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Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

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KEY EVENTS

President Approves Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Awards

President Droupadi Murmu [approved](#) 127 Gallantry awards and 40 Distinguished Service awards to the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on Independence Day 2025. These are 4 Kirti Chakras; 15 Vir Chakras; 16 Shaurya Chakras; 02 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry); 58 Sena Medals (Gallantry); 06 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry); 26 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry); 7 Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medals; 9 Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and 24 Yudh Seva Medals. The President has also approved 290 Mention-in-Despatches – 115 personnel of the Indian Army, 05 of the Indian Navy, 167 of the Indian Air Force and 03 of the Border Roads Development Board (BRDB). The President also approved the Tatrakshak Medals for five Indian Coast Guard personnel. The [COAS](#) and [VCOAS](#) Commendation Card awardees and [honorary ranks](#) were also announced.

PM Modi Addresses Nation on 79th Independence Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi [hailed](#) Operation Sindoor as a demonstration of India's strategic autonomy and defence self-reliance. Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, Delhi, on the 79th Independence Day on 15 August 2025, the Prime Minister noted that the Armed Forces dismantled Pakistan-based terror networks and infrastructure using Made-in-India weapons.

Raksha Mantri: Need to Enhance Synergy between Civil and Military Personnel

Raksha Mantri (RM) Rajnath Singh has called for enhancing the synergy between civil and military personnel, terming the exceptional back-end support provided by different departments of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to the Armed Forces as key to Operation Sindoor's success. He addressed the 84th Armed Forces Headquarters (AFHQ) Civilian Services Day event at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi, on 1 August 2025.

FY 2024-25 Defence Production at Rs 1.51 Lakh Crore

The annual defence production [soared](#) to an all-time high of Rs 150,590 crore in the Financial Year (FY) 2024-25. This was a robust 18 per cent growth over the previous fiscal's output of Rs 1.27 lakh crore. RM Rajnath Singh lauded the collective efforts of the Department of Defence Production and all stakeholders in achieving this landmark.

Raksha Mantri: India Can Defeat Enemies with Home-Grown Strength

RM Rajnath Singh, while laying the foundation stone of BEML Rail Hub for Manufacturing (BRAHMA), at Umariya, Madhya Pradesh, on 10 August 2025, stated that [Op Sindoor](#) was "proof that India possesses the capability to defeat its enemies with home-grown strength."

Raksha Mantri Interacts with Students from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh interacted with 30 meritorious higher secondary

students from tribal communities of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in New Delhi on 14 August 2025. The RM motivated the students to contribute towards making India one of the most powerful nations in the times to come.

Raksha Mantri: Op Sindoor a Shining Example of Precise Military Strategy

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, in the ‘Sandesh to Soldiers’ aired from Akashvani on the eve of 79th Independence Day on 14 August 2025, termed India’s actions during Op Sindoor as a shining example of a precise and successful military strategy.

Raksha Mantri Felicitates Gaganyatris

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh congratulated [Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla](#), the first Indian astronaut onboard the International Space Station (ISS), in New Delhi on 21 August 2025. The RM later [felicitated](#) Group Captain Shukla, Group Captain PB Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, and Group Captain Angad Pratap, who are part of Gaganyaan, ISRO’s maiden space flight mission, during an event in New Delhi on 24 August 2025.

Raksha Mantri: Security of the Nation is the Responsibility of Every Citizen

Raksha Mantri Rajnath, during the inauguration of a Defence and Sports Academy in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, on 25 August 2025, emphasised that “the security of the nation is not just the responsibility of the Government or the military, but of every citizen.” The RM noted that people in border areas fully supported the Armed Forces during Op Sindoor.

Raksha Mantri Interacts with Global Women Peacekeepers

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, on 22 August 2025, interacted with the women officers of 15 countries alongside India, who participated in a two-week-long UN Women Military Officers Course (UNWMOC-2025) held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The RM noted that, as the most significant contributor to UN peacekeeping missions, India has strongly supported women’s participation and integration into these missions.

Tri-Service Seminar Held at Army War College

A two-day Tri-service dialogue ‘RAN SAMWAD-2025’ was [held](#) at the Army War College on 26-27 August 2025. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [emphasised](#) the need to remain prepared for innovations and unforeseen challenges while mastering existing technologies. CDS Gen Anil Chauhan [released](#) two doctrinal publications - Joint Doctrine for Special Forces Operations and Joint Doctrine for Airborne & Heliborne Operations.

Raksha Mantri Inaugurates Test Facility of iDEX Winner Start-Up

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [inaugurated](#) a state-of-the-art test facility of Raphe mPhibr, an iDEX winner start-up, on 30 August 2025 in Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The RM expressed pride in the fact that the Armed Forces have swiftly adopted equipment developed indigenously by young innovators and Indian industries.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Meets Nigerian Minister of State, Defence

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth [held](#) a bilateral meeting with Minister of State, Defence of Nigeria, Dr Bello Mohammed Matawalle, in New Delhi on 12 August 2025. The two Ministers discussed advancing further growing bilateral defence cooperation and military [engagements](#) across diverse domains, including counter-terrorism training, research and development and maritime cooperation.

CDS Emphasises the Need to Adapt Swiftly to Disruptive Technologies

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan [delivered](#) the keynote address at the inaugural edition of the Annual Trident Lecture Series, organised by the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) to mark its Foundation Day in New Delhi on 5 August 2025. He emphasised the need to adapt swiftly to disruptive technologies, rethink legacy structures and prioritise synergy across the three services to tackle the challenges emanating from the constantly evolving nature of warfare.

CDS Releases Declassified Versions of Joint Doctrines

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan [released](#) the declassified versions of the Joint Doctrines for Cyberspace Operations and Amphibious Operations during the Chiefs of Staff Committee meeting in New Delhi on 7 August 2025. The declassification of these doctrines underscores India's commitment to enhancing accessibility and broader dissemination of joint war-fighting concepts.

CDS: Op Sindoor Testament to Operational Cohesion among the Three Services

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan [described](#) the success of Op Sindoor as a testament to the operational cohesion among the three Services. He addressed the 21st Higher Defence Management Course (HDMC) and senior officers at the College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad, on 10 August 2025.

CIDS Attends Chiefs of Defence Conference 2025 in Thailand

Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit [participated](#) in the annual Chiefs of Defence Conference in Thailand from 26-28 August 2025. The United States Indo-Pacific Command and the Royal Thai Armed Forces jointly hosted the event.

COAS Inaugurates 'Agnishodh' Research Cell at IIT Madras

The Indian Army joined hands with the IIT Madras to establish 'Agnishodh', the Indian Army Research Cell (IARC). The research facility was [inaugurated](#) on 4 August 2025 by General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS). The initiative represents the Indian Army's drive to integrate academic research with real-time operational applications.

COAS Visits Algeria

General Upendra Dwivedi, COAS, visited [Algeria](#) from 25 to 28 August 2025. The visit reinforced defence and security engagement between India and Algeria, focusing on bolstering Army-to-Army

cooperation and exploring avenues for defence industrial collaboration.

CAS Delivers Keynote Address at 16th ACM LM Katre Memorial Lecture

The 16th edition of the Air Chief Marshal LM Katre Memorial Lecture was held on 9 August 2025, at Bengaluru. Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, [delivered](#) the keynote address, wherein he lauded the successful completion of Op Sindoor, underscoring the primacy of air power in modern military conflicts. HAL's Chairman and Managing Director, Dr D.K. Sunil, delivered a special address, highlighting the evolving HAL-IAF partnership.

Inaugural India-New Zealand Defence Strategic Dialogue Held

The inaugural India-New Zealand Defence Strategic Dialogue was [held](#) in New Delhi on 5 August 2025. The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), MoD, Amitabh Prasad and Head of International Branch, Ministry of Defence, New Zealand, Kathleen Pearce.

Passing Out Parade of 01/25 Batch of AGNIVEERS Held at INS Chilka

The Passing Out Parade (POP) of the sixth batch of Agniveers was [conducted](#) at INS Chilka on 8 August 2025. The post sunset Passing Out Parade saw 2010 Agniveers (including 309 women Agniveers) of the Indian Navy, and 276 Naviks of the Indian Coast Guard took the Antim Pag during. Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, [reviewed](#) the parade.

Chief of the Australian Army Visits India

Lieutenant General Simon Stuart, Chief of the Australian Army, [visited](#) New Delhi from 11 to 14 August 2025. The visit aimed to strengthen bilateral defence cooperation further and enhance strategic engagement between the two nations.

The Seventh India-Saudi Arabia Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation Held

The seventh meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia Joint Committee on Defence Cooperation (JCDC) occurred in New Delhi on 28 August 2025. Joint Secretary, MoD Amitabh Prasad and Staff Maj Gen Saad Mohammed H Alkathiri co-chaired the meeting. Both sides reiterated their commitment to further strengthening bilateral defence cooperation.

Eight High-Level Meetings between ICG and SLCG Held

The eighth High-Level Meeting (HLM) between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) was [held](#) in New Delhi on 11 August 2025. The discussions centred on strengthening cooperative engagements in marine pollution response, maritime search and rescue, and maritime law enforcement.

Sixth High-Level Meeting between ICG and Vietnam Coast Guard Held

The sixth High-Level Meeting (HLM) between the ICG and the Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) was [held](#) in Hanoi, Vietnam, on 20 August 2025. The special focus of the discussions was on tackling transnational maritime crimes.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

DAC Clears Proposals Worth Rs 67,000 crore

The Defence Acquisition Council, under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, on 5 August 2025, [approved](#) various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 67,000 crore. These included Thermal Imager-based Driver Night Sight for BMP (Army), Compact Autonomous Surface Craft, BrahMos Fire Control System and Launchers and Upgradation of BARAK-1 Point Defence Missile System (Navy) and Mountain Radars and Upgradation of SAKSHAM/SPYDER Weapon System (Air Force).

Survey Vessel Delivered to Indian Navy

Ikshak (Yard 3027), the third of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships built at GRSE, Kolkata, was [delivered](#) to the Indian Navy on 14 August 2025.

Plate Cutting Ceremony of ICG's Fourth NGOPV Held at MDL, Mumbai

The Plate Cutting Ceremony of Yard 16404, the fourth in a series of six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) being [constructed](#) at MDL for the ICG, occurred in Mumbai on 20 August 2025. The 117-metre-long vessels can speed up to 23 knots, with an operational range of 5,000 nautical miles.

'Agni 5' Successfully Test-Fired

Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni 5' was successfully [test-fired](#) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha on 20 August 2025. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters. It was

carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.

DRDO Conducts Maiden Flight-Tests of IADWS

DRDO [conducted](#) the maiden flight-test of the Integrated Air Defence Weapon System (IADWS) on 23 August 2025. IADWS is a multi-layered air defence system comprising indigenous Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missiles (QRSAM), Advanced Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missiles, and a high-power laser-based Directed Energy Weapon (DEW).

INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri Commissioned

Two multi-mission stealth frigates of Project 17A – INS Udaygiri and INS Himgiri - were [commissioned](#) into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at the Naval Base, Visakhapatnam, on 26 August 2025. For the first time, two frontline surface combatants indigenously constructed by two different shipyards - MDL, Mumbai (INS Udaygiri) and GRSE, Kolkata (INS Himgiri) - were commissioned simultaneously. Udaygiri and Himgiri are follow-on ships of the Project 17 (Shivalik) class frigates.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Indian Naval Ships Visit Manila, Philippines

As part of the ongoing Operational Deployment to South East Asia, INS Delhi (Guided Missile Destroyer), INS Shakti (Fleet Tanker), and INS Kiltan (Anti-Submarine Warfare corvette) of the Eastern

Fleet, arrived in [Manila](#), Philippines, on 1 August 2025. The ships on departure [engaged](#) in a bilateral maritime exercise with the Philippine Navy ships on 3-4 August 2025.

INS Sandhayak Visits Changi Naval Base, Singapore

INS Sandhayak, the first indigenous Survey Vessel Large (SVL), was on a three-day [visit](#) to Singapore from 9-12 August 2025. The visit coincided with Singapore's National Day and strengthened the growing synergy in hydrographic cooperation.

INS Tamal Visits Morocco, Italy, Greece, Saudi Arabia

Stealth frigate INS Tamal made port visits to [Morocco](#) from 6-9 Aug 2025, [Italy](#) on 13 Aug 2025, and [Greece](#) from 19-22 Aug 2025. INS Tamal and INS Surat, guided-missile destroyers, arrived at [Jeddah](#), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on 27-28 August

2025. INS Tamal also participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with ITS Trieste, Landing Platform Dock of the Italian Navy, before entering harbour at Naples.

Indian Naval Ships Participate in Slinex-25

The 12th edition of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral naval exercise [SLINEX-25](#) was successfully held at Colombo from 14-18 August 2025. INS Jyoti and INS Rana from the Eastern Fleet and Sri Lankan Naval Ships Sayura and Vijayabahu (Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessels) participated.

INS Kadmatt Completes Port Call at Indonesia and Papua New Guinea

The indigenous ASW Corvette INS Kadmatt [visited](#) Port Moresby on 30 August 2025 to participate in Papua New Guinea's 50th Independence Day celebrations.

'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'.