

# DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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## KEY EVENTS

### President Confers Six Kirti Chakras and 33 Shaurya Chakras

On 22 May 2025, President Droupadi Murmu [conferred](#) six Kirti Chakras (including four posthumous) and 33 Shaurya Chakras (including seven posthumous) to personnel of the Armed Forces, Central Armed Police Forces, and State/UT Police at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

### Raksha Mantri Meets Japanese Defence Minister

On 5 May 2025, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) a bilateral meeting with Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. Nakatani expressed condolences for the 22 April Pahalgam terror attack and offered Japan's full support to India. The ministers reviewed the defence and security aspects of the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, agreeing to enhance cooperation in areas such as tank and aero engine development, Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) operations, automation, Artificial Intelligence, cyber, and space. They also committed to increasing the scope and complexity of bilateral defence exercises and exchanges.

### Raksha Rajya Mantri Participates in Victory Day Celebrations in Moscow

Raksha Rajya Mantri (RRM) Sanjay Seth participated in the Victory Day celebrations in Moscow on 9 May 2025, marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soviet victory in World War II. The RRM [met](#) President Vladimir Putin and held bilateral talks with

Deputy Defence Minister Colonel General Alexander Fomin. Discussions focused on deepening military and military-technical cooperation and mutual support against state-sponsored cross-border terrorism.

### RRM Participates in Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition

On 20 May 2025, Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth [led](#) the Indian delegation at the opening ceremony of the 17<sup>th</sup> Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA 2025) in Malaysia. Shri Seth inaugurated the India Pavilion, showcasing indigenous defence industry achievements, including technologies such as BrahMos missiles and Dornier aircraft.

### Chief of Defence Staff Visits Forward Military Bases

On 19 May 2025, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan [visited](#) the strategically significant Suratgarh Military Station and Naliya Air Force Station to boost troop morale and assess operational preparedness. The CDS praised the exceptional valour and professionalism demonstrated during Operation Sindoor.

### Defence Secretary Visits Eastern Naval Command

Rajesh Kumar Singh, Defence Secretary, [conducted](#) a two-day visit to the Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam from 16 to 17 May 2025. He was briefed on the Command's operational capabilities, key activities, and ongoing and planned infrastructure development projects along the East Coast.

### **Secretary Hegseth Expresses Solidarity with India Following Pahalgam Terror Attack**

On 1 May 2025, US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth [called](#) Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh to convey condolences over the loss of innocent lives in the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu & Kashmir. During the conversation, RM highlighted Pakistan's role in supporting and funding terrorist organisations. Secretary Hegseth reaffirmed the United States' support for India's right to defend itself.

### **Indian Armed Forces Conduct Precision Strikes on Terrorist Camps**

On 7 May 2025, the Indian Armed Forces [executed](#) Operation Sindoor, undertaking precision strikes against terrorist camps located across the border. The operation was carried out based on actionable intelligence to disrupt and dismantle terrorist networks responsible for cross-border threats. Operation Sindoor exemplified the strategic resolve and operational readiness of the Indian military.

### **Chief of Defence Staff Reviews Operational Success**

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan [conducted](#) a strategic review and operational assessment during his visit to the Indian Army's Northern Command headquarters in Udhampur, Jammu & Kashmir, and Western Command headquarters at Chandimandir, Haryana, on 25 May 2025.

### **India-US JWG Meeting on Aircraft Carrier Technology Cooperation Held**

The 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the India-US Joint Working Group on Aircraft Carrier Technology Cooperation (JWGACTC) was [held](#) in India from 13 to 16 May 2025, under the India-US Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI). The US delegation, led by Rear Admiral Casey Moton, engaged in discussions and site visits across defence establishments in Delhi and Goa. Both sides recognised significant progress in information exchange on aircraft carrier technology. A joint statement outlined plans for future collaboration.

### **INSV Kaundinya, Sail Ship, Inducted into Indian Navy**

On 21 May 2025, the Indian Navy [inducted](#) the traditionally built stitched sail ship INSV Kaundinya at Naval Base Karwar. The vessel, based on a 5th-century CE ship depicted in Ajanta Cave paintings, was constructed using ancient stitching techniques involving coir rope and natural resin by skilled artisans from Kerala. The project was a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture, Indian Navy, and M/s Hodi Innovations, with design validation through hydrodynamic testing at IIT Madras. Named after the legendary mariner Kaundinya, the ship is slated for a transoceanic voyage along historic trade routes later this year.

### **ISOs (Command, Control & Discipline) Act 2023 Rules Notified**

The government [notified](#) the Rules under the Inter-Services Organisations (Command, Control and Discipline) Act

2023 via a Gazette Notification, effective from 27 May 2025. This landmark step is aimed at strengthening jointness among the Armed Forces by enabling more effective command, control, discipline, and administration within Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs). The Act empowers Commanders-in-Chief and Officers-in-Command of ISOs to exercise command and control over service personnel under their authority while preserving the unique service conditions of each of the armed forces branches.

### **17 Women Cadets Graduate from National Defence Academy**

On 30 May 2025, the National Defence Academy's (NDA) first-ever batch of 17 female cadets [graduated](#) alongside 319 male cadets. The Passing Out Parade (POP) was reviewed by Mizoram Governor General (Dr) VK Singh (Retd).

## **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **Raksha Mantri Highlights Indigenous Defence Achievements at CII Summit**

On 29 May 2025, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [addressed](#) the CII Annual Business Summit in New Delhi, emphasizing the pivotal role of the 'Make in India' initiative in bolstering national security. The Raksha Mantri noted that India's annual defence production has reached an all-time high of ₹1.46 lakh crore, with defence exports exceeding ₹24,000 crore.

### **Raksha Mantri Approves AMCA Programme Execution Model**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [approved](#) the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft

(AMCA) Programme Execution Model on 27 May 2025. The programme will be executed by the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) through an inclusive industry partnership.

The Execution Model ensures equal opportunities for both private and public sector entities on a competitive basis.

### **RM Approves MINIRATNA Status to Three DPSUs**

On 29 May 2025, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [approved](#) the conferment of Miniratna Category-I status to three Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) – Munitions India Limited (MIL), Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), and India Optel Limited (IOL). This recognition follows their transformation from government organizations to profit-making corporate entities within three years of their establishment in October 2021. The Miniratna status is expected to empower these DPSUs with greater autonomy, enabling them to achieve accelerated growth.

### **Raksha Mantri Reviews Performance of Eight DPSUs**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) a high-level review meeting with the Chairmen and Managing Directors of eight DPSUs in New Delhi, on 26 May 2025. The RM lauded the defence industry, including DPSUs, for their vital role in developing platforms and technologies that showcased India's defence preparedness during Operation Sindoor. The RM urged DPSUs to ensure timely delivery of products to the

Armed Forces and stressed boosting exports through better marketing strategies.

### **DRDO Inaugurates Quantum Technology Research Centre**

On 27 May 2025, the DRDO [inaugurated](#) the Quantum Technology Research Centre (QTRC) at Metcalfe House, Delhi. The centre aims to advance India's indigenous quantum technologies for strategic and defence use.

### **VEM Technologies Hands Over LCA Tejas Mk1A Centre Fuselage**

On 30 May 2025, Hyderabad-based VEM Technologies [handed](#) over the first centre fuselage assembly for the LCA Tejas Mk1A to HAL, marking the first time a major sub-assembly for the Tejas has been manufactured by a private Indian company.

### **DRDO Conducts Maiden Flight-Trials of Stratospheric Airship Platform**

On 3 May 2025, the DRDO [conducted](#) the first flight-trials of its Stratospheric Airship Platform from Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh. Developed by the Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE) in Agra, the airship ascended to approximately 17 km, carrying an instrumental payload. RM Rajnath Singh lauded the achievement, emphasizing its potential to enhance India's earth observation and intelligence capabilities.

### **DRDO and Indian Navy Test Indigenous Multi-Influence Ground Mine**

On 5 May 2025, the DRDO and the Indian Navy [conducted](#) a successful combat firing (with reduced explosive) of the indigenously developed Multi-Influence

Ground Mine (MIGM). This advanced underwater naval mine is engineered to counter modern stealth ships and submarines. The MIGM is now ready for induction into the Indian Navy.

### **'Arnala', First ASW Shallow Water Craft Delivered to the Indian Navy**

On 8 May 2025, 'Arnala', the first of eight indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Crafts (ASW SWC), was [delivered](#) to the Indian Navy by GRSE at the L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli. Constructed under a Public-Private Partnership between GRSE and L&T Shipyard, the 77-meter vessel is the largest Indian naval warship powered by a Diesel Engine-Waterjet combination. Named after the historic fort off Vasai, Maharashtra, 'Arnala' is designed for underwater surveillance, search and rescue, low intensity maritime operations, and advanced mine laying.

### **DRDO Develops High-Pressure Polymeric Membrane**

The DRDO, through its Kanpur-based laboratory DMSRDE, has successfully [developed](#) an indigenous nanoporous multilayered polymeric membrane designed for high-pressure sea water desalination. This technology addresses the critical challenge of membrane stability against chloride ions in saline environments, tailored for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ships.

### **Indian Army Trials Next-Generation Indigenous Defence Technologies**

The Indian Army [conducted](#) extensive Capacity Development Demonstrations

across key locations, including Pokhran, Babina, Joshimath, Agra, and Gopalpur, to evaluate next-generation indigenous defence technologies under simulated operational conditions. Key platforms undergoing evaluation include Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), UAV Launched Precision Guided Munitions (ULPGM), Runway Independent Remotely Piloted Aerial Systems (RPAS), Specialised Vertical Launch (SVL) Drones, Precision Multi Munition Delivery Systems, Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction Systems (IDDIS), Low Level Light Weight Radars, Next-Generation Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS), and Electronic Warfare (EW) platforms.

## DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

### IOS SAGAR Strengthens Maritime Ties in Seychelles

On 1 May 2025, Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR, [arrived](#) at Port Victoria, Seychelles, as part of its ongoing deployment across the South-West Indian Ocean Region. The visit followed the successful completion of an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) surveillance

mission in Mauritius, conducted in coordination with the National Coast Guard of Mauritius.

### INS Sharda Participates in HADR Exercise in Maldives

On 4 May 2025, INS Sharda [arrived](#) at Maafilaafushi Atoll, Maldives, to participate in a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise which was scheduled from 4-10 May. This deployment aligns with India's "MAHASAGAR" (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions) vision, emphasizing collaborative efforts to ensure peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indian Ocean Region.

### INS Kiltan's Participates in IMDEX Asia 2025

INS Kiltan [arrived](#) in Singapore on 8 May 2025 to participate in IMDEX Asia 2025 at the Changi Exhibition Centre. The visit encompassed a range of bilateral and multilateral engagements, including professional exchanges with the Republic of Singapore Navy and other participating navies.

'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'.