

DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol 4 | Issue 4 | April 2025



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

- Defence Exports Surge to a Record High of Rs 23,622 Crore in 2024-25
- Army Commanders Conference 2025 Held
- Naval Commanders' Conference 2025 Held
- Raksha Mantri: Armed Forces Must Operate Jointly and Remain Future-Ready
- Raksha Mantri Meets Crown Prince of Dubai and Defence Minister of UAE
- RM Reiterates India's Firm Resolve of Zero Tolerance against Terrorism
- RRM Calls on Tanzanian Vice-President in Dar es Salaam
- Defence Secretary: IFA's are Crucial Enablers of Transparency
- Defence Secretary Calls on Italian Defence Minister in Rome
- Defence Secretary Visits the UK
- Tri-services All Women Circumnavigation Sailing Expedition Flagged Off
- IGA Inked with France for 26 Rafale-Marine Aircraft for the Indian Navy

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

- Project Sanction Order Inked for 6MW Marine Diesel Engine
- DRDO and Indian Army Conduct Successful MR-SAM Flight-Tests
- Rs 2,385 Crore Contract Inked with BEL for EW Suites for Mi-17 V5 Helicopters
- Glide Bomb 'Gaurav' Trials Successfully Conducted from Su-30 MKI Aircraft
- DRDO Achieves Significant Milestone in Scramjet Engine Development

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

- Indo-U.S Joint HADR Amphibious Exercise Tiger Triumph Held
- International Crew Training of IOS Sagar Concludes
- India-Russia Bilateral Naval Exercise Indra 2025 Held
- INS Tarkash Undertakes PASSEX with Royal New Zealand Navy Ship
- INS Sahyadri Visits Colombo, Srilanka
- Africa India Key Maritime Engagement 2025 Held
- India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Dustlik-VI Held
- IAF Participates in Multinational Exercise Desert Flag-10 in UAE
- MNDF Huravee Handed over to Maldivian Coast Guard

KEY EVENTS

Defence Exports Surge to a Record High of Rs 23,622 Crore in 2024-25

Defence exports [surged](#) to a record high of Rs 23,622 crore in the FY 2024-25, a growth of Rs 2,539 crore or 12.04 per cent over FY 2023-24, which were Rs 21,083 crore. The private sector and DPSUs contributed Rs 15,233 crore and Rs 8,389 crore respectively in 2024-25, whereas the corresponding figures for 2023-24 were Rs 15,209 crore and Rs 5,874 crore respectively.

Army Commanders Conference 2025 Held

The Army Commanders' Conference was [held](#) in New Delhi from 1-4 April 2025. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh delivered the keynote address. The RM highlighted the commendable role played by the Army in guarding our borders and fighting terrorism apart from providing assistance to the civil administration in every need of hour. A presentation on the Indian Army's focus in the 'Year of Reforms' was made. The Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan also addressed the senior leadership of the Army as did the CEO, NITI Aayog B.V.R. Subrahmanyam.

Naval Commanders' Conference 2025 Held

The First Edition of Naval Commanders' Conference 2025 was [conducted](#) in two phases. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, [presided](#) over the inaugural session of the conference at Karwar, with the CDS Gen Anil Chauhan, Defence Secretary Rajesh Singh, senior MoD officials and Naval

Commanders in attendance. The RM commended the Navy's contribution in strengthening India's maritime security. Raksha Mantri also [flagged-off](#) Indian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel, INS Sunayna, as Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR (Security & Growth for All in the Region) in Karwar, Karnataka on 5 April 2025. He also inaugurated modern operational, repair and logistic facilities constructed under Project Seabird worth over Rs 2,000 crore.

Phase 2 of Conference commenced with an inaugural [address](#) by Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS, at Nausena Bhawan on 7 April 2025. The CNS commended the achievements of the Navy in maintaining a Combat Ready force through successful exercises, increased operational availability of platforms and joint operations with Indian Army and Indian Air Force. Shri Vikram Misri, Foreign Secretary, shared his views on the emerging global order, foreign policy challenges and the role of Indian Navy in national diplomacy.

Raksha Mantri: Armed Forces Must Operate Jointly and Remain Future-Ready

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, while addressing the Armed Forces officers of India and friendly countries during the Convocation Ceremony of the 80th Staff Course of [DSSC](#), Wellington, Tamil Nadu on 10 April 2025, stated that "armed Forces must operate jointly and remain future-ready in today's ever-evolving multi-domain environment where cyber, space & information warfare etc. are as potent as conventional operations."

Raksha Mantri Meets Crown Prince of Dubai and Defence Minister of UAE

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) a meeting with the Crown Prince of Dubai and Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Defence of UAE Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum at New Delhi on 8 April 2025. Both the Ministers acknowledged active participation in each other's exhibitions and defence expos, and welcomed the India-UAE Defence Partnership Forum which has the potential to result in strategic Joint Ventures and co-production projects. They also agreed to focus on complementarities in the Make-in-India and Make-in-Emirates initiatives.

Raksha Mantri Reiterates India's Firm Resolve of Zero Tolerance against Terrorism

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [assured](#) the people that those responsible for the cowardly terrorist attack on innocent citizens in Pahalgam, J & K will soon get a befitting reply. He was delivering a memorial lecture on the Marshal of the Indian Air Force (IAF) Arjan Singh in New Delhi on 23 April 2025. The RM reiterated India's firm resolve of zero tolerance against terrorism and stated that the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will take every necessary and appropriate step.

RRM Calls on Tanzanian Vice-President in Dar es Salaam

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth [called](#) on Vice-President of Tanzania Philip Isidor Mpango and Minister of Defence and

National Service Stergomona Lawrence Tax in Dar es Salaam on 14 April 2025. The RRM updated the Kenyan leadership on the Africa-India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) and Defence Expo, jointly organised by the Department of Defence Production, MoD and FICCI on 13 April 2025.

Defence Secretary: IFA's are Crucial Enablers of Transparency

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [lauded](#) the role of Integrated Financial Advisors (IFA) as crucial enablers of transparency, accountability and responsiveness in defence financial system, while addressing a two day IFA Conference 2025, organised by Defence Accounts Department (DAD), MoD, from 3-4 April 2025, in Hampi, Karnataka. He highlighted the RM's directive for DAD to become a Centre of Excellence in Defence Finance and Economics.

Defence Secretary Calls on Italian Defence Minister in Rome

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [visited](#) Rome, Italy from 14-15 April 2025. He called on the Defence Minister of Italy Guido Crosetto. Shri Singh co-chaired the 11th India-Italy annual bilateral Joint Defence Committee meeting with his Italian counterpart, Secretary General of Defence Luisa Riccardi.

Defence Secretary Visits the UK

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [concluded](#) a two-day visit to London from 16-17 April 2025, where he co-chaired the 24th India-UK Defence Consultative Group meeting with David Williams, Permanent

Under Secretary of State for Defence. Both sides discussed the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership announced in 2021 and the Roadmap to 2030. The Defence Secretary also interacted with the UK's National Security Adviser, Jonathan Powell.

Tri-services All Women Circumnavigation Sailing Expedition Flagged Off

A tri-services all women circumnavigation sailing expedition, 'Samudra Pradakshina' from Mumbai to Seychelles and back was [flagged](#) off on 7 April 2025 by Lt Gen AK Ramesh, Commandant, College of Military Engineering (CME) from the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Colaba, Mumbai. The 12-member crew embarked on the 55-day voyage covering 4,000 nautical miles aboard the IASV Triveni.

IGA Inked with France for 26 Rafale-Marine Aircraft for the Indian Navy

The Governments of India and France [signed](#) an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) for the procurement of 26 Rafale Aircraft (22 Single-Seater and four Twin-Seater) for the Indian Navy. The IGA was signed by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Armed Forces of France Sebastien Lecornu on 28 April 2025.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Project Sanction Order Inked for 6MW Marine Diesel Engine

The Project Sanction Order under Make-I category for the Design and Development of 6MW Medium Speed Marine Diesel Engine was [inked](#) between Indian Navy and

Kirloskar Oil Engines Limited on 2 April 2025.

DRDO and Indian Army Conduct Successful MR-SAM Flight-Tests

The DRDO and the Indian Army [conducted](#) four successful flight-tests of the Army version of Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) on 3-4 April 2025. The trials were carried out to intercept four targets at long-range, short-range, high altitude and low altitude, proving the operational capability of the missile.

Rs 2,385 Crore Contract Inked with BEL for EW Suites for Mi-17 V5 Helicopters

The MoD [signed](#) a contract with BEL for the acquisition of EW Suites and aircraft modification kits as well as their installation on Mi-17 V5 helicopters, along with associated equipment, for the IAF at an overall cost of Rs 2,385.36 crore, under Buy (IDDM) category, on 7 April 2025.

Glide Bomb 'Gaurav' Trials Successfully Conducted from Su-30 MKI Aircraft

DRDO successfully [conducted](#) the Release Trials of Long-Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) 'Gaurav' from 8-10 April 2025 from the Su-30 MKI aircraft. The trials successfully demonstrated range close to 100 kms with pin-point accuracy.

DRDO Achieves Significant Milestone in Scramjet Engine Development

Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), a Hyderabad-based laboratory of DRDO, [achieved](#) a significant milestone when it conducted long-duration Active Cooled Scramjet Subscale Combustor ground testing for more than

1,000 seconds at the Scramjet Connect Test Facility at Hyderabad on 25 April 2025. The ground-test is in continuation of the earlier test reported for 120 seconds in January 2025.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Indo-U.S Joint HADR Amphibious Exercise Tiger Triumph Held

The opening ceremony of the 4th edition of the bilateral joint HADR amphibious exercise between India and the U.S. - Tiger Triumph 2025 was [held](#) on board the INS Jalashwa (L41) on 1 April 2025. The harbour phase of the exercise was conducted at Visakhapatnam from 1-7 April 2025, and the sea phase, took place from 8-12 April 2025.

International Crew Training of IOS Sagar Concludes

The IN's maiden initiative of Indian Ocean Ship Sagar (IOS Sagar) [concluded](#) its harbour and sea training phase at Southern Naval Command, Kochi. 44 International trainees of nine friendly foreign countries underwent a specially curated training signifying the motto of 'One Ocean One Mission', the international crew was trained together on various facets of Communication skills, Firefighting and Damage Control drills, Visit Board Search & Seize (VBSS) procedures and finer aspects of Bridgemanhip.

INS Sunayna, designated as IOS SAGAR ship, [entered](#) the Port of Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania on 12 April 2025, [Mozambique](#) on 17 April 2025 and [Mauritius](#) on 26 April. The crew included those from Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius,

Mozambique, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and South Africa.

India-Russia Bilateral Naval Exercise Indra 2025 Held

The bilateral naval exercise Indra 2025 between Indian and Russian navies was [held](#) from 28 March - 2 April 2025. This 14th edition of the exercise included a wide range of activities and structured drills designed to enhance interoperability towards countering common maritime threats.

INS Tarkash Undertakes PASSEX with Royal New Zealand Navy Ship

The IN stealth frigate INS Tarkash [participated](#) in a PASSEX with the Royal New Zealand Navy's Anzac-class frigate Te Kaha on 4 April 25 in the Gulf of Aden. This exercise marked the culmination of the New Zealand led CTF 150 Joint Focused Operation ANZAC Tiger, a Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) operation in which INS Tarkash was mission deployed.

INS Sahyadri Visits Colombo, Srilanka

The IN's Eastern Fleet warship INS Sahyadri mission [deployed](#) in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) arrived at Colombo, Sri Lanka on 7 April 2025. The visit furthers cooperation under India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR)' initiatives.

Africa India Key Maritime Engagement 2025 Held

The inaugural edition of the multilateral exercise Africa India Key Maritime

Engagement (AIKEYME), which means 'Unity' in Sanskrit, was [conducted](#) from 13-18 April 25. AIKEYME, co-hosted by India and Tanzania, involved participation from Comoros, Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles and South Africa.

India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Dustlik-VI Held

The 6th edition of India- Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise [Dustlik-VI](#) was held at Foreign Training Node, Aundh (Pune) [conducted](#) from 16-28 April 2025.

IAF Participates in Multinational Exercise Desert Flag-10 in UAE

A contingent of the IAF [participated](#) in Exercise Desert Flag-10, a multinational air

combat exercise at the Al Dhafra Air Base in the UAE. The IAF fielded MiG-29 and Jaguar aircraft in the exercise. The exercise took place from 21 April-8 May 2025.

MNDF Huravee Handed over to Maldivian Coast Guard

The IN successfully [completed](#) a major refit of the Maldivian Coast Guard Ship MNDF Huravee at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. The IN's frontline guided missile destroyer, INS Kochi, [visited](#) Male, Maldives, on 28 April 2025 along with CGS Huravee. Amb G. Balasubramanian, High Commissioner of India to the Maldives, handed over MNDF CGS Huravee to Maj Gen Ibrahim Hilmy, Chief of Defence Force, MNDF.

'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'.