

# DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol 5 | Issue 4 | April 2026



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-led IGoM Meet on West Asia Held in New Delhi**
- **Raksha Mantri Lays Foundation Stone of Large Cavitation Tunnel**
- **Raksha Mantri Undertakes 3-Day Visit to Germany**
- **Raksha Mantri Leads Indian Delegation at SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting**
- **Raksha Mantri Holds Talks with Italian Defence Minister in New Delhi**
- **CDS Reviews Operational Readiness of Chinar Corps**
- **Naval Investiture Ceremony 2026 Held**
- **Defence Secretary visits Defence Services Staff College, Wellington**
- **India and Mozambique Hold Fifth Joint Defence Working Group Meeting**
- **Two-Day National Seminar on Multi-Domain Operations Held**
- **NCC Launches Nationwide Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme**
- **First Edition of Naval Commanders' Conference 2026 Held**
- **Army Commanders' Conference Held in New Delhi**
- **India and Egypt 11th Joint Defence Committee Meeting Held in Cairo**
- **IAF Commences Registration for Mehar Baba Competition 3**

**AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

- **MoD Achieves Full Utilisation of Capital Budget for FY 2025-26**
- **Defence Exports at Record Rs 38,424 crore in Financial Year 2025-26**
- **Indian Navy's Latest Stealth Frigate 'INS Taragiri' Commissioned**
- **Keel Laying of FPV-4 and Plate Cutting Ceremony for FPV-7 for ICG Held**
- **MoD Inks Rs 975 Crore Contracts for TRAWL Assembly for T-72/T-90 Tanks**
- **DRDO Unveils Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked & Wheeled)**
- **DRDO and Indian Navy Conduct Maiden Salvo Launch of NASM-SR**

**DEFENCE DIPLOMACY**

- **INS Trikand Visits Tanzania and Kenya**
- **INS Sunayna Visits Maldives, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore**
- **INS Sudarshini Concludes Key Engagements under Lokayan 26**
- **India-Egypt Military Exercise Cyclone Held**
- **India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Dustlik Held**
- **INS Nireekshak Participates in IN-SLN DIVEX 2026**

## KEY EVENTS

### Raksha Mantri-led IGoM Meet on West Asia Held in New Delhi

The [Informal Group of Ministers](#) (IGoM), set up to monitor the evolving situation in West Asia, met under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at Kartavya Bhawan-2, New Delhi, on 2, [8](#), and [18](#) April 2026. The IGoM deliberated on steps to mitigate any adverse impact arising from the ongoing conflict.

### Raksha Mantri Lays Foundation Stone of Large Cavitation Tunnel

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, on 3 April 2026, [laid](#) the foundation stone of the state-of-the-art Large Cavitation Tunnel (LCT) facility at the Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), a DRDO laboratory in Visakhapatnam. The facility will significantly enhance India's naval research and testing capabilities.

### Raksha Mantri Undertakes 3-Day Visit to Germany

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [addressed](#) the German Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence and Security on his three-day visit to Germany. On 21 April 2026, he made a strong pitch for enhanced collaboration between the defence industrial ecosystems of India & Germany. The RM held bilateral talks with Germany's Federal Minister of Defence, Boris Pistorius, in Berlin on 22 April 2026. The Defence Industrial Cooperation Roadmap and Implementing Arrangement for Cooperation in UN Peacekeeping Training were inked and exchanged during the meeting. The RM also [addressed](#) Indian

and German Defence Industry leaders during the Defence Investor Summit in Munich on 23 April 2026.

### Raksha Mantri Leads Indian Delegation at SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [addressed](#) the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on 28 April 2026. The RM stated that there should be no place for double standards in dealing with state-sponsored cross-border terrorism. The RM highlighted the joint statement of the Heads of State on 'Countering Radicalisation leading to Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism' issued during India's Chairmanship. The RM also held [bilateral meetings](#) with his Kyrgyz, Kazakh, Belarusian, Chinese and Russian counterparts on the sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers'. He also announced the completion of IT-related projects for the Kyrgyz armed forces, executed by India.

### Raksha Mantri Holds Talks with Italian Defence Minister in New Delhi

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Defence of Italy, Guido Crosetto, at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on 30 April 2026. A Bilateral Military Cooperation Plan for 2026-27 was exchanged during the meeting. Discussions involved cooperation on maritime-related issues, including Information Exchange through IFC-IOR, Gurugram.

### CDS Reviews Operational Readiness of Chinar Corps

CDS General Anil Chauhan [visited](#) Chinar Corps, Srinagar, on 4 April 2026 and

reviewed the operational posture along the LoC in North Kashmir. The CDS commended the formation's exemplary operational preparedness, doctrinal coherence and resolute professionalism. At Baramulla, he was briefed on Future Force Application and Technology Infusion.

### **Naval Investiture Ceremony 2026 Held**

CNS Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, [presented](#) Gallantry and Distinguished Service awards to Indian Naval personnel on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India at the Naval Investiture Ceremony held in Mumbai on 1 April 2026. Individual awards conferred during the ceremony included two Yudh Seva Medals, twelve Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), eight Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), and eighteen Vishisht Seva Medals.

### **Defence Secretary visits Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.**

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [visited](#) the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) at Wellington, Tamil Nadu, for the convocation ceremony of the 81<sup>st</sup> Staff Course on 10 April 2026. Shri Singh highlighted DSSC's vital role in shaping the future senior leadership of the Defence Forces.

### **India and Mozambique Hold Fifth Joint Defence Working Group Meeting**

India and Mozambique held the [Fifth Joint Defence Working Group](#) (JDWG) meeting from 1-2 April 2026 in Maputo, Mozambique. The deliberations focused on expanding structured military exchanges, joint training opportunities, maritime domain awareness, and promoting

collaboration in the supply of defence equipment.

### **Two-Day National Seminar on Multi-Domain Operations Held**

The second edition of Ran Samwad, a tri-service strategic seminar under the aegis of Headquarters IDS, [commenced](#) in Bengaluru on 9 April 2026. The seminar was inaugurated by CDS General Anil Chauhan, who also delivered the [closing address](#). The CDS emphasised that the multi-domain operations require convergence across physical, synthetic and cognitive realms. The Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, in his keynote address, outlined a transformative vision for India's military future centred on MDO.

### **NCC Launches Nationwide Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme**

NCC, in collaboration with the National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology (NIELIT), [launched a comprehensive Cyber Security Capacity Building Programme on 13 April 2026 to empower cadets with structured training in cyber awareness, digital hygiene, and practical cyber defence skills.](#)

### **First Edition of Naval Commanders' Conference 2026 Held**

The [Indian Navy Commanders' Conference](#) was held at Nausena Bhawan from 14-17 April 2026. Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS, commended the Navy's achievements in safeguarding India's maritime interests and emphasised a continued focus on combat readiness and adaptation to emerging

technologies. A comprehensive review of the Navy's operational and materiel preparedness, infrastructure, logistics, and human resource initiatives, and an assessment of the prevailing operational environment amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia were undertaken.

### **Army Commanders' Conference Held in New Delhi**

The biannual Army Commanders' Conference (ACC) was held from 13-16 April 2026 and was [chaired](#) by COAS Gen Upendra Dwivedi. was addressed by the Cabinet Secretary, CDS, Defence Secretary, and Chairman, NSAB, besides CNS. The Indian Army has designated the year 2026 as the year of 'Networking and Data Centricity'. The need for hard power to protect India's strategic and security interests was emphasised, as well as inter-ministerial coordination, enhanced synergy between civil and military institutions, and a whole-of-nation approach for a coordinated national response to complex security challenges. The urgent need to accelerate indigenous production capabilities was also highlighted.

### **India and Egypt 11<sup>th</sup> Joint Defence Committee Meeting Held in Cairo**

The 11<sup>th</sup> India-Egypt JDC was [held](#) in Cairo from 20-22 April 2026. Both sides agreed on a bilateral defence cooperation plan for 2026-27, focusing on expanding joint training exchanges, enhancing maritime security cooperation, and promoting collaboration in defence production and technology.

### **IAF Commences Registration for Mehar Baba Competition 3**

The IAF [launched](#) the third edition of the Mehar Baba Competition 3 on 27 April 2026. The theme of MBC-3 is 'Collaborative Drone-Based Surveillance Radars'. The competition aims to encourage innovation in advanced drone and radar technologies. Meritorious participants will receive development funding from the IAF.

## **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **MoD Achieves Full Utilisation of Capital Budget for FY 2025-26**

The MoD, with the joint efforts of MoD (Finance), Acquisition Wing, Defence Services, and Defence Accounts Department, has fully [utilised its capital outlay of Rs 1.86 Lakh crore for Defence Services provided for FY 2025-26 at the Revised Estimates stage](#). This is in continuation of the complete utilisation of the capital budget achieved during FY 2024-25, after many years.

### **Defence Exports at Record Rs 38,424 crore in Financial Year 2025-26**

Defence exports [touched](#) an all-time high of Rs 38,424 crore in the FY 2025-26, marking a massive rise of Rs 14,802 crore (62.66%) over the previous fiscal year's figure of Rs 23,622 crore. DPSUs and the private sector have contributed 54.84% and 45.16%, respectively.

### **Indian Navy's Latest Stealth Frigate 'INS Taragiri' Commissioned**

INS Taragiri, the fourth platform of the Project 17A class, was [commissioned](#) into the Indian Navy in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on 3 April 2026. This latest stealth frigate, with a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes, has been designed by the Warship Design Bureau and built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, with the support of MSMEs, for multi-role operations.

### **Keel Laying of FPV-4 and Plate Cutting Ceremony for FPV-7 for ICG Held**

The keel laying ceremony for Fast Patrol Vessel 4 (FPV) (Yard 16504), along with the plate cutting ceremony for FPV 7 (Yard 16507) of the 14 FPV project (Yard 16501-14) for the ICG, was held at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), Mumbai, on 6 April 2026. The gearbox for the ships has been provided by M/S Triveni, Mysore, and Water Jets by M/S MJP India. The water-jet-propelled FPVs with approx. 340 T displacement is designed for coastal security.

### **MoD Inks Rs 975 Crore Contracts for TRAWL Assembly for T-72/T-90 Tanks**

The MoD [signed](#) contracts with BEML and Electro Pneumatics and Hydraulics (India) Private Limited for the procurement of TRAWL Assembly for T-72/T-90 Tanks, at an approximate cost of Rs 975 crore. The contracts were inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on 21 April 2026. The TRAWL

Assembly developed by DRDO will enhance the Indian Army's minefield-breaching capability.

### **DRDO Unveils Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked & Wheeled)**

The Advanced Armoured Platforms (Tracked and Wheeled), designed and developed by Vehicles Research & Development Establishment, were [unveiled](#) by the Secretary Department of Defence (R&D) & Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat in Ahilyanagar on 25 April 2026.

### **DRDO and Indian Navy Conduct Maiden Salvo Launch of NASM-SR**

DRDO and the Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden salvo launch of Naval Anti-ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR) from the Navy's helicopter platform off the coast of Odisha on 29 April 2026. This was the first salvo launch of an advanced air-launched anti-ship missile system.

## **DEFENCE DIPLOMACY**

### **INS Trikand Visits Tanzania and Kenya**

INS Trikand, guided missile frigate of the Indian Navy, [arrived](#) at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, on 3 April 2026, as part of its ongoing deployment in the South West Indian Ocean Region. It then proceeded to Mombasa, [Kenya](#), on 7 April 2026. The port call coincided with the visit of VAdm Krishna Swaminathan, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, to Kenya. INSAS rifles and ammunition were formally [handed](#) over by FOC-in-C, West, to Maj Gen Paul

Owuor Otieno, Commander of the Kenya Navy.

### **INS Sunayna Visits Maldives, Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore**

Under the IOS SAGAR initiative, INS Sunayna undertook a multinational deployment across the Indian Ocean Region, reflecting India's growing maritime outreach under the MAHASAGAR vision and its leadership as Chair of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium. The deployment included port calls at the [Maldives](#), [Thailand](#), [Indonesia](#), and [Singapore](#), with a multinational crew drawn from 16 friendly foreign countries.

### **INS Sudarshini Concludes Key Engagements under Lokayan 26**

Indian Navy's Sail Training Ship, INS Sudarshini, successfully concluded key engagements under Lokayan 26, participating in France's [Escale à Sète](#) maritime festival and joining celebrations marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the French Navy. The deployment also included port calls at [Casablanca](#) and [Las Palmas](#). It marked the first-ever visit of an Indian naval vessel to the Canary Islands before its trans-Atlantic passage.

### **India-Egypt Military Exercise Cyclone Held**

An Indian Army contingent [participated](#) in the fourth edition of the India - Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise, Cyclone IV, conducted at Anshas from 9-17 April 2026.

### **India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise Dustlik Held**

An Indian Army contingent [participated](#) in the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK. The Exercise was [conducted](#) at the Gurumsaray Field Training Area in Namangam, Uzbekistan, from 12-25 April 2026.

### **INS Nireekshak Participates in IN-SLN DIVEX 2026**

The fourth edition of the India-Sri Lanka bilateral diving exercise, [IN-SLN DIVEX 2026](#), was conducted at Colombo from 21 to 28 April 2026. The Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel, INS Nireekshak, participated alongside diving teams from both navies. As part of humanitarian outreach, the ship presented two *BHISM* (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) cubes to Sri Lankan authorities. The Indian Navy also handed over 50,000 rounds of 9 mm ammunition to the Sri Lankan Navy.

'The Defence 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'.