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## KEY EVENTS

### Shri Rajnath Singh Assumes Charge as Raksha Mantri

Shri Rajnath Singh [assumed](#) charge as the Raksha Mantri for the second consecutive term on 13 June 2024. He was welcomed at South Block, New Delhi by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth, who was accompanied by CDS General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi, Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane, Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Dr Niten Chandra, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat and other officials of Ministry of Defence (MoD). Talking to reporters on the occasion, the Raksha Mantri stated that focus will be on attaining self-reliance in defence, further modernising the Armed Forces, innovation in cutting-edge technology, strengthening border infrastructure, and ensuring ex-servicemen welfare, among others.

### RM Reviews Indian Navy's Operational Readiness

The Raksha Mantri on 14 June 2024 [visited](#) the Eastern Naval Command at Visakhapatnam to review the operational readiness of the Indian Navy, and embarked on INS Jalashwa for a 'Day at Sea'. It was Shri Singh's first outstation visit after assuming charge as RM. During the 'Day at Sea', he witnessed the dynamic operations by various ships, submarine and aircraft of

the Command. He was accompanied by CNS Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar.

### RM Leads the Armed Forces in Celebrating 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh on 21 June 2024 [led](#) the Armed Forces in celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga by performing various asanas and breathing exercises with soldiers at 1 Corps in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande and General Officer Commanding, 1 Corps Lt Gen Sanjay Mitra, along with 600 people, including senior officers, Agniveers, families and children attended the event.

### Shri Sanjay Seth Takes Over as Raksha Rajya Mantri

Shri Sanjay Seth [assumed](#) charge of the office of Minister of State, Ministry of Defence on 11 June 2024.

### RRM Visits INS Rajali to Review Operational Preparedness

RRM Sanjay Seth [visited](#) Indian Naval Air Station, Rajali located near Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu on 20 June 2024 and reviewed the operational preparedness of the station.

### CDS Visits INS Chilka

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan [visited](#) INS Chilka, the premier ab-initio training establishment of Indian Navy on 2 June 2024. In his address to the Agniveers, the CDS brought

out that the implementation of the 'Agnipath Scheme' has been one of the major reforms towards maintaining a youthful profile in the services.

### **CDS Releases Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations**

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan [released](#) the Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations during the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) meeting held on 18 June 2024 in New Delhi.

### **CDS: Aatmanirbharta Crucial for Achieving Strategic Independence**

India's pursuit of defence indigenisation and self-reliance is crucial for achieving strategic independence in the defence sector. This was [stated](#) by CDS Gen Anil Chauhan while addressing the maiden Armed Forces BEML Synergy Meet 2024 on 21 June 2024 in New Delhi. Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari along with senior officials from Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard also attended the event.

### **CDS' Remarks on India's Nuclear Trajectory**

CDS General Anil Chauhan [reiterated](#) that India's nuclear trajectory is premised on the principle of 'No First Use & Massive Retaliation'. Gen Anil Chauhan was delivering the keynote address on 'Nuclear Strategy: Contemporary Developments and Future Possibilities' in a seminar organised by Centre for Air Power Studies-IISS in New Delhi on 26 June 2024.

### **CAS Reviews Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) at Dundigal**

The Combined Graduation Parade (CGP) of the 213 Officers' Course at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, Hyderabad was [held](#) on 15 June 2024, to mark the successful completion of pre-commissioning training of flight cadets of the Flying and Ground Duty branches of the IAF. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari was the Reviewing Officer (RO) of the parade.

### **Gen Upendra Dwivedi Takes Over as Chief of the Army Staff**

General Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM, [took](#) over as the 30<sup>th</sup> Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) from General Manoj Pande, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, who [superannuated](#) after more than four decades of service to the nation on 30 Jun 2024.

### **Chief of the Naval Staff Visits Bangladesh**

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), [arrived](#) in Bangladesh for a four-day visit from 1-4 July 24. The CNS held bilateral discussions with his counterpart Admiral M Nazmul Hassan, CNS Bangladesh Navy and reviewed the Passing Out Parade at Bangladesh Naval Academy (BNA) at Chittagong on 4 July 2024. The CNS held discussions with General Waker-Uz-Zaman (Chief of the Army Staff, Bangladesh Army), Air Marshal Hasan Mahmood Khan (Chief of the Air Staff, Bangladesh Air Force), Lt Gen Mizanur Rahman Shameem (Principal Staff Officer, Armed Forces Division) and

senior leadership of the Bangladesh Government. The CNS also addressed participants at the National Defence College, Dhaka and visited a few key defence facilities.

### **First India-US Command and Control Compatibility Board Meeting Held**

The first Command and Control Compatibility Board (CCCB) meeting for 2024 between India and the US was [held](#) at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi from 4-7 June 2024. The CCCB is the Technical Expert Group formed under Article XI of the Communication Compatibility and Security Agreement (COMCASA) between India and USA, and is held twice a year

### **Naval Pilots' Passing Out Parade Held at INS Rajali**

A passing out parade was [held](#) on 07 June 2024 to mark the graduation of the 102<sup>nd</sup> Helicopter Conversion Course (HCC) and completion of Stage I training of 4<sup>th</sup> Basic Helicopter Conversion Course (BHCC) at Naval Air Station–INS Rajali, Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu. 21 officers were awarded the prestigious 'Golden Wings' by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. SLt Anamika B Rajeev graduated as the 'First Woman Naval helicopter pilot'. Lt Jamyang Tsewang, the first Commissioned Naval Officer from the Union Territory of Ladakh successfully graduated as a qualified helicopter pilot.

### **Officer Cadets Pass Out from Indian Military Academy, Dehradun**

A total of 394 officer cadets of 154 Regular Course and 137 Technical Graduate Course, including 39 from 10 friendly countries, [passed](#) out from the portals of Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 8 June 2024. General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar reviewed the Passing Out Parade.

### **SAMEER, MeitY AND MCTE, Indian Army Forge Strategic Partnership**

On 22 June 2024, Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Indian Army and Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER), an autonomous R&D laboratory under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) [signed](#) a MoU to advance collaboration in 'Next Generation Wireless Technologies for Indian Army'.

### **DSSC, Wellington & DSC and Staff College, Dhaka Ink MoU**

Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington and Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC), Mirpur, Dhaka [inked](#) a MoU for cooperation concerning Military Education in the field of Strategic and Operational Studies during the state visit of PM Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh to India on 22 June 2024.

## **Indian Navy Bids Farewell to UH-3H Helicopter**

Indian Navy bid [farewell](#) to the UH-3H helicopter after 17 years of glorious service during a de-induction ceremony held at INS Dega, Visakhapatnam on 28 Jun 2024. The event was presided over by Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command. The UH-3H helicopter will be replaced by Sea King 42C helicopter at INAS 350.

## **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **Keel Laying of 2<sup>nd</sup> Cadet Training Ship (Yard-18004) Held at M/S L&T Shipyard**

The keel laying ceremony of the second Cadet Training Ship (Yard – 18004) was [held](#) at M/s L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli on 3 June 2024.

### **Fifth Barge of 08 X Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge Project Launched**

The launch of ‘Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 13 (Yard 81)’, the fifth Barge of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project, built by MSME Shipyard, M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPPL), Visakhapatnam for Indian Navy, was [undertaken](#) on 10 June 2024 at M/s Vinayaga Marine Petro Ltd, Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra.

### **DRDO Unveils ‘Divya Drishti’, a Cutting Edge AI Tool for Personal Identification**

Ingenious Research Solutions Pvt Ltd., a start-up [established](#) by a woman

entrepreneur, Dr. Shivani Verma after winning the prestigious Dare to Dream Innovation contest 2.0, has successfully developed an AI tool ‘Divya Drishti’ that integrates face recognition with immutable physiological parameters such as gait and skeleton. The AI tool has been developed under the technical guidance and mentoring by DRDO laboratory Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics (CAIR), Bengaluru.

### **Landmark 350<sup>th</sup> iDEX contract Inked**

iDEX, the flagship initiative of the MoD, [signed](#) the landmark 350<sup>th</sup> contract on 25 June 2024 with SpacePixxel Technologies Pvt Ltd for the design and development of a ‘Miniaturised satellite capable of carrying Electro-Optical, Infrared, Synthetic Aperture Radar, and Hyperspectral payloads up to 150 kgs’.

### **DRDO hands over Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket to IN**

DRDO [handed](#) over the Medium Range-Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR) to the Indian Navy in New Delhi on 26 June 2024. The MR-MOCR, a niche technology developed by DRDO’s Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur, obscures radar signals and creates a microwave shield around platforms and assets, thus reducing radar detection.

### **‘ABHYAS’ Successfully Completes Developmental Trials**

DRDO successfully [completed](#) six consecutive developmental trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT)

'ABHYAS'. ABHYAS has now completed 10 developmental trials demonstrating the reliability of the system. ABHYAS has been designed by DRDO's Aeronautical Development Establishment, Bengaluru, and developed through Production Agencies Hindustan Aeronautics Limited & Larsen & Toubro.

## DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

### INS Shivalik Departs Singapore for Japan

INS Shivalik, mission [deployed](#) to the South China Sea and Pacific Ocean, departed Singapore on 30 May 2024 for onward passage to Yokosuka, Japan. INS Shivalik is scheduled to participate in JIMEX 24 and RIMPAC 24 aimed at enhancing interoperability with the JMSDF, US Navy and other partner navies participating in RIMPAC 24.

### Indian Navy-Royal Navy of Oman Staff Talks Held

The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of Staff Talks between Indian Navy (IN) and Royal Navy of Oman (RNO) were [conducted](#) from 4–5 June 24 at New Delhi. The delegation also visited IFC-IOR, Gurugram and called on VAdm Tarun Sobti, Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy.

### Japan India Maritime Exercise–24 (JIMEX–24) Commences at Yokosuka Japan

Indian Navy's indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Shivalik arrived at Yokosuka, Japan on 11 June 2024 and [participated](#) in the

bilateral Japan–India Maritime Exercise 2024 (JIMEX 24). This is the eighth edition of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012. The JMSDF is being represented by the Guided Missile Destroyer JS Yugiri.

### IAF Contingent Participates in Exercise Red Flag 2024

An IAF contingent [participated](#) in the Exercise Red Flag 2024 conducted at Alaska from 4-14 June 2024. This was the second edition of Ex Red Flag 2024, which is an advanced aerial combat training exercise, held four times in a year by the US Air Force. The exercise witnessed participation of the Indian Air Force along with Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF), Royal Air Force (RAF) of the United Kingdom, Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAf), German Luftwaffe, and the US Air Force (USAF). The IAF contingent participated with the Rafale aircraft and personnel comprising of aircrew, technicians, engineers, controllers and subject matter experts. The transatlantic ferry of Rafale fighter aircraft was enabled by the IL-78 Air to Air Refuellers (AAR), while the transportation of personnel and equipment was undertaken by the C-17 Globemaster aircraft.

### INS Sunayna Visits Port Victoria, Seychelles and Port Louis, Mauritius

INS Sunayna, an Offshore Patrol Vessel based at Southern Naval Command, [entered](#) Port Victoria, Seychelles on 15 June 2024 in the company of Seychelles Coast Guard Ship (SCGS) Zoroaster. Zoroaster had

recently completed her short refit at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), India. The ship undertook joint EEZ surveillance with the Seychelles Coast Guard during the deployment. The ship then [entered](#) Port Louis, Mauritius on 20 June 2024 for a two-day visit. The ship later participated in the 48<sup>th</sup> National Day of Seychelles on 29 June 2024.

### **RSNF Trainees Join First Training Squadron (1TS) For Afloat Attachment**

76 trainees of King Fahad Naval Academy of the Royal Saudi Naval Forces (RSNF) [joined](#) the First Training Squadron, 1TS of the Indian Navy at Southern Naval Command, Kochi on 24 June 2024. This is the second batch of trainees who would be undergoing training with 1TS, the first batch having undergone similar training in May–June 2023.

### **INS Tabar Reaches Alexandria, Egypt**

As part of her ongoing deployment to Africa and Europe, Indian Navy's frontline frigate, INS Tabar, [arrived](#) at Alexandria, Egypt from 27-30 June 2024.

### **INS Shivalik Reaches Pearl Harbour to Participate in RIMPAC-24**

INS Shivalik, mission [deployed](#) in South China Sea and North Pacific Ocean, reached Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to take part in the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) exercise, world's largest naval exercise. RIMPAC-24, spanning over six weeks of intense operations and training is aimed at enhancing interoperability among the navies of friendly foreign countries. Led by the US Navy, 29 countries are participating in the current edition of the multi-dimensional exercise.

### **INS Ranvir Visits Chattogram, Bangladesh**

Indian Naval Ship INS Ranvir, under the aegis of the Eastern Naval Command [arrived](#) at Chattogram, Bangladesh on 29 June 2024 as part of an Operational Deployment. The ship was accorded a warm welcome by the Bangladesh Navy. The visit by the ship comes just after the state visit of Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh to India from 21-22 June 2024. On completion of harbour phase of interactions, INS Ranvir participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)/PASSEX with ships of the Bangladesh 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'.