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Contents

Key Events

- Prime Minister dedicates HAL Helicopter factory to the nation
- Aero India 2023 held
- Operation Dost saves dozens in Turkey

Atmanirbhar Bharat

- LCA Navy and MIG-29 Fighter Aircraft land on INS Vikrant
- MoD signs contract with L&T for procurement of 41 indigenous Modular Bridges
- First ACTCM Barge launched
- Keel laid for two ASW SWC ships
- First Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge launched
- Indian Navy's Annual Refit and Annual Infrastructure and Indenigisation conference held

Defence Diplomacy

- Senior officials from Cambodian Armed forces visit India
- 11th India-Mongolia Joint Working Group Meeting Held
- Indo-Japan joint training exercise 'Dharma Guradian' commences in Japan
- Japanese Naval Ships visit Kochi
- Indo-Uzbekistan joint military exercise 'Dustlik' commences in Utrakhand
- INS Sumedha participates in IDEX and NAVDEX 2023
- Raksha Mantri holds telephonic conversation with UK counterpart
- 7th Annual India-Sri Lanka defence dialogue held
- IAF participates in Exercise Desert Flag

KEY EVENTS

Prime Minister dedicates HAL Helicopter factory to the nation

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Helicopter Factory at Tumakuru in Karnataka on 6 February 2023. The PM took a walkthrough of the Helicopter Facility and Structure Hangar and unveiled the Light Utility Helicopter (LUH). The factory is India's largest helicopter manufacturing facility and will initially produce LUHs, an indigenously designed and developed three-ton class, single engine multipurpose utility helicopter. Initially, this factory will produce around 30 helicopters per year which can be enhanced to 60 and then 90 per year in a phased manner.

Aero India 2023 held

India's premier biennial air show and aviation exhibition was held in Bangalore, India, at the Yelahanka Air force station from the 13-17 February 2023. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi. The theme of the event was 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities'. Aero India saw participation from 98 countries, Defence Ministers of 32 countries, Air Chiefs of 29 countries and 73 Chief Executive Officers of global and Indian original equipment manufacturers (OEMs). Over 200 agreements worth around Rs 80,000 crore were signed during the event. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh also met CEOs of OEMs on the sidelines of the event.

Operation Dost saves dozens in Turkey

The Indian disaster relief team, comprising 99 personnel of Indian Army Field Hospital and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) returned home on 20 February 2023, after

putting in a stupendous effort to provide medical relief to disaster victims in Hatya Province of Turkey hit by an earthquake. The Indian Army Field Hospital treated 3604 casualties, providing emergency medical care and performing 4 major surgeries, 63 minor surgeries, and 343 minor procedures, including 87 plaster of paris (POP) applications for fixing fractures. The team also set up a reception desk for receiving donations and distributed them to the needy.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

LCA Navy and MIG-29 Fighter Aircraft land on INS Vikrant

LCA Navy and Mig-29 fighter aircraft landed on the deck of the indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant for the first time on 6 February 2023. Adm Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, stated that the first time landing of the fighter aircraft heralded the 'integration of the fighter aircraft with INS Vikrant'. The aircraft carrier was commissioned in September 2022. The LCA Navy has been indigenously designed and produced by Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and HAL.

MoD signs contract with L&T for procurement of 41 indigenous Modular Bridges

In a major boost to defence indigenisation, the MoD has approved the proposal for the indigenous manufacture of 41 sets of Modular Bridges for the Corps of Engineers of the Indian Army. These bridges have been designed and developed by DRDO and shall be produced by Larsen & Toubro (L&T) as a DRDO-nominated production agency. The project can pave the way for enhancing defence exports to friendly countries.

First ACTCM Barge launched

The Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge, Yard 125 (LSAM 15) was launched on 10 February 2023, at M/s Suryadipta Projects Pvt Ltd, Thane. With all major and auxiliary equipment/systems sourced from indigenous manufacturers, this barge showcases the 'Make in India' initiative of the Ministry of Defence. The availability of ACTCM Barges will provide impetus to the Operational commitments of IN by facilitating Transportation, Embarkation and Disembarkation of articles/ammunition to IN Ships both alongside jetties and at outer harbours.

Keel laid for two ASW SWC ships

The keel laying of the second ship (BY 524, Malwan) and third ship (BY 525, Mangrol) of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) (CSL) project was done on 21 February 2023 at the Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi. These vessels will provide sub-surface surveillance in coastal areas to detect and neutralise underwater threats. CSL will build eight such vessels.

First Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge launched

The Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 75 (LSAM 7) was launched on 24 February 2023 at Guttenevdi, Visakhapatnam. Eight such barges will be constructed by M/s Secon, a MSME.

Indian Navy's Annual Refit and Annual Infrastructure and Indigenisation conference held

Indian Navy's Annual Refit Conference 23 (ARC-23) and Annual Infrastructure & Indigenisation Conference 23 (AIIC-23) was conducted on 23-24 February 2023, at Headquarters, Eastern Naval Command, Visakhapatnam. The conference was held

under the Chairmanship of VAdm Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel (COM). Refit plans, operational availability of ships/submarines of the Indian Navy and the plans for augmentation of infrastructure to meet the growing requirements of the Indian Navy were discussed during the conference. The conference was attended by delegates from the Naval Headquarters, the three Naval Commands, the Tri-Services Andaman and Nicobar Command, Director General Naval Projects, Naval Dockyards, Repair Yards and Material Organisations of the Indian Navy.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Senior officials from Cambodian Armed forces visit India

Lieutenant General Hun Manet, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF) and Commander of Royal Cambodian Army, along with a delegation, visited India from 2-4 February 2023. This was the maiden visit by a Commander of the Royal Cambodian Army. The visit by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh to Cambodia in June 2018 and November 2022 provided fresh impetus to the bilateral defence cooperation.

11th India-Mongolia Joint Working Group Meeting Held

The 11th meeting of the India-Mongolia Joint Working Group was held on 10 February 2023, in New Delhi. Both sides reviewed the progress on various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives and identified means to further enhance existing areas of cooperation.

Indo-Japan joint training exercise 'Dharma Guardian' commences in Japan.

The 4th edition of the joint military exercise, 'EX DHARMA GUARDIAN', between India and Japan is being conducted at Camp Imazu

in Shiga province, Japan, from 17 February to 2 March 2023. The annual training event with Japan covers platoon-level joint training on operations in jungle and semi-urban/urban terrain.

Japanese Naval Ships visit Kochi

Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Uruga and Awaji made a port call at Kochi from 14-16 February 2023. During the visit, they were familiarised with various training facilities and activities undertaken at the Training Command of the Indian Navy. Visits and professional interaction onboard Japanese ships were conducted to enhance interoperability and share best practices.

Indo-Uzbekistan joint military exercise 'Dustlik' commences in Uttarakhand

The 4th edition of the joint military exercise 'DUSTLIK' between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army commenced on 20 February 2023 at the Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand). 45 Soldiers each from Uzbekistan and Indian Army are participating in this exercise which would focus on joint counter-terrorist operations in the mountainous and semi-urban scenario under UN mandate.

INS Sumedha participates in IDEX and NAVDEX 2023

Indian Naval Ship Sumedha participated in NAVDEX 23 (Naval Defence Exhibition) and IDEX 23 (International Defence Exhibition), from 20-24 February 2023, in the UAE. INS Sumedha is the third ship of the indigenously built Saryu class Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPV) and was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 7 March 2014.

Raksha Mantri holds telephonic conversation with UK counterpart

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh held a telephonic conversation with the UK Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace, on 21 February 2023. The Ministers discussed various defence and security issues, including regional developments and the Indo-Pacific. The Raksha Mantri suggested that UK companies become part of India's growth story and participate in co-development and co-production in India.

7th Annual India-Sri Lanka defence dialogue held

The 7th Annual Defence Dialogue between India and Sri Lanka was held in New Delhi on 23 February 2023. It was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and his Sri Lankan counterpart General Kamal Gunaratne. Ongoing defence cooperation activities between the two countries were reviewed, with both sides agreeing to increase the complexity of bilateral exercises.

IAF Participates in Exercise Desert Flag

An Indian Air Force contingent comprising 110 Air Warriors is at Al Dhafra airbase of the United Arab Emirates to participate in Exercise Desert Flag VIII. The IAF participation includes five LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft. Exercise Desert Flag is a multilateral air exercise in which Air Forces from UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, the UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, the Republic of Korea, and the US participate. The exercise is scheduled from 27 February to 17 March 2023.

"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".