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KEY EVENTS

President Approves Gallantry Awards and Distinguished Service Awards

President Smt Droupadi Murmu approved 78 Gallantry awards, including 13 posthumous, to the [personnel](#) of the Defence Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on Independence Day 2026. These are: 09 Kirti Chakras, including 07 posthumous; 01 Bar to Shaurya Chakra; 19 Shaurya Chakras, including 01 posthumous; 05 Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry); 36 Sena Medals (Gallantry), including 05 posthumous; 03 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry); and 05 Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry). The President has also approved 89 [Mention-in-Despatches](#) – 75 personnel of the Indian Army, 04 of the Indian Navy, and 10 of the Indian Air Force. The [COAS](#) and [VCOAS](#) Commendation Card awardees, as well as the honorary ranks, were also announced.

Prime Minister Calls for India to Emerge as Global Supplier of Defence Tech

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, addressing the nation on the occasion of the 80th Independence Day, emphasised the need for [Aatmanirbharta in defence](#) and called for India to emerge as a global supplier of next-generation defence technologies. The Prime Minister also stated that the government will “create a huge voluntary force of civil defence to overcome modern challenges”.

Raksha Mantri Addresses Soldiers on the Eve of 80th Independence Day

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [addressed](#) soldiers via Akashvani on the eve of the 80th Independence Day, 14 August 2026. Raksha Mantri asserted that India was effectively meeting its own security needs while emerging as a global defence manufacturing hub and a net defence exporter.

Raksha Mantri Chairs MoD Parliamentary Consultative Committee Meeting

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [chaired](#) a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee for the MoD in New Delhi on 6 August 2026 on the ‘Territorial Army’. Suggestions to further strengthen the force and enhance its overall effectiveness were discussed.

Raksha Mantri Interacts with CWG 2026 Defence Forces Contingent

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh on 14 August 2026 [interacted](#) with the members of the Indian Army contingent, which bagged 16 medals - 08 Gold, 07 Silver, and 01 Bronze - at the recently concluded Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland. Of the total 39 medals - 13 Gold, 17 Silver and 09 Bronze - clinched by India during the Games, the Indian Defence Forces personnel claimed 18 medals (16 by Indian Army and 02 by Indian Navy).

Raksha Mantri Flags Off NCC's Girls High Altitude Long Trek

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [flagged off](#) the All-India Girls High Altitude Long Trek 'Aparajita - Parang La 2026', during an event in New Delhi on 18 August 2026. The trek traversed the Parang La Pass (5,578 metres, 18,300 feet), connecting the Spiti Valley of Himachal Pradesh with the Changthang region of Ladakh.

Raksha Mantri Holds Talks with his Japanese Counterpart

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh met with the visiting Defence Minister of Japan Shinjiro Koizumi in New Delhi on 20 August 2026. The two sides signed a [Memorandum of Arrangement](#) on Maritime Security Cooperation covering Maritime Domain Awareness information-sharing, search and rescue, HADR, naval visits, joint exercises, logistics, and access to maintenance and repair facilities. They also agreed to explore joint naval shipbuilding and design, cooperation in mine countermeasures, reciprocal ship repair facilities, and greater use of India's production capabilities under Make in India. Defence exercises such as Dharma Guardian, JAIMEX and Veer Guardian 26 will be expanded, with Japanese fighter aircraft participating in India for the first time under Veer Guardian 26. The UNICORN integrated communications antenna was highlighted as the first India-Japan defence equipment transfer project, while DRDO and Japan's

ATLA will deepen cooperation in advanced defence technologies. A Defence Industry Forum will be established.

GRSE and YIL Expansion Projects

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, along with West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, [presided](#) over the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for three expansion projects of GRSE and two of Yantra India Limited (YIL), worth a total investment of approximately Rs 3,500 crore, on 23 August 2026.

Raksha Mantri Approves ToT of DRDO-Developed Missile Systems

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [approved](#) the transfer of DRDO-developed technologies of all conventional missile systems to the Indian defence industry for production within the country. This will enhance domestic manufacturing capabilities, strengthen the defence industrial base, and create opportunities for Indian MSMEs to participate in the supply chain.

CDS Highlights Increasing Role of AI and Autonomous Weapons

At the fourth edition of the Tri-Services Future Warfare Course [conducted](#) from 3–30 August 2026 at New Delhi, Chief of Defence Staff Gen N.S. Raja Subramani highlighted the increasing role of artificial intelligence, cyber capabilities, autonomous systems, information warfare, space technologies and data-driven decision-making in shaping future conflicts.

Chief of Naval Staff Visits Mauritius

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, CNS, [visited](#) Mauritius from 10-13 August 2026. The CNS interacted with senior leadership of the Government of Mauritius and held discussions on maritime security, defence cooperation, capacity building and military collaboration.

Chief of the Army Staff Visits Nepal

General Dhiraj Seth, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), [visited](#) Nepal from 17-19 August 2026 and interacted with the Chief of the Army Staff, Nepali Army and was briefed by the Director General, Military Operations, Nepali Army, on issues of mutual interest. General Seth was conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Nepali Army by President Ram Chandra Paudel.

Defence Secretary Visits Armenia

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [visited](#) Armenia from 17-18 August 2026. He met with the Deputy Defence Minister of Armenia, Karen Brutyan, and the First Deputy Defence Minister and Chief of the General Staff of Armenia, Edward Asryan. The discussions covered ongoing defence and military technical cooperation. Terms of Reference for the institutionalisation of Joint Services Staff Talks were also exchanged.

Seventh High-Level Meeting between ICG and Vietnam Coast Guard Held

The Seventh High-Level Meeting (HLM) between the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and

Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) was [held](#) in Chennai on 25 August 2026.

Commander of Sri Lanka Navy Visits India

[VAdm Damian Fernando](#), Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy, visited India from 26-29 August 2026. VAdm Fernando also travelled to Kochi to visit Indian Naval training establishments and Headquarters Southern Naval Command.

Inaugural India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee Meeting Held

The inaugural meeting of the India-Kuwait Joint Defence Committee (JDC) was [held](#) in New Delhi on 28 August 2026. Both countries agreed to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation across a wide range of areas.

Defence Exports SOP and OGEL Framework Simplified

The Department of Defence Production, MoD, undertook reforms to simplify the Defence Exports SOP and the Open General Export Licence (OGEL) framework, thereby reducing procedural requirements and facilitating faster access to international markets.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**‘Agni-4’ Ballistic Missile Successfully Test-Fired**

Medium Range Ballistic Missile ‘Agni-4’ was successfully [test-fired](#) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha on 6 August 2026.

IOL Launches 'GARUD' High Resolution Binoculars for Civil Market

India Optel Limited (IOL) [launched](#) the indigenous 'GARUD' High Resolution Binoculars for the civil market. Ordnance Factory, Dehradun, has developed the binoculars.

MoD Inks Loiter Munition Systems Contracts for Indian Army

The MoD [signed](#) contracts with TATA Advanced Systems Limited and NIBE Private Limited on 14 August 2026 for the procurement of Loiter Munition Systems, along with munitions and other accessories, at an approximate cost of Rs 1,577 crore for the Indian Army.

MoD Inks Contract for Leasing Two MQ-9B Sea Guardians

The MoD [signed](#) a contract on 17 August 2026 with General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc. (GA-ASI) for leasing two MQ-9B Sea Guardian High-Altitude Long-Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) for the Indian Navy for a period of 30 months. The contract is valued at approximately Rs 1,943 crore.

DDP Notifies Sixth Positive Indigenisation List

The Department of Defence Production (DDP), MoD, [notified](#) the sixth Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) comprising 405 strategically important items with an estimated business potential of Rs 3,070 crore. The list contains Line Replaceable

Units, subsystems, subassemblies, spares, components, and raw materials.

Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft Delivered

'Mangrol', the third Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Kochi, was [delivered](#) to the Indian Navy on 21 August 2026. The ship comprises over 80 per cent indigenous content.

Goa Shipyard Limited Hands over ICGS Ajit to ICG

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) [handed](#) over ICGS Ajit (Yard 1277), a Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV), to the ICG on 25 August 2026. The vessel has more than 65 per cent indigenous content.

T-72, T-90 Tank Overhaul Facility Launched at Jabalpur

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav [performed](#) the Bhoomi Pujan for the T-Series Tanks Overhaul Project at the Vehicle Factory, Jabalpur, a unit of Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVNL), on 27 August 2026. The project involves the construction of overhauling facilities with an estimated cost of Rs 472 crore.

Multi-Purpose Vessel Delivered to Indian Navy

Samarthak, the first Multi-Purpose Vessel (MPV) built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. (L&T), Kattupalli, was [delivered](#) to the Indian Navy on 27 August 2026. The ship

comprises over 75 per cent indigenous content and will perform maritime surveillance and reconnaissance, offshore patrolling and support HADR operations.

INS Nipun Commissioned into the Indian Navy

The Indian Navy [commissioned](#) INS Nipun, the second Diving Support Vessel (DSV) of the Nistar Class, at Mumbai, on 31 August 2026, marking a significant enhancement of the Navy's deep-sea diving, underwater intervention and submarine rescue capabilities.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Indian Navy–US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Exercise 2026 Held

The Indian Navy–US Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Exercise 2026 was [conducted](#) at Southern Naval Command, Kochi, from 10-14 August 2026. The exercise was designed to strengthen mutual abilities to respond effectively to complex and evolving EOD challenges.

INS Sudarshini Visits Portugal

INS Sudarshini, the Indian Navy's sail training ship, [arrived](#) at Ponta Delgada in

Portugal's Azores on 13 August 2026 as part of the ongoing Lokayan 2026 voyage, completing a challenging 19-day transoceanic passage from Boston, USA. The ship [marked](#) India's 80th Independence Day at Ponta Delgada with a ceremonial Colours ceremony. It subsequently [visited](#) Lisbon from 22–25 August.

Indian Army Contingent Participates in Exercise Maitree-XV

An Indian Army contingent [participated](#) in the 15th edition of the India-Thailand Joint Military Exercise MAITREE-XV (2026). The exercise was conducted from 18 to 31 August 2026 at Vibhavadi Rangsit Camp, Surat Thani, Thailand.

IAF Participates in Pitch Black and Udara Shakti 2026

The IAF successfully [participated](#) in Exercise Pitch Black 2026 in Australia and Exercise Udara Shakti 2026 in Malaysia. During Pitch Black, IAF Rafale aircraft undertook complex missions with air forces from over 20 countries. Udara Shakti involved joint manoeuvres with the Royal Malaysian Air Force, including Su-30MKM and F/A-18 Hornet aircraft.

'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'.