

# DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## KEY EVENTS

### Raksha Mantri and US Secretary of Defense Discuss Defence Partnership

On 1 July 2025, Raksha Mantri (RM) Rajnath Singh and US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth [held](#) a telephonic conversation to review the India-US defence partnership. The leaders discussed expanding cooperation in training, military exchanges, joint exercises, defence industrial supply chains, logistics sharing, and engagement with like-minded partners.

### Raksha Mantri Inaugurates Controllers' Conference 2025

RM Rajnath Singh [inaugurated](#) the Controllers' Conference 2025, organised by the Defence Accounts Department (DAD), from 7–9 July 2025, in New Delhi. Themed 'Transforming Financial Advice, Payment, Audit and Accounting through Defence Finance and Economics,' the conference focused on repositioning DAD as a strategic institution aligned with India's defence and economic goals.

### RM Chairs First Governing Council Meeting of NCC Alumni Association

On 11 July 2025, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [chaired](#) the inaugural Governing Council Meeting of the National Cadet Corps Alumni Association (NCCAA) in New Delhi. Highlighting NCC's role in instilling values of discipline, unity, and leadership, he called for broader outreach through initiatives like 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' and 'Swachhta Abhiyan'.

### Raksha Rajya Mantri Visits DRDO Missile Complex

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth [visited](#) the Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex in Hyderabad from 16–17 July 2025, to review progress on key missile and weapon system programmes. He was briefed on projects including Astra Mk I & II, VLSRSAM, Scramjet engines, and advanced seeker and navigation systems.

### Commander of UAE Naval Forces Visits India

Maj Gen Humaid Mohammed Abdullah Alremeithi, Commander of the UAE Naval Forces, [visited](#) India from 7 to 9 July 2025 to strengthen bilateral naval ties and regional maritime cooperation. He held bilateral discussions with CNS Adm Dinesh Tripathi, focusing on operational engagement, structured training, and regional collaboration.

### Chief of the Naval Staff Embarks on Official Visit to Japan

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), [embarked](#) on a four-day official visit to Japan from July 30 to August 2, 2025. The CNS is scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with key Japanese government and military officials on various defence cooperation areas, focusing on maritime security, technological collaboration, and enhanced naval interoperability. The CNS will also visit JMSDF operational units and interact with the Commander-in-Chief of the Self-Defence Fleet at Funakoshi JMSDF Base.

**India-Israel Bilateral Defence High-Level Meeting in New Delhi**

On 23 July 2025, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [held](#) bilateral talks with Major General (Res) Amir Baram, Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defence. Both sides agreed to deepen long-term defence cooperation through an institutional framework.

**India-South Korea Hold 13<sup>th</sup> High-Level Coast Guard Meeting**

On 21 July 2025, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Korea Coast Guard (KCG) [held](#) their 13<sup>th</sup> High-Level Meeting (HLM) in New Delhi to strengthen cooperation in maritime search and Rescue, Pollution Response, and maritime law enforcement. The meeting reaffirmed mutual commitment under the 2006 MoU to enhance interoperability and share best practices.

**India and the UAE Hold 13<sup>th</sup> JDCC Meeting**

India and the UAE [reaffirmed](#) their commitment to expanding bilateral defence cooperation during the 13<sup>th</sup> Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting held in New Delhi on 30 July 2025. For the first time, the meeting was co-chaired at the secretary level. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and UAE Under Secretary of Defence Lt Gen Ibrahim Nasser M. Al Alawi led deliberations on strategic collaboration.

Both sides agreed to enhance military training cooperation, with India offering tailored training programmes for UAE personnel. Maritime security was

prioritised, with plans to boost information sharing and joint naval initiatives. Key discussions focused on industrial partnerships, joint manufacturing models, and co-development of advanced defence technologies, including AI. Opportunities in shipbuilding, platform upgrades, and maintenance were also explored. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Indian Coast Guard and the UAE National Guard for collaboration in maritime safety, pollution control, and anti-piracy efforts.

**India-UAE Defence Industry Partnership Seminar Held**

The second edition of the India-UAE Defence Industry Partnership Seminar was [held](#) on 31 July 2025, in New Delhi, alongside the 13<sup>th</sup> JDCC meeting. Organised by the Department of Defence Production in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and the UAE's EDGE Group, the seminar brought together over 90 Indian and eight UAE defence companies.

Co-chaired by Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar and UAE Under Secretary of Defence Staff Lt Gen Ibrahim Nasser Al Alawi, the seminar focused on fostering industrial cooperation in unmanned systems, naval platforms, cyber defence, AI, space-based technologies, and precision munitions. B2B discussions explored joint manufacturing, MRO collaboration, aerospace initiatives, and integration of emerging technologies. The seminar reaffirmed the shared vision of enhancing self-reliance and promoting export-led growth in the defence sector.

### **MoD to Set up Mechanical and Materials Testing Facility**

On 28 July 2025, the MoD [signed](#) an MoU with Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) to establish a cutting-edge mechanical and material domain testing facility at Tiruchirappalli, under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS). Seven DTIS testing facilities have been approved — four in Tamil Nadu and three in Uttar Pradesh — to boost capability in the defence industrial corridors.

### **INS Tamal Commissioned into the Indian Navy**

On 1 July 2025, INS Tamal (F71), the eighth stealth frigate of the Project 1135.6 series and second Tushil-class ship, was [commissioned](#) into the Indian Navy at Yantar Shipyard, Kaliningrad, Russia. The vessel boasts a potent mix of Russian and Indian weapon systems, including the BrahMos missile and HUMSA-NG sonar. With 26 per cent indigenous content, INS Tamal reflects the growing strategic and technological cooperation between India and Russia.

## **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **Project 17A Stealth Frigate ‘Udaygiri’ Delivered to Indian Navy**

On 1 July 2025, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) [delivered](#) Yard 12652 ‘Udaygiri’, the second stealth frigate under Project 17A, to the Indian Navy. The frigate has been built with significant contributions from over 200 Indian MSMEs.

### **DAC Approves Indigenous Defence Acquisitions Worth ₹1.05 Lakh Crore**

On 3 July 2025, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, [accorded](#) Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for 10 capital acquisition proposals valued at approximately ₹1.05 lakh crore under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category. The approved proposals include procurement of Armoured Recovery Vehicles, Electronic Warfare Systems, Surface-to-Air Missiles, Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Submersible Autonomous Vessels, and other platforms aimed at enhancing operational readiness across the Tri-Services.

### **User Trials of Indigenous Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket Successful**

Between 23 June and 7 July 2025, the Indian Navy [conducted](#) successful user trials of the indigenously developed Extended Range Anti-Submarine Rocket (ERASR) from INS Kavaratti. ERASR features a twin-rocket motor and an indigenous Electronic Time Fuze, delivering high accuracy across a broad spectrum. The ERASR system will soon be inducted, enhancing India’s naval anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

### **Indian Navy Signs Contract with BEL for NMDA Project**

On 8 July 2025, the Indian Navy [signed](#) a contract with BEL, Bengaluru, to implement the National Maritime Domain Awareness (NMDA) Project. The project involves upgrading the existing National

Command, Control, Communication, and Intelligence (NC3I) Network and transforming the Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) in Gurugram into a multi-agency NMDA Centre. The AI-enabled, turnkey project will be executed under the Indian Navy's supervision, highlighting indigenous capability in maritime security infrastructure.

### **Indian Navy Receives First Indigenous Diving Support Vessel 'Nistar'**

On 8 July 2025, Hindustan Shipyard Limited [delivered](#) Nistar, the Indian Navy's first indigenously designed and built Diving Support Vessel, at Visakhapatnam. The 118-metre, 10,000-tonne vessel is equipped for deep-sea saturation diving up to 300 metres and features advanced systems including a Side Diving Stage, Remotely Operated Vehicles, and support for Deep Submergence Rescue Vessels (DSRVs).

### **DRDO and IAF Successfully Test Astra BVRAAM with Indigenous RF Seeker**

On 11 July 2025, the DRDO and Indian Air Force [conducted](#) successful flight-tests of the Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) with an indigenous Radio Frequency (RF) seeker from a Su-30 Mk-I aircraft off the coast of Odisha.

### **Akash Prime Successfully Tested in High-Altitude Conditions**

On 16 July 2025, India [conducted](#) firing trials of the indigenously developed Akash Prime Air Defence System in Ladakh, destroying two high-speed aerial targets above 4,500 metres. Customised for high-

altitude operations, Akash Prime features an indigenous Radio Frequency seeker and system upgrades based on user feedback.

### **Construction of Indigenous Hovercraft for Indian Coast Guard Begins**

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) [commenced](#) construction of its first indigenously built Air Cushion Vehicle (ACV) with the Girder Laying and Commencement of Erection ceremony held at Chowgule & Company Pvt. Ltd. in Goa on 30 July 2025. Based on proven Griffon Hoverwork designs, the ACVs are being adapted and constructed using Indian technical expertise to meet the ICG's operational requirements.

### **Eight ASW Shallow Water Craft 'Ajay' Launched by GRSE**

On 21 July 2025, the Indian Navy's eighth and final Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), Yard 3034 Ajay, was [launched](#) by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata. Ajay has over 80 per cent indigenous content, with advanced sonar systems, torpedoes, anti-submarine rockets, and state-of-the-art weaponry.

### **ICG's Indigenous Pollution Control Vessel 'Samudra Prachet' Launched**

Goa Shipyard Ltd [launched](#) Samudra Prachet, the second and final indigenous Pollution Control Vessel (PCV) for the Indian Coast Guard, on 23 July 2025 in Goa. With 72 per cent indigenous content, the 4,170-tonne vessel has state-of-the-art oil spill response systems and environmental monitoring capabilities.



### **DRDO Successfully Tests Advanced UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile-V3**

DRDO [conducted](#) successful flight trials of the indigenously developed UAV-Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM-V3) at NOAR test range, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, on 25 July 2025. An upgrade over the V2 variant, ULPGM-V3 features a high-definition dual-channel seeker, modular warhead configurations, and a two-way data link, enabling day-night, all-terrain operations. Supported by over 30 MSMEs and start-ups, this project marks a significant step in integrating advanced missile systems with indigenous UAV platforms.

### **MoD Signs ₹2,000 Crore Contract for Air Defence Fire Control Radars**

The MoD [signed](#) a ₹2,000 crore contract with BEL on 25 July 2025 to procure indigenously designed and developed Air Defence Fire Control Radars for the Indian Army under the Buy (Indian-IDD) category. Featuring over 70 per cent indigenous content, the radars will enhance detection capabilities against aerial threats, including aircraft, helicopters, and drones.

### **Technology Development Fund Gets ₹500 Crore Boost for Deep-Tech Projects.**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [approved](#) an additional ₹500 crore corpus for the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme to support deep-tech and cutting-edge innovations as a separate vertical. Nine new projects were launched under this

initiative, alongside four projects funded through DRDO Industry-Academia Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs) under the Grants-in-Aid Scheme.

### **MoD Sanctions ₹29,558 Cr for Indigenous Defence R&D in Three Years**

RRM Sanjay Seth informed MP Tejasvi Surya in the Lok Sabha on 25 July 2025 that the MoD sanctioned 103 R&D projects worth ₹29,558.66 crore to the DRDO between January 2023 and July 2025, marking a significant push towards technological self-reliance. In 2024 alone, projects worth over ₹22,175 crore were approved. Among the notable initiatives is the Kaveri Derivative Engine (KDE) development for India's future unmanned combat aerial vehicles (IUCAVs), with two major projects sanctioned for flightworthy engine and technology demonstration.

## **DEFENCE DIPLOMACY**

### **India Deepens Multilateral Ties at Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2025**

Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit [visited](#) Australia from 26-28 July to witness Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 (TS25), a premier multilateral defence exercise co-hosted by the Australian Defence Force and US Armed Forces. This year's edition involved 19 nations and included extensive joint training across land, air, sea, cyber and space domains. Six Indian Armed Forces officers participated as Staff Planners, engaging in joint operations, logistics, safety, and control functions—marking a step-up from India's observer role in 2021 and 2023.



**INS Sandhayak Makes Maiden Port Call at Port Klang, Malaysia**

From 16–19 July 2025, INS Sandhayak, the first indigenously built Survey Vessel Large (SVL) of the Indian Navy, [made](#) its maiden port call at Port Klang, Malaysia, to advance hydrographic cooperation. The visit included technical exchanges, knowledge -sharing sessions, and outreach events aligned with India's MAHASAGAR vision.

**Eastern Fleet Ships Reach Vietnam to Deepen Maritime Partnership**

As part of its deployment to Southeast Asia, Indian Naval Ships Delhi, Shakti, and Kiltan of the Eastern Fleet [arrived](#) at Da Nang, Vietnam, on 24 July 2025. The visit received a ceremonial welcome from the Vietnam People's Navy and local authorities, reaffirming the growing India-Vietnam defence relationship. The visit features high-level meetings with Military Region 5 and Naval Region 3 of the Vietnam People's Army and Navy.

**Exercise Bold Kurukshetra 2025 Held in Jodhpur**

The 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Exercise Bold Kurukshetra, a bilateral military exercise between the Indian Army and the Singapore Army, [commenced](#) on 27 July 2025, at Jodhpur and will continue till 4 August 2025. It brought together India's Mechanised Infantry Regiment and Singapore's 42 Armoured Regiment for a tabletop exercise and computer-based wargame focused on mechanised warfare under the United Nations mandates.

**INS Satpura in Singapore for SIMBEX-25**

INS Satpura [reached](#) Singapore on 30 July 2025 to participate in the 32<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX-25), reaffirming the growing defence partnership between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). The Sea Phase of the exercises featured advanced exercises such as air defence, cross-deck helicopter operations, precision targeting, complex manoeuvres, and Visit-Board-Search-Seizure (VBSS) operations, enhancing interoperability and shared maritime security efforts in the Indo-Pacific.

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