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KEY EVENTS

Prime Minister Reviews Operational Readiness of the Armed Forces

Prime Minister Narendra Modi [reviewed](#) the security situation and operational readiness of the Armed Forces at the valedictory session of the Combined Commanders' Conference 2023 in Bhopal on 1 April 2023. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan briefed the PM about the discussions conducted during the conference. The PM complimented the Armed Forces for their role in nation building and providing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) assistance to friendly countries.

SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting Held

SCO Defence Ministers' meeting [was held](#) in New Delhi on 28 April 2023. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh called upon the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states to work towards eliminating terrorism in all its forms and fix accountability on those who aid or fund such activities. Addressing the Defence Ministers of SCO member countries, Shri Rajnath Singh asserted that any kind of terrorist act or support to it in any form is a significant crime against humanity and peace & prosperity cannot coexist with this menace. Raksha Mantri also held bilateral meetings with the participating Defence Ministers on 27 and 28 April 2023, where bilateral Defence-related issues and other matters of mutual interest were discussed.

Japan's Vice Minister of Defense Calls on Raksha Mantri

Vice Minister of Defense for International Affairs of Japan Oka Masami [called on](#)

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on 6 April 2023. Mr Oka co-chaired the 7th Defence Policy Dialogue with Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane on 5 April 2023. The visiting dignitary reiterated Japan's keenness to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation, including collaboration in defence equipment and technology.

Raksha Mantri Holds Conversation with Canadian Minister of National Defence

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held a telephonic conversation](#) with Canadian Minister of National Defence Anita Anand on 19 April 2023. Both Ministers discussed ways to develop bilateral defence relations. The shared interest of both the countries in the peace and security of the Indo-Pacific was flagged.

Chief of Army Staff Visits Australia

General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff proceeded on a [visit](#) to Australia 3 April 2023. During the four-day visit, General Pande interacted with the Chief of the Defence Force of Australia, and his counterpart, the Chief of the Australian Army, as well as with the Chief of the Australian Air Force.

Bangladesh Army Chief Visits India

General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh Army [arrived on a three-day visit](#) to India from 27 to 29 April 2023. During the visit, he met Gen Manoj Pande and discussed avenues for enhancing India-Bangladesh defence relations, issues pertaining to enhancing and strengthening interoperability, training, anti-terrorism collaboration and overall bilateral cooperation. General Ahmed also called on

General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff, Air Marshal AP Singh, Vice Chief of Air Staff, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra. An 'Implementing Arrangement' for UN Peacekeeping Operations and Training Cooperation between Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), India and Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training (BIPSOT), Bangladesh was signed between both Armies during the visit.

4th India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group Meeting Held in New Delhi

The 4th meeting of India-Mozambique Joint Defence Working Group [was held](#) in New Delhi on 25 April 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by Joint Secretary, MoD Amitabh Prasad and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of National Defence of Mozambique Casimiro Augusto Mueio. The two sides discussed issues relating to capacity building, among others.

8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue Held in Bangkok

The 8th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue was held in Bangkok on 20 April 2023. The [meeting was co-chaired](#) by Special Secretary, MoD Nivedita Shukla Verma and Thai Deputy Permanent Secretary for Defence General Nuchit Sribunsong. Both sides reviewed the progress on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives, and pledged to enhance existing areas of collaboration, especially in the field of defence industry, maritime security and multinational cooperation.

11th High Level Meeting Between the ICG and the Korean Coast Guard Held

The 11th High Level Meeting (HLM) between the Indian Coast Guard and the Korean Coast Guard [was held](#) in New Delhi on 25 April 2023. Commissioner General KIM Jong Wook, and Additional DG Rakesh Pal led the delegations. The meeting was organised under the provisions of the MoU signed in 2006. The HLM is focused at augmenting the operational level interaction and capacity building in the areas of Maritime Search & Rescue (M-SAR), Marine Pollution Response (MPR) and Maritime Law Enforcement (MLE).

Joint Military Exercise 'Ex KAVACH' Concludes at Andaman and Nicobar Command

Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) [conducted](#) a large-scale joint military exercise 'Ex KAVACH' involving the assets of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. The exercise, which began on 23 February 2023, concluded on 7 April 2023. Elements of the 'Shatrujeet Brigade' of the Army, Armed Forces Special Operations Division (AFSOD), Special Forces of the Navy and Amphibious troops of the ANC, participated in the multi-domain exercise involving amphibious landing, air-landed operations, heli-borne operations and rapid insertion of the Special Forces from mainland on a remote Island. The exercises demonstrated the capabilities and preparedness of the Armed Forces to safeguard India's maritime interests.

International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics Held

A three-day International Conference on Defence Finance and Economics (ICDFE-

2023) [was held](#) in New Delhi from 12-14 April 2023. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the conference which witnessed the participation of over 350 eminent policymakers, academics and government officials from within the country and abroad. Discussions ranged from an international perspective on strategic allocation of the defence budget, the importance of human resource management in defence and the significance of defence spending for a state's national security.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Defence Exports Reach All-Time High for FY 2022-23

India's defence exports reached an all-time high of approximately [Rs 16,000 crore in 2022-23](#), almost Rs 3,000 crore more than the previous financial year. Prime Minister Modi described the achievement as a clear manifestation of India's talent and enthusiasm towards 'Make in India'. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh termed it a remarkable achievement.

MoD Initiates Reforms to Promote Ease of Doing Business

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [approved a proposal](#) for bringing in industry-friendly reform related to Authority Holding Sealed Particulars (AHSP). The AHSP is responsible for generating, maintaining, updating or declaring obsolete technical information relating to defence products. Under the existing procedure, bottlenecks were experienced by the industry to bring timely improvements in their products and technologies. The Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) has been asked

to examine all AHSPs with them and rationalise the entire list within two months.

New Training Simulator Complex Inaugurated

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, in the presence of VAdm Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief, Eastern Naval Command and VAdm Sanjay Jasjit Singh, Vice Chief of Naval Staff, [inaugurated](#) the state-of-the-art P8I simulator named as 'Ashok Roy Training Simulator Complex' (ARTSC) on 25 April 2023 at INS Rajali, Arakkonam. The training simulator complex commemorates the distinguished service and the supreme sacrifice made by Late Lt Cdr Ashok Roy, VrC, NM, during the heroic action in the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

India – Sri Lanka Annual Bilateral Maritime Exercise (SLINEX-23) Held

The 10th edition of IN-SLN bilateral maritime exercise SLINEX-23 [was conducted in](#) Colombo from 3-8 April 2023. The exercise is being conducted in two phases: the Harbour Phase from 3-5 April 2023, followed by a Sea Phase from 6-8 April 2023. The IN is being represented by INS Kiltan, an indigenous Kamorta class ASW corvette and INS Savitri, an Offshore Patrol Vessel. The Sri Lanka Navy is being represented by SLNS Gajabahu and SLNS Sagara. Maritime Patrol Aircraft, helicopters and Special Forces from both the sides also participated in the exercise.

IAF Participates in Multilateral Exercise Orion at Mont De Marsan, France

An IAF contingent departed on 14 April 2023 for France to participate in Exercise

Orion at Mont-de-Marsan, an Air Force base of the French Air and Space Force (FASF). [The exercise will be conducted](#) from 17 April to 05 May 2023. The IAF Contingent comprised four Rafale, two C-17, two Il-78 aircraft and 165 air warriors. This would be the first overseas exercise for the IAF's Rafale aircraft. Besides the IAF and the FASF, Air Forces from Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, the UK, Spain and USA also participated in this multilateral exercise.

IAF Participates In Exercise Iniochos-23

The IAF [participated in](#) Exercise INIOCHOS-23, a multi-national air exercise hosted by the Hellenic Air Force at the Andravida Air Base in Greece from 24 April 2023 to 4 May 2023. The IAF contingent comprised four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft. The exercise was conducted in a realistic combat scenario involving multiple types of air and surface assets.

Exercise Cope India-2023 Culminates at Kalaikunda

The 6th edition of Cope India-2023, an Air Exercise between the IAF and the United States Air Force (USAF), [started on](#) 10 April 2023 and [culminated on](#) 24 April 2023. The exercise involved participation

of frontline IAF aircraft like Rafale, Tejas, Su-30MKI, Jaguar, C-17 and C-130. The USAF in turn fielded the F-15 'Strike Eagle' fighter, C-130, MC-130J, C-17 and the B1B, strategic bomber aircraft. The exercise also [included the presence of](#) Japanese Air Self Defence Force aircrew, who participated as Observers.

Indo-UK Joint Military Exercise Ajeya Warrior 2023 Held

The 7th edition of joint military exercise Ajeya Warrior-23 between India and the United Kingdom [is being conducted](#) at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom from 27 April to 11 May 2023. It is a biennial training event conducted alternatively in the UK and India, the last edition was held at Chaubatia, Uttarakhand in October 2021. Soldiers of the 2 Royal Gorkha Rifles from the UK and Indian Army soldiers from the BIHAR Regiment are participating in the exercise. Among the aims of the exercise include promoting the ability to operate together while undertaking company-level sub-conventional operations in urban and semi-urban environments under UN mandate. The scope of this exercise involves a Command Post Exercise (CPX) at the Battalion level and Company level Field Training Exercise (FTX).

'The 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'.