. The RM underlined that Indian yards are emerging as competitive players in the worldwide commercial and dual-use naval sector. The event also featured the release

of a 10-year AI roadmap for Indian shipyards.

Four DPSUs Conferred MINIRATNA Status

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new DPSU Bhavan in New Delhi on 10 November 2025 and chaired a performance review of all 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings. Four entities: Munitions India Ltd, Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd, India Optel Ltd and Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, were formally felicitated by the RM for achieving Miniratna (Category-I) status. The RM directed DPSUs to accelerate indigenisation, expand R&D, improve delivery timelines and adopt a clear roadmap for future technology development.

Raksha Mantri Visits LBSNAA Mussoorie

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, addressing the valedictory ceremony of the 100th Common Foundation Course at the LBSNAA, Mussoorie, on 29 November 2025, commended the bravery of the soldiers during Op Sindoar and appreciated the work carried out by the administrative officers as they communicated crucial information and ensured the successful conduct of mock drills across the country. He emphasised increased coordination between governance and national security to make the country a *Viksit Bharat* by 2047.

Raksha Mantri Visits DMSRDE

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited the DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research & Development Establishment (DMSRDE) in Kanpur on 30 November 2025. The RM witnessed demonstrations of

products developed in ceramics, stealth materials, polymers, fuels, technical textiles and personal protection systems. He appreciated DMSRDE's contributions, including advanced bulletproof jackets, naphthyl fuel for BrahMos, and CBRN protection systems. The RM encouraged expanding industry interactions and exploring export potential.

India–Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue Held

Defence Minister of Indonesia, Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin, arrived in New Delhi on 27 November 2025 for the third India–Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue with Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh. The meeting focused on regional security, multilateral cooperation and practical avenues to expand defence ties.

CDS Highlights Tech-Driven Transformation in Modern Warfare

Addressing the Delhi Defence Dialogue on 11 November 2025, the Chief of Defence Staff, Gen Anil Chauhan, stated that technological superiority is now a primary determinant of battlefield success and that militaries that fail to adapt will fall behind. He underlined the need for military leadership to remain agile, as innovation, partnerships and organisational reforms are increasingly shaping the character of war.

Chief of the Naval Staff Visits the United States

Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi visited the [United States](#) from 12 to 17 November 2025. The CNS held talks with senior officials of the U.S. Department of War and met Adm Samuel J. Paparo, Commander USINDOPACOM, and Adm Stephen T. Koehler, Commander USPACFLT, along with other senior naval leaders. The agenda

included shared maritime priorities in the Indo-Pacific and collaboration within multilateral platforms such as MILAN and the Combined Maritime Forces.

17th India–Israel JWG Meeting on Defence Cooperation Held

The 17th meeting of the India–Israel Joint Working Group on defence cooperation was [held](#) in Tel Aviv, co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and the Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defence, Maj Gen (Res). Amir Baram on 4 November 2025. The two sides signed an MoU on Defence Cooperation to expand the scope of bilateral defence ties.

15th India–Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue Held

India and Vietnam [held](#) the 15th Defence Policy Dialogue in Hanoi on 10 November 2025. The meeting, co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Vietnam's Deputy Minister of National Defence, Sr. Lt. Gen. Hoang Xuan Chien, reviewed ongoing cooperation in hydrography, capacity building, and collaboration in emerging technology areas. Both sides agreed to expand engagement in cybersecurity and military medicine, among others.

13th India–Oman Joint Military Cooperation Committee Meeting Held

The 13th meeting of the Joint Military Cooperation Committee between India and Oman was [co-chaired](#) by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Dr Mohammed Bin Naseer Bin Ali Al Zaabi, Secretary General, Ministry of Defence, Oman, in New Delhi on 24 November 2025. The discussions placed strong emphasis on deepening defence industrial collaboration.

India–Germany High Defence Committee Meets in New Delhi

India and Germany [convened](#) the latest High Defence Committee meeting in New Delhi on 18 November 2025, co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and German State Secretary Jens Plötner. Both sides stressed the importance of closer defence industrial collaboration, including co-development and co-production, particularly in niche and high-end technology domains.

Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Navy Visits India

Rear Admiral Mohamed Tahin, Inspector of the Royal Moroccan Navy, was on an official visit to India from 24–27 November 2025, [aimed](#) at strengthening maritime cooperation and expanding bilateral naval engagements. The visit highlighted the growing convergence between India and Morocco on maritime security and domain awareness in the Indo-Atlantic space. During the visit, Rear Admiral Tahin held bilateral discussions with Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff.

IFC-IOR Hosts Maritime Information Sharing Workshop

The Information Fusion Centre–Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) [hosted](#) the third Maritime Information Sharing Workshop (MISW) in Gurugram from 3–5 November 2025. The MISW was launched in 2019 and has evolved into a key operational forum for sharing best practices and improving interoperability against non-traditional maritime threats.

Tri-Services Joint Exercise TRISHUL Held

The Indian Navy [led](#) the Tri-Services Exercise (TSE-2025) Trishul in early November 2025, in coordination with the

Indian Army and Indian Air Force. Trishul was designed to refine joint responses to emerging threats and reinforce the armed forces' ability to operate as a coherent, integrated force in complex operational environments.

DRDO–DGA Sign Agreement to Expand Defence R&D Cooperation

DRDO and France's Directorate General of Armaments (DGA) [concluded](#) a Technical Agreement in New Delhi on 20 November 2025, aimed at tightening bilateral defence R&D collaboration.

Agreements for MH-60R Sustainment Support Signed

The Ministry of Defence [signed](#) Letters of Offer and Acceptance with the US for five-year follow-on support and supply support of the Indian Navy's MH-60R fleet, valued at about ₹ 7,995 crore, on 28 November 2025. The arrangement boosts the operational availability of the MH-60R helicopters—including their anti-submarine warfare role.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

GSAT-7R Satellite Launched

ISRO [launched](#) the Indian Navy's GSAT-7R (CMS-03) communication satellite on 2 November 2025. The fully indigenous 4,400-kg satellite is the heaviest communication platform India has developed to date.

BEL–Safran JV to Produce HAMMER Precision-Guided Weapon

BEL and Safran Electronics & Defence (SED) [signed](#) a Joint Venture Cooperation Agreement (JVCA) on 24 November 2025 in New Delhi to produce the Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range (HAMMER) precision-guided air-to-ground weapon. The localisation plan

includes a phased increase in indigenisation up to 60 per cent, with key electronics, mechanical parts and sub-assemblies to be produced domestically.

MoD Signs Contract for INVAR Anti-tank Missiles

The Ministry of Defence [signed](#) a Rs 2,095.70 crore contract with Bharat Dynamics Limited for the procurement of INVAR laser-guided anti-tank missiles under the Buy (Indian) category. The contract was concluded on 13 November 2025. It will enhance the firepower of the T-90 tanks deployed with the Indian Army's armoured regiments.

P17A frigate Taragiri Delivered

The IN [received](#) Taragiri, the fourth Nilgiri-class (Project 17A) frigate and the third built by MDL on 29 November 2025. The platform features major upgrades over the P17 class, including enhanced stealth shaping, a CODOG propulsion system, IPMS-based control, and a comprehensive weapons suite comprising BrahMos, MF-STAR, MRSAM, SRGM, and close-in systems, as well as anti-submarine rockets and torpedoes. The frigate has 75 per cent indigenous content and was built with the participation of over 200 MSMEs.

Indian Army Secures IPR for New Coat Combat (Digital Print)

The Indian Army has [secured](#) Intellectual Property Rights for the New Coat Combat (Digital Print). Developed by NIFT under an Army Design Bureau project, the three-layered coat uses advanced technical textiles and features an ergonomic design.

DRDO Unveils Man-portable Autonomous Underwater Vehicles

DRDO's Naval Science & Technological Laboratory [developed](#) a new generation of

man-portable autonomous underwater vehicles designed for mine countermeasure missions. Each unit is equipped with side-scan sonar and underwater cameras, supported by deep-learning-based target recognition algorithms that enable autonomous detection and classification of mine-like objects, reducing operator load and accelerating mission timelines.

INS IKSHAK Commissioned

The Indian Navy [commissioned](#) INS Ikshak, the third vessel of the Survey Vessel (Large) class, during a ceremony at Naval Base Kochi on 6 November 2025. The ship carries advanced hydrographic and oceanographic systems. It is also the first in the class with dedicated accommodation for women.

INS Mahe Commissioned

INS *Mahe*, the lead vessel of the new Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft, was [commissioned](#) into the IN on 24 November 2025. Designed with more than 80 per cent indigenous content, the class draws on a broad ecosystem of domestic suppliers, including BEL, L&T Defence, Mahindra Defence Systems, NPOL and over 20 MSMEs.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

INS Sahyadri Visits Manila

INS *Sahyadri* conducted an exercise with the Philippine Navy before its port call at Manila during its ongoing Indo-Pacific deployment on 27 November 2025. The interaction included tactical communication drills, manoeuvres, VBSS exercises and flying operations.

India–Nepal Exercise SURYAKIRAN XIX Held

The 19th edition of India-Nepal Exercise SURYAKIRAN was [held](#) at Pithoragarh

from 25 November to 8 December 2025. The exercise incorporated emerging technologies such as UAS, drone-based ISR, AI-enabled decision tools and unmanned logistics platforms.

Indian Naval LCUs Visit Colombo

Indian Naval LCUs 51, 54 and 57 undertook a port call to Colombo from 22–25 November 2025, from the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

INS Savitri Visits Port Louis, Port Beira and Port Victoria

INS Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed in the Indian Ocean Region, visited Port Louis, Mauritius, on 2 November 2025, Port Beira, Mozambique, on 10 November 2025 and Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 22 November 2025. These deployments included joint EEZ surveillance with the host ships and aircraft.

Exercise MALABAR 2025 Held

INS *Sahyadri* arrived at Guam on 9 November 2025 to participate in the multilateral Exercise Malabar 2025. The harbour phase included operational planning, communication alignment, cross-deck interactions and sports activities. This was followed by the sea phase, featuring joint drills in fleet operations, anti-submarine warfare, gunnery exercises and flying operations.

India–Sri Lanka Joint Exercise Mitra Shakti XI Held

The eleventh edition of Exercise Mitra Shakti was held at Belagavi, Karnataka, from 10 to 23 November 2025. The exercise was centred on sub-conventional operations under the UN Chapter VII mandate.

IAF Deploys Su-30MKI for Exercise Garuda in France

The IAF deployed a Su-30MKI contingent to Mont-de-Marsan for Exercise Garuda with the French Air and Space Force on 15 November 2025. Strategic airlift support was provided by C-17 aircraft, with IL-78 tankers enabling extended-range operations during the deployment. The exercise involved complex air-combat missions with French multirole fighters.

India–UK Exercise Ajeya Warrior-25 Held in Rajasthan

The eighth edition of the India–UK joint military exercise Ajeya Warrior-25 was held at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges from 17 to 30 November 2025. The exercise centred on counter-terrorism operations in semi-urban terrain. The exercises have been held biennially since 2011.

'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'.