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मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

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## KEY EVENTS

### Prime Minister and Raksha Mantri Participate in Navy Day 2023 Celebrations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [participated](#) in the program marking 'Navy Day 2023' celebrations at Sindhudurg, Maharashtra on 4 December 2023. Both of them witnessed operational demonstrations by Indian Navy's ships, submarines, aircraft and Special Forces from Tarkarli beach, Sindhudurg. The Prime Minister inaugurated the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Rajkot Fort and underlined his foresight in recognising the importance of naval capabilities for any nation. Mr Modi highlighted the steps taken by the government as regards the Blue Economy and highlighted the new tradition of holding armed forces day such as Army Day, Navy Day outside Delhi. The Raksha Mantri highlighted the strides being made to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta'. The IN celebrates 4<sup>th</sup> December as Navy Day to commemorate its achievements in 'Operation Trident' during the 1971 Indo-Pak War.

### Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan Visits Japan

Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan [visited](#) Japan from 10 December 2023. Gen Chauhan met with the Minister of Defence Minoru Kihara, Chief of Staff, Joint Staff, Japan Self-Defence Forces (JSDF) General Yoshida Yoshihide besides interacting with Commissioner of Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA) Fukasawa Masaki, and with Vice President of National Institute of Defence Studies (NIDS) Major General

Adachi Yoshiki. The CDS also visited Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) units and interacted with Commander in Chief Self Defence Fleet at Funakoshi JMSDF Base.

### Commander of the Sri Lanka Army Visits India

Lieutenant General Vikum Liyange, RWP, RSP, USP, Commander of the Sri Lanka Army [visited](#) India from 3-7 December 2023. He called on General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff, General Manoj Pande, the Chief of the Army Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of Air Staff, Giridhar Aramane, Defence Secretary, and Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, Vice Chief of Naval Staff.

### India-Germany Military Cooperation Sub Group Meeting Held

The 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Germany Military Cooperation Sub Group (MCSG) meeting was [conducted](#) from 5-6 December 2023 in New Delhi. Discussions focused on existing bilateral defence cooperation mechanisms and further strengthening ongoing defence engagements.

### Indian Navy Responds to Hijacking Incident in the Arabian Sea

The Indian Navy's mission deployed platforms [responded](#) to a maritime incident in Arabian Sea involving hijacking of Malta flagged Vessel MV Ruen. The IN's Maritime Patrol aircraft undertaking surveillance in the area and INS Kochi on Anti-Piracy Patrol in the Gulf of Aden [intercepted](#) MV Ruen in the early hours on 16 December 2023. To augment anti-Piracy efforts, the Indian Navy has deployed another indigenous guided missile destroyer in the region.

### **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) 2023 Held**

The 8<sup>th</sup> edition of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) Conclave of Chiefs (CoC) was [hosted](#) by Royal Thai Navy at Bangkok, Thailand from 19–22 December 2023. Adm R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, led a three-member delegation to the Conclave. Adm Kumar [held](#) interactions with Adm Adoong Pan-Iam, Commander-in-Chief, Royal Thai Navy. India is scheduled to take over as the Chair of IONS (2025-27).

### **Indian Coast Guard Assists Tamil Nadu Government in Flood Relief**

Indian Coast Guard [deployed](#) six Disaster Relief Teams (DRTs) for rescue and relief operations in Tamil Nadu in the flood affected areas on 17-18 December 2023. An Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) of ICG with an integral helicopter on-board was also deployed.

### **Indian Navy Responds to a Maritime Incident in the Arabian Sea**

The Indian Navy's mission deployed platforms [responded](#) swiftly to a missile/drone attack on MT Chem Pluto on 23 December 2023. MV Chem Pluto reached Mumbai and [anchored](#) safely on 25 December 2023. Given the recent spate of attacks in the Arabian Sea, Indian Navy has deployed guided missile destroyers, INS Mormugao, INS Kochi and INS Kolkata.

## **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **iDEX-DIO Signs 300<sup>th</sup> Contract for Defence Innovation**

Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) [reached](#) a milestone with the

signing of its 300<sup>th</sup> contract relating to the design and development of advanced Gallium Nitride Semiconductors on 1 December 2023. These are essential for the next generation of wireless transmitters in defence applications ranging from radars to EW (Electronics Warfare) jammers.

### **First Ship of Survey Vessel (Large) Sandhayak Delivered to Indian Navy**

Sandhayak (Yard 3025), the first of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships, being built at GRSE, Kolkata, was [delivered](#) to the Indian Navy on 04 December 2023. The ship will be used for coastal and deep-water Hydrographic Survey and collect oceanographic and geophysical data for defence and civil applications. Sandhayak has indigenous content of over 80 per cent.

### **Gen Chauhan: Domestic Industries Must Bolster Technological Capabilities**

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan [called](#) upon the domestic defence industries to bolster technological capabilities to address traditional and future challenges, while inaugurating Avionics Exposition 2023 organised by HAL in New Delhi on 7 December 2023

### **Defence Secretary Inaugurates New Design and Test Facility at HAL's AERDC**

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane [inaugurated](#) a new design and test facility at Aero Engine Research and Development Centre (AERDC) of HAL in Bengaluru on 29 December 2023. The facility houses special machines, advanced setups leveraging computational tools, in-house fabrication facility and test beds for testing aero-engines and related components

### Successful Training Launch of Short-Range Ballistic Missile ‘Agni-1

The training launch of Short-Range Ballistic Missile ‘Agni-1’ was [carried](#) out successfully from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha on 7 December 2023 under the aegis of the SFC.

### MoD Inks Contract for Digital Coast Guard Project

The MoD [signed](#) a contract with Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) on 8 December 2023, at a total cost of Rs 588.68 crore, for the acquisition of Digital Coast Guard (DCG) project, under the Buy (Indian) category. The DCG project will enable centralised monitoring and management of applications deployed by the ICG.

### Flight Trial of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator Conducted

DRDO successfully [carried](#) out flight trial of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator, an indigenous high-speed flying-wing UAV from the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga in Karnataka. The UAV is designed and developed by DRDO’s Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE). The autonomous landing of this high-speed UAV, without the need for ground radars/infrastructure/pilot, showcased a unique capability demonstration, allowing take-off and landing from any runway with surveyed coordinates.

### MoD Inks Contract with BEL for Procurement of Electronic Fuzes

The MoD, on 15 December 2023, [signed](#) a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Pune for procurement of Electronic

Fuzes for the Indian Army for a period of 10 years, at a total cost of Rs 5,336.25 crore.

### MoD Signs Rs 1,614.89 Crore Contract with MDL

The MoD [signed](#) a contract with Mazagon Dockyard Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai, on 20 December 2023 for the procurement of six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVS) for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG). The contract was made under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category at a total cost of Rs 1614.89 Crore.

### Y – 12706 Imphal Commissioned

The Indian Navy [commissioned](#) its latest stealth guided missile destroyer Imphal at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on 26 December 2023 in the presence of the Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh. The event marks the formal induction into the Navy of the third of four ‘Visakhapatnam’ class destroyers, indigenously designed by the Indian Navy’s in-house organisation, Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and constructed by MDL, Mumbai, with 75 per cent indigenous content, enhanced stealth features & state-of-the-art equipment. The Raksha Mantri stated that that [INS Imphal](#) will bolster our principle of ‘Jalmev Yasya, Balmev Tasya’ (One Who Controls the Sea is All Powerful) in Indo-Pacific region.

## DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

### INS Kadmatt Visits Yokosuka, Japan

INS Kadmatt, on a Long-Range Operational Deployment to the North Pacific Ocean [entered](#) Yokosuka, Japan on 02 December 2023 for an Operational Turnaround (OTR) and interactions with the Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF). The INS Kadmatt also undertook

fuelling with JMSDF Fast Combat Support Ship, JS Towada on 28 November 2023, off Okinawa, under the tenets of the Reciprocal Provisioning of Supply and Services (RPSS).

### **INS Sumedha Makes Port Call at Antsiranana, Madagascar**

As part of Indian Navy's Long Range Mission Based Deployment, Indian Naval Ship Sumedha [undertook](#) a port call at Antsiranana, Madagascar from 4-6 December 2023. INS Sumedha undertook Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with Malagasy Navy upon departure on 06 December 2023.

### **ICG Offshore Patrol Vessel Sajag Makes Port Call at Dammam, Saudi Arabia**

Indian Coast Guard Ship Sajag, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, [made](#) port call at King Abdul Aziz Port, AD Dammam, Saudi Arabia on 5 December 2023 on a three-day visit and engaged in cooperative engagements with the Saudi Border Guards and Saudi Naval Forces.

### **Indian Army Conducts Table-Top Exercise for ASEAN Women Peacekeepers**

The Indian Army [conducted](#) a Table-Top Exercise (TTX) for the Women Officers of Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi from 4-8 December 2023. The Exercise is part of ongoing efforts of Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) to strengthen international cooperation and

capacity-building in peacekeeping missions, with specific focus on empowering women in the field.

### **INS Sumedha Visits Port Lamu, Kenya**

As a part of on-going long-range deployment to Africa, INS Sumedha [arrived](#) at Port Lamu, Kenya on 9 December 2023. During the port call, personnel from both navies engaged in a wide range of professional interactions.

### **Indian Armed Forces Contingent Takes Part in VINBAX-2023**

An Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 45 personnel took part in the fourth edition of Joint Military Exercise VINBAX-2023. The exercise was [conducted](#) at Hanoi, Vietnam from 11-21 December 2023. The aim of the exercise was to foster collaborative partnership, promote inter-operability and share best practices between the two sides under Chapter VII of United Nations Charter on Peace Keeping Operations.

### **INS Kadmatt Visits Manila, Philippines**

As part of the ongoing Long Range Op Deployment, INS Kadmatt, the indigenously designed and built Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette, [arrived](#) at Manila, Philippines on 12 December 2023. Post departure from Manila, a Maritime Partnership Exercise was scheduled in the South China Sea between INS Kadmatt and BRP Ramon Alcaraz, an off-shore patrol vessel of the Philippine Navy.

'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'.