

# DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol 1 | Issue 3 | July 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**

- Prime Minister unveils 'SPRINT Challenges'
- First-ever 'Artificial Intelligence in Defence' exhibition & symposium held
- Indian Army Organises 'Suraksha Manthan' On Border and Coastal Security
- INS Sindhudhvj decommissioned after 35 years of glorious service
- ITBP creates 1<sup>st</sup> mountain-warfare training school in NE for LAC guarding troops

### **Atmanirbhar Bharat**

- DRDO conducts maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator
- Raksha Mantri dedicates new manufacturing facilities at BDL, Bhanur
- DGDE develops AI-based software to detect unauthorised constructions
- Y- 3023 Dunagiri Project 17A frigate Launched
- Arms procurement proposals worth Rs. 28,732 crore receives approval from DAC
- Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' delivered to Indian Navy
- ALH Squadron INAS 324 Commissioned at Visakhapatnam

### **Arms Procurement**

- Army to procure 800 multi-terrain vehicles
- Army Aviation augments combat power
- India considering Indo-Israeli long-range armed UAV
- Korean and Spanish defence majors ready to participate in 75 (I) submarine project

### **Defence Exports**

- India records highest-ever defence exports at ₹ 13,000 crores
- Tejas aircraft emerges as Malaysia's top choice for its fighter jet programme
- Indonesia to buy BrahMos Missile from India

### **Defence Diplomacy**

- INS Kochi Visits Safaga, Egypt
- Eastern Fleet Ships Visit Singapore
- Indian Navy participates in Seychelles Independence Day celebrations

### **Defence Joint Ventures**

- HAL, Safran sign agreement to create JV to build helicopter engines

## KEY EVENTS

### Prime Minister unveils ‘SPRINT Challenges’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled ‘[SPRINT Challenges](#)’, during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar ‘Swavlamban’ on 18 July 2022. NIIO, in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies into the Indian Navy. This collaborative project is named SPRINT – Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC).

### First-ever ‘Artificial Intelligence in Defence’ exhibition and symposium held

The first ever ‘[Artificial Intelligence in Defence](#)’ (AIDef) symposium and exhibition, organised by the DDP, MoD, was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on 11 July 2022. The event featured cutting-edge AI-enabled solutions developed by the Services, research organisations, industry and start-ups. An AI task force on Defence was established in 2018 to provide a road map on promoting AI in defence. Subsequently, the Defence AI Council (DAIC), headed by Raksha Mantri, was also set up.

### Indian Army Organises ‘Suraksha Manthan’ On Border and Coastal Security

The Desert Corps of the Indian Army organised “[Suraksha Manthan 2022](#)”, on aspects of Border & Coastal Security at

Jodhpur (Rajasthan). It was attended by DG, BSF, Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, Shri V.S. Pathania, Indian Coast Guard and Lt Gen Rakesh Kapoor, GOC, Desert Corps. A joint training calendar was also formulated, to enhance inter-operability and operational cohesion, along the International Boundary (IB) and coastal sectors.

### INS Sindhudhvaj decommissioned after 35 years of glorious service

[INS Sindhudhvaj](#), Russian-built Sindhughosh class submarine, bid adieu to the Indian Navy on 16 July 2022, serving for a glorious period of 35 years. It was the flag bearer of indigenisation of the Navy's efforts towards achieving Atmanirbharta, becoming the first ship to operationalise an indigenised sonar, Inertial Navigation System and Torpedo Fire Control System. It was the only submarine to be awarded CNS Rolling trophy for Innovation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### ITBP creates 1<sup>st</sup> mountain-warfare training school in NE for LAC guarding troops

The [Indo-Tibetan Border Police](#) (ITBP) has started its first mountain-warfare training centre in northeast India to skill its troops in high-altitude combat and survival tactics. It has been established in Dombang, abutting the LAC, at a height of 10,040 feet in Sikkim. It is the second such facility set up almost five decades after the establishment of first Mountaineering and Skiing Institute (M&SI) in 1973-74 at Auli, Uttarakhand, at an altitude of 9,000 feet.

## ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

### **DRDO conducts maiden flight of Autonomous Flying Wing Technology Demonstrator**

The maiden flight of the Autonomous [Flying Wing Demonstrator](#) was successfully conducted by the DRDO from the Aeronautical Test Range at Chitradurga, Karnataka, on 1 July 2022. The test marked a major milestone toward self-reliance in the development of future Unmanned Aircraft. The vehicle is designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.

### **Raksha Mantri dedicates new manufacturing facilities of BDL**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited [Bharat Dynamics Limited](#) (BDL) unit at Bhanur, Telangana on 2 July 2022 and dedicated to the nation new manufacturing facilities on warheads and radio frequency (RF) seekers. The Raksha Mantri underlined the importance of developing a long-term partnership between defence manufacturing organisations and academic institutions, moving from 'Know-how' to 'Know-why'. The RM also commended BDL for working on R&D of third generation anti-tank guided missile, Amogha.

### **DGDE develops AI-based software to detect unauthorised constructions**

Centre of Excellence on Satellite & Unmanned Remote Vehicle Initiative ([CoE-SURVEI](#)) has developed AI-based software to detect changes on the ground, including unauthorised constructions and encroachments in a time series using satellite imagery. The CoE was inaugurated

by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh on 16 December 2021. The software was developed by CoE-SURVEI in collaboration with knowledge partner, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Visakhapatnam.

### **Y- 3023 Dunagiri Project 17A frigate Launched**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched the Y-3023 Dunagiri, [Project 17A](#) frigate built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata on 15 July 2022. The frigates have improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems. Seven such frigates are in various stages of construction at GRSE and Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL). Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of Naval Staff, pointed out that 88 per cent of Navy's future contracts amounting to investments of nearly Rs 1,75,000 crore are being progressed through Indian companies.

### **Arms procurement proposals worth Rs. 28,732 crore receives approval from DAC**

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Raksha Mantri approved the [procurement of swarm drones, bulletproof jackets and carbines](#) worth Rs. 28,732 crores on 26 July 2022, under the Buy (Indian IDDM) and Buy (Indian) categories. Among the proposals that were approved included extended range rocket ammunition, infantry combat vehicles, bullet proof jackets, Close Quarter Battle Carbines, Autonomous Surveillance and Armed Drone Swarms, among others. The DAC also approved Navy's proposal to procure upgraded 1250KW capacity Marine Gas Turbine Generator for Kolkata

class of ships through Indian industry as well as the proposal to procure 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for Indian Coast Guard under the Buy (Indian-IDDMM) with 60 per cent indigenous content (IC).

### **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' delivered to Indian Navy**

The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi delivered to the Indian Navy, the prestigious Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) '[Vikrant](#)' on 28 July 2022. Designed by the Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and built by CSL, the carrier is expected to be commissioned on 15 August 2022. The aircraft carrier is a 45,000 tonnes capacity ship built at an overall cost of Rs.20,000 crores. The ship would be capable of operating air wing consisting of 30 aircraft comprising of MIG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) and Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) (Navy). Two-thirds of the ship is made up of indigenous content.

### **Aatmanirbhar Bharat: iDEX-DIO signs 100th contract for defence innovation**

iDEX ([Innovations for Defence Excellence](#)), the flagship initiative of the DDP, MoD, reached the milestone of signing 100<sup>th</sup> contract on 26 July 2022. iDEX framework was launched in 2018 to enable start-ups to contribute to the development of the defence and aerospace sector in the country. More than Rs 250 crore worth of projects have been allocated and procurement of 14 items worth over Rs 400 crore have been cleared. 17 start-ups in 14 projects have been accorded the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) by DAC for trial and procurement.

### **ALH Squadron INAS 324 Commissioned at Visakhapatnam**

Indian Naval Air [Squadron 324](#) was commissioned at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam on 4 July 2022. The unit is the first Naval Squadron on the Eastern Seaboard operating the indigenously designed and developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) MK III (MR) helicopters.

## **ARMS PROCUREMENT**

### **Army to procure 800 multi-terrain vehicles**

The Army is planning to procure around 800 [Light Armoured Multipurpose Vehicles](#) (LAMVs) for use in plains, deserts and high-altitude areas, for the armoured and mechanised units. A request for information (RFI) was issued on 1 July to identify probable Indian vendors capable of delivering the vehicles within 36 months from the date of award of the contract. The vehicles will be used for reconnaissance, surveillance and logistics purposes.

### **Army Aviation augments combat power**

The [Army Aviation Corps](#), is augmenting its firepower by inducting indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) and upcoming induction of AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the US. The first LCH squadron was raised on 1 June, with the Indian Air Force (IAF) also expected to raise its first squadron in the near future. The deal with Russia for 200 Ka-226T utility helicopters is likely to be abandoned in favour of the indigenous Light Utility Helicopter (LUH). The Corps also operates the Israeli Heron UAVs which are in the process of being modernised, at a cost of over Rs 6,000 crore.

### **India considering Indo-Israeli long-range armed UAV**

The government is considering the acquisition of an [indigenous long-range unmanned aerial vehicle](#) with strike capabilities, being developed by a private Indian firm in partnership with an Israeli defence manufacturer. Earlier, India was planning to acquire 30 American Predator high-altitude long-endurance drones but the cost of \$4.5 billion for these drones was considered to be on the higher side.

### **Korean and Spanish defence majors ready to participate in 75 (I) submarine project**

South Korean 'Daewoo' and Spanish 'Navantia' have expressed an interest in participating under the Strategic Partnership model to build six Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) diesel attack submarines at a cost of Rs 40,000 crore. The [Request for Proposal](#) (RPF) was first issued in July 2021 and has now been extended till 30 November 2022. MDL and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) will tie up with foreign defence majors to build these six submarines.

## **DEFENCE EXPORTS**

### **India records highest-ever defence exports at ₹13,000 crores**

India's arms exports touched Rs 13,000 crores in the financial year 2021-2022, with the private sector accounting for 70 per cent of the total. This was stated by Additional Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjay Jaju on 8 July. This was a significant increase from 2015-16, when the exports were Rs 2059 crore. The \$375 million contract with the Philippines in January 2022 to export BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles is

expected to pave the way for more such deals.

### **Tejas aircraft emerges as Malaysia's top choice for its fighter jet programme**

The Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) R Madhavan stated that [Tejas Light Combat Aircraft](#) (LCA) has emerged as the top choice for Malaysia and both sides are negotiating to firm up the deal. This was despite stiff competition from China's JF-17 jet, South Korea's FA-50, and Russia's Mig-35 and Yak-130. India has also offered to set up an MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) facility in Malaysia for its Su-30 fighter fleet as Kuala Lumpur was facing difficulties in procuring spares for the aircraft in view of Western sanctions against Moscow.

### **Indonesia to buy BrahMos Missile from India**

Reports noted that Indonesia was in talks to buy the [Brahmos anti-ship](#) variant of the missile from India. As and when the deal is concluded, it will become the second ASEAN member country after the Philippines to procure the cutting-edge missile. The Brahmos is also being sought by other South East Asian countries, like Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

## **DEFENCE DIPLOMACY**

### **INS Kochi Visits Safaga, Egypt**

[INS Kochi](#), deployed in the Red Sea, visited Port Safaga, Egypt from 28-30 June 2022. On her departure from Safaga, INS Kochi participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Egyptian Navy ships ENS Al Zubair and ENS Abu Ubadah. The exercise aimed at Visit Board

Search and Seizure (VBSS) drills, communication exercises, flag hoist drills and operational manoeuvre drills.

### **Eastern Fleet Ships Visit Singapore**

[INS Kadmatt](#) and [INS Sahyadri](#), indigenously built multi-role stealth frigate and an ASW corvette, respectively, under the Command of Rear Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, NM, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, visited Singapore from 01-03 July 2022, during their deployment to South East Asia. The IN crew participated in professional interactions with the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) towards enhancing mutual cooperation and interoperability.

### **Indian Navy participates in Seychelles Independence Day celebrations**

An Indian Navy contingent joined the personnel of the Seychelles Defence Force (SDF) for Independence Day celebrations of the [Republic of Seychelles](#), on 29 June 2022. INS Kolkata, the indigenously-built stealth guided missile destroyer of the Indian Navy, conducted joint surveillance operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Seychelles along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft of Seychelles Air Force from 29 June-03 July 2022.

### **India and Japan conduct a maritime partnership exercise in the Andaman Sea**

The Indian Navy and Japan Maritime Self Defence Forces conducted [Maritime Partnership Exercise](#) (MPX) on 23 July 2022 in the Andaman Sea. During the exercise, INS Sukanya, an offshore patrol vessel and JS Samidare, a Murasame class destroyer, undertook various exercises including seamanship activities, aircraft operations and tactical manoeuvres.

## **DEFENCE JOINT VENTURES**

### **HAL, Safran sign agreement to create JV to build helicopter engines**

[Hindustan Aeronautics Limited](#) (HAL) and Safran Helicopter Engines, a French engine-maker, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to create a new joint venture for developing helicopter engines. The HAL and Safran helicopter engines partnership includes the Shakti engine – which powers HAL-produced helicopters, including the Dhruv ALH, Rudra and the LCH. HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines will also provide MRO (maintenance, repair, and overhaul) services for Turbomeca TM333 and Shakti engines.

'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'.