

DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol I | Issue 7 | November 2022



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

Contents

Key Events

- Raksha Mantri participates in the Ninth ADDM Plus Meeting in Cambodia
- Raksha Mantri interacts with US Secretary of Defense in Siem Reap
- India-France Annual Defence Dialogue held in New Delhi
- The Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2022 held in New Delhi
- Chief of Naval Staff visits Japan
- Chief of Army Staff visits France
- Defence Secretary meets Chief Operations Officer, Royal Bhutan Army
- Exercise Sea Vigil-22
- United States Navy Secretary visits India

Atmanirbhar Bharat

- DRDO conducts successful maiden flight test of Phase-II BMD Interceptor
- Testing facility for Sonar Systems for Indian Navy launched by DRDO
- Successful launch of Agni-3 IRBM
- Y 12705 (Mormugao) delivered to the Indian Navy
- 'Ikshak' launched at Kattupalli, Chennai

Defence Diplomacy

- French Naval Ship Aconit visits Mumbai
- Maritime Partnership Exercise with Australian Navy Ships Held
- Joint Training with Singapore Air Force commences at Kalaikunda
- Indian ships participate in MALABAR 22
- Indo-US joint training 'Yudh Abhyas 2022' Held in Uttarakhand
- India-Oman bilateral exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' Held
- Joint Exercise 'Garuda Shakti' with Indonesia commences at Karawang
- Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kamorta visit Busan, South Korea
- India-Australia training exercise 'Austra Hind 22' commences in Rajasthan
- India-Malaysia joint exercise 'Harimau Shakti-2022' commences at Pulai
- Joint HADR exercise 'Samanvay 2022' conducted at Air Force Station Agra

Outreach Activities

- Indian Navy organises medical camp in Nagaland

KEY EVENTS

Raksha Mantri participates in the Ninth ADDM Plus Meeting in Cambodia

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh participated in the [9th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting \(ADMM\) Plus](#) meeting in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 23 November 2022. The ADMM Plus is an annual Defence Ministers meeting of ten ASEAN countries and its eight dialogue partner countries, viz., India, US, Russia, China, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea. The RM reiterated India's commitment to nurturing result-oriented cooperation between India and ADMM Plus countries for enhancing regional maritime security.

Raksha Mantri interacts with US Secretary of Defense in Siem Reap

[Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh](#) held a bilateral meeting with US Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin, in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 22 November 2022. The two Ministers expressed their commitment to a strong India-US defence cooperation. The need for both countries to work together for capability building in critical domains such as military aviation, artificial intelligence and cyber technology was stressed.

India-France Annual Defence Dialogue held in New Delhi

The 4th [India-France Annual Defence Dialogue](#) was held in New Delhi on 28 November 2022. Raksha Mantri and the Minister of Armed Forces of the French Republic, Sebastien Lecornu, led the respective delegations. A wide range of bilateral and regional issues were discussed, including prospects for enhancing defence industrial cooperation. The Ministers reviewed the ongoing military-to-military cooperation and the need to strengthen maritime cooperation

and increase the scope and complexity of bilateral exercises was reiterated.

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2022 held in New Delhi

[The Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2022 \(IPRD-2022\)](#) was held in New Delhi from 23-25 November 2022 at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. With the theme 'Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative' (IPOI), the IPRD 2022 explored sub-themes that could provide greater specificity and traction to the seven 'pillars' or 'spokes' of the IPOI– Maritime Security; Maritime Ecology; Maritime Resources; Capacity Building and Resource Sharing; Disaster Risk Reduction and Management; Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation; Trade Connectivity and Maritime Transport. In his Keynote Address, Raksha Mantri stated that the IPRD was a significant platform for exchanging ideas on enhancing cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

Chief of Naval Staff visits Japan

[Adm R Hari Kumar](#), Chief of the Naval Staff, visited Japan from 5-9 November 2022. The CNS witnessed the International Fleet Review (IFR), hosted by the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) off Yokosuka on 6 November 2022 commemorating the 70th Anniversary of its formation. The CNS also interacted with the crews of participating Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kamorta in MALABAR 22. The CNS's visit further consolidates high levels of bilateral defence engagement with Japan.

Chief of Army Staff visits France

[General Manoj Pande](#), Chief of the Army Staff, visited France from 14-17 November 2022. Gen. Pande laid a wreath at Neuve Chapelle Indian Memorial, which

commemorates the sacrifices of 4,742 Indian soldiers during the First World War. He also called on the French Chief of the Defence Staff and Chief of the Army Staff, apart from visiting the Ecole Militaire. Issues relating to enhancing bilateral defence engagement were discussed.

Defence Secretary meets Chief Operations Officer, Royal Bhutan Army

Chief Operations Officer, Royal Bhutan Army, [Lt Gen Batoo Tshering](#), called on Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane in New Delhi on 1 November 2022. Both officials discussed ongoing defence cooperation and reviewed areas of mutual interest.

Exercise Sea Vigil-22

[Exercise Sea Vigil-22](#), the two-day Coastal Defence exercise, was held from 15-16 November 2022. The exercises included contingencies ranging from peace to wartime across the entire coastline and EEZ of the country. The exercise involved more than 17 government agencies from nine coastal states and four Union Territories.

United States Navy Secretary visits India

[Carlos Del Toro](#), Secretary of the US Navy, visited India from 17-21 November 2022. He interacted with Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff and other high-ranking officials. Del Toro also visited the Southern Naval Command (SNC) at Kochi, wherein he interacted with the Commander-in-Chief, SNC, Vice Adm M.A. Hampiholi, and visited India's first indigenous Aircraft Carrier, INS Vikrant, at Cochin Shipyard.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

DRDO conducts successful maiden flight test of Phase-II BMD Interceptor

DRDO conducted the successful maiden flight test of [Phase-II Ballistic Missile](#)

[Defence](#) (BMD) interceptor AD-1 missile on 2 November 2022. The AD-1 is a long-range interceptor missile designed for both low exo-atmospheric and endo-atmospheric interception of long-range ballistic missiles as well as aircraft.

Testing facility for Sonar Systems for Indian Navy launched by DRDO

The DRDO launched a state-of-the-art [testing and evaluation facility for sonar systems](#) for use by the Indian navy onboard various platforms, including ships, submarines and helicopters, at the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi..

Successful launch of Agni-3 IRBM

The successful training launch of Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile, [Agni-3](#), was carried out from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha, on 23 November 2022, as part of routine user training launches under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.

Y 12705 (Mormugao) delivered to the Indian Navy

[Y 12705 \(Mormugao\)](#), the second ship of Project 15B stealth-guided missile destroyers being built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), was delivered to the Indian Navy on 24 November 2022. The keel of the ship was laid in June 2015, and it was launched on 17 September 2016. The ship displaces 7400 tonnes when fully loaded and has a maximum speed of 30 knots.

'Ikshak' launched at Kattupalli, Chennai

['Ikshak'](#) ('Guide'), the third of the four Survey Vessels (Large) (SVL) project, being built by GRSE/L&T for the Indian Navy, was launched on 26 November 2022 at Kattupalli, Chennai. The ship can carry four Survey Motor Boats and a helicopter.

It will undertake coastal and deep-water hydrographic surveys of ports and navigational channels.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

French Naval Ship *Aconit* visits Mumbai

[French Navy Ship Aconit](#), a La Fayette class frigate, visited Mumbai from 28 October-2 November 2022. The Commanding Officer, Cdr Guyon, called on VAdm Krishna Swaminathan, Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command. The visit culminated with an exercise at sea with a warship of the IN's Western Fleet. The frigate had previously visited Visakhapatnam in 2015.

Maritime Partnership Exercise with Australian Navy Ships Held

A [Maritime Partnership Exercise](#) involving Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ships HMAS Adelaide and HMAS Anzac and Indian Navy Ships Jalashwa and Kavaratti, along with their embarked helicopters, was held in the Bay of Bengal from 2-3 November 2022. The exercises included tactical maneuvers, helicopter landings and amphibious operations. RAN ships visited Visakhapatnam as part of Australia's Indo-Pacific Endeavour 2022 (IPE 22).

Joint Training with Singapore Air Force commences at Kalaikunda

On 3 November 2022, the 11th edition of the annual [Joint Military Training \(JMT\)](#) between the IAF and the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) commenced at Air Force Station, Kalaikunda. It is scheduled to end on 14 December. The two Air Forces have resumed this training after a gap of two years. The RSAF is participating with F-16 aircraft, while the IAF is fielding the Su-30 MKI, Jaguar, MiG-29 and LCA Tejas aircraft.

Indian ships participate in MALABAR 22

The 26th edition of the multi-national maritime exercise [MALABAR 22](#) was conducted off the coast of Japan from 8-15 November 2022. The Indian Navy was represented by Eastern Fleet ships Shivalik and Kamorta, led by Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet. The exercises, which initially began in 1992 as a bilateral exercise between the navies of India and the US, gained further prominence with the joining of the navies of Australia and Japan. This edition marked the 30th anniversary of the exercise. Eleven surface ships, including a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, four long-range maritime patrol aircraft, integral helicopters and two submarines, participated in the exercises.

Indo-US joint training 'Yudh Abhyas 2022' Held in Uttarakhand

The 18th edition of the annual [Indo - US joint training exercise "YUDH ABHYAS 22"](#) was held in Uttarakhand from 18 November-2 December 2022. The training schedule focuses on employment of an integrated battle group under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate. The schedule will include all operations related to peace keeping and peace enforcement.

India-Oman bilateral exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' Held

The Indian Navy's guided missile stealth frigate, INS Trikanth, offshore patrol vessel INS Sumitra, and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier, participated in the 13th edition of the bilateral exercise ['Naseem Al Bahr'](#) (Sea Breeze), with Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), from 19-24 November 2022 off the coast of Oman. This year marks 30 years of IN-RNO bilateral exercises, which began in 1993.

Joint Exercise ‘Garuda Shakti’ with Indonesia commences at Karawang

A contingent of Indian Special Forces troops engaged in a bilateral Joint Training Exercise [Garuda Shakti](#) with Indonesian Special Forces at Sangga Buana Training Area, Karawang, Indonesia. The 13-day exercise commenced on 21 November 2022 and is the eighth edition of the series of bilateral exercises under this banner.

Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kamorta visit Busan, South Korea

[Indian Naval Ships Shivalik and Kamorta visited Busan](#), South Korea, from 21-23 November 2022. The Commanding Officers of both IN vessels called on Vice Admiral Kang Dong Hun, the Commander Republic of the Korea Fleet, and discussed avenues to strengthen further maritime cooperation. On departure from Busan, Shivalik and Kamorta undertook a Maritime Partnership Exercise with RoK Navy Ship, No Jeok Bong.

India-Australia training exercise ‘Austra Hind 22’ commences in Rajasthan

The bilateral training exercise ‘[Austra Hind 22](#)’ between contingents of the Indian Army and the Australian Army commenced at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges (Rajasthan) on 28 November 2022. It ends on 11 December 2022. This is the first exercise in the series of Austra Hind with the participation of all arms and services contingent from both armies. While the Indian Army is represented by troops from the Dogra Regiment, the Australian Army contingent comprises soldiers from the 13th

Brigade of the 2nd Division. Austra Hind will be a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Australia.

India-Malaysia joint exercise ‘Harimau Shakti-2022’ commences at Pulai

[India - Malaysia joint military Exercise ‘Harimau Shakti -2022’](#) commenced at Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia on 28 November. It will culminate on 12 December 2022. The troops of the Garhwal Rifles Regiment and the Royal Malay Regiment are participating in the exercises to enhance inter-operability in the planning and execution of various operations in jungle terrain.

Joint HADR exercise ‘Samanvay 2022’ conducted at Air Force Station Agra

The annual joint HADR Exercise ‘[Samanvay 2022](#)’ was conducted by the IAF from 28-30 November 2022 at Air Force Station, Agra. Various stakeholders from the country and representatives from ASEAN member countries participated in the exercise. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh emphasised the importance of collaborative HADR management, while speaking on the second day of the exercise.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Indian Navy organises medical camp in Nagaland

Indian Navy organised a [multi-specialty medical and wellness camp](#) at Niuland, Nagaland, 35 km from Dimapur. The camp aims to build awareness about the activities and functions of the Indian Navy to the people of India’s North East.

'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.'