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KEY EVENTS

Nation Celebrates Vijay Diwas

The nation celebrated Vijay Diwas on 16 December 2025, commemorating India's historic victory in the 1971 war. President Smt. Droupadi Murmu paid glowing tributes to the bravehearts and added that the 'Empowerment through Indigenisation' initiative of the Indian Armed Forces reflects their commitment towards being prepared for future challenges. To mark the day, the President inaugurated Param Vir Dirgha at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Raksha Mantri Addresses Sardar Sabha in Vadodara

Raksha Mantri (RM) Rajnath Singh addressed the Sardar Sabha in Vadodara, Gujarat, on 2 December 2025, as part of the 'Unity March' organised by Mera Yuva (MY) Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The RM stated that Operation Sindoor was "proof that India gives a befitting reply to those who do not understand the language of peace and goodwill." The RM likened India's action against terrorism to Sardar Patel's strong will and leadership.

India-Russia IRIGC-M&MTC Held

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and the Defence Minister of Russia, Andrei Belousov, co-chaired the 22nd India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military & Military Technical Cooperation (IRIGC-M&MTC) at the ministerial meeting at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on 4 December 2025.

This meeting preceded the 23rd India-Russia Annual Summit between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Vladimir Putin.

Raksha Mantri Dedicates 125 Border Infrastructure Projects

On 7 December 2025, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation 125 strategically significant infrastructure projects of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, West Bengal, and Mizoram. These projects, including 28 Roads and 93 Bridges, have been completed at a cost of approximately Rs 5,000 crore, the highest-value inaugurations in the BRO's history.

Raksha Mantri Addresses Air Force Commanders' Conclave

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh stated that "India's high-impact, short-duration operational capability was demonstrated by the Armed Forces during Operation Sindoor." He was addressing the Air Force Commanders' Conclave in New Delhi on 18 December 2025. He described the Indian Air Force (IAF) as a technologically advanced, operationally agile, strategically confident and future-oriented force. The Raksha Mantri commended the performance of India's air defence system and other equipment used effectively during Operation Sindoor.

Raksha Mantri Meets Netherlands' Foreign Minister in New Delhi

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh met with the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, David

Van Weel, in New Delhi on 18 December 2025. Both Ministers discussed priority areas for co-development and co-production of defence equipment.

Chief of Naval Staff Visits Brazil

Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), visited Brazil from 9-12 December 2025. The CNS held high-level engagements with senior Brazilian officials, including the Defence Minister, the Chief of the Joint Staff of the Brazilian Armed Forces, and the Commander of the Brazilian Navy. A MoU on information exchange for the maintenance of Scorpene-class submarines and other naval vessels was signed. The CNS visited various Brazilian Navy facilities and assets, including the Itaguaí Naval Complex and the amphibious helicopter carrier, NAM Atlântico (A140).

DCNS Visits Maldives for Closing Ceremony of Exercise Ekatha 2025

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobi, Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff (DCNS), visited the Maldives from 15-17 December 2025 to attend the closing ceremony of Exercise Ekatha 2025. VAdm Sobi met the Chief of Defence Force, MNDF, Major General Ibrahim Hilmy. DCNS handed over a consignment of operational spares for the MNDF Coast Guard Ship Huravee to Maj Gen Hilmy.

Secretary (Defence Production) Stresses on Atmanirbharta

Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar stressed the need to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing to address today's conventional and

unconventional challenges. He was delivering a lecture at the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on 12 December 2025.

Indian Navy Extends Humanitarian Assistance in Wake of Cyclone Ditwah

The Indian Navy has undertaken comprehensive HADR operations under Operation Sagar Bandhu to assist in response to Cyclonic Storm Ditwah in Sri Lanka. INS Vikrant and INS Udaygiri, which were present in Colombo as part of the 75th Anniversary International Fleet Review (IFR-2025) of the Sri Lanka Navy, were tasked at short notice to provide immediate relief based on emerging requirements ashore. The IN additionally deployed INS Sukanya, INS Gharial, LCU 54, LCU 51 and LCU 57.

Indian Navy Marks Navy Day 2025

The Indian Navy celebrated Navy Day 2025 through a spectacular 'Operational Demonstration' off Shangumugham Beach, Thiruvananthapuram, on 3 December 2025. President Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS, hosted the event.

ICG and Philippines Counterpart Hold Maiden Annual Bilateral Meeting

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) held their first annual bilateral meeting in Manila, Philippines, on 2 December 2025, under the provisions of the MoU signed on 22 August 2023. Both sides agreed to strengthen operational coordination further.

India-Brunei Inaugural JWG on Defence Cooperation Held

The inaugural meeting of the India-Brunei Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Cooperation took place in New Delhi on 9 December 2025. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the establishment of the JWG on defence cooperation were signed.

INSV Kaundinya Embarks on Maiden Voyage

INSV Kaundinya, the Indian Navy's indigenously built traditional stitched sailing vessel, sailed on her maiden overseas voyage from Porbandar, Gujarat, to Muscat, Sultanate of Oman on 29 December 2025.

NCC Republic Day Camp 2026 Commences

The NCC Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2026 commenced on 30 December 2025, at the Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantonment. Two thousand four hundred six cadets, including 898 female cadets, are participating in the camp. Cadets and Officers from 25 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) also took part in the celebrations under the Youth Exchange Programme (YEP).

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

DRDO Organises Industry Outreach Programme

DRDO conducted an Industry Outreach Programme at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi, on 1 December 2025. The event featured 220 scientists from 18 DRDO laboratories and 271 industry leaders from a diverse range of defence industries.

During the event, a new procedure was released for implementing 'DRDO's ToT Policy -2025'.

DRDO Conducts Successful Test of Fighter Aircraft Escape System

DRDO conducted a successful high-speed rocket-sledge test of a fighter aircraft escape system at controlled velocity on 2 December 2025. The test at the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh. The test was conducted in collaboration with Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Indian Army Showcases in-House Operational Solutions at 'Inno-Yoddha 2025'

The Indian Army conducted its annual Idea and Innovation Competition and Seminar, Inno-Yoddha 2025, on 5 December 2025, at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi. The event saw a record 89 innovations submitted from across various arms and services. After rigorous evaluation, 32 innovations were selected for further development.

DRDO Hands Over Seven Technologies Developed under TDF Scheme

DRDO has handed over seven technologies developed under the TDF scheme to the three Services. These included a high-voltage power supply for airborne self-protection jammers, a waterjet propulsion system for Fast Interceptor Craft, a seawater battery system for sustained underwater sensing and surveillance applications, among others.

Indian Navy Commissions First Indigenous Diving Support Craft

The Indian Navy [commissioned](#) DSC A20, the first of the five Diving Support Craft (DSC), built indigenously by M/s Titagarh Rail System Limited, during a ceremony held at Naval Base, Kochi, on 16 December 2025.

Indian Navy Commissions INAS 335 (OSPREYS)

INAS 335 'The Ospreys', the second Indian Naval Air Squadron to operate MH 60R helicopters, was [commissioned](#) at INS Hansa, Goa, in a ceremony presided over by Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, the CNS, on 17 December 2025.

Indian Army Showcases Innovations at Vijay Diwas 'At Home'

The Indian Army [organised](#) Vijay Diwas (marking the decisive victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the 1971 War) 'At Home' at Army House, New Delhi, on 15 December 2025. The celebrations were graced by the President, Smt Droupadi Murmu, and featured an impressive showcase of indigenously developed technologies and niche capabilities.

ICG Commissions Fast Patrol Vessel 'Amulya'

ICG Ship 'Amulya', the third in the series of eight new-generation Adamya-class Fast Patrol Vessels, was [commissioned](#) in Goa on 19 December 2025. The 51-metre vessel has more than 60 per cent indigenous components.

IOL Signs Collaboration Agreement with Safran

India Optel Limited (IOL) [signed](#) a collaboration agreement with Safran Electronics and Defense to transfer production of two high-precision, combat-proven systems, paving the way for their local manufacturing. The systems are the SIGMA 30N Digital Ring Laser Gyro Inertial Navigation System, used in artillery guns, air defence systems, missiles, and radars, and the CM3-MR Direct Firing Sight, designed for artillery guns and anti-drone systems.

Third Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft Delivered to the Indian Navy

'Anjadip', the third of eight ASW SWC (Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft), indigenously designed and built by GRSE, Kolkata and M/s L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli, was [delivered](#) to the Indian Navy on 22 December 2025 at Chennai.

DRDO Successfully Completes User Evaluation Trials of Akash-NG

DRDO [completed](#) the User Evaluation Trials (UET) of the Next Generation Akash missile (Akash-NG) system. Akash is a robust air defence system against various aerial threats.

ICG Inducts Its First Pollution Control Vessel

ICG [inducted](#) Pollution Control Vessel (PCV), SAMUDRA PRATAP (Yard 1267) on 23 December 2025. The vessel, built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), has over 60

per cent indigenous content and is the ICG's first indigenously designed PCV.

DAC Clears Proposals Worth Rs 79,000 Crore

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, accorded AoN for various proposals of the three Services amounting to a total of about Rs 79,000 crore on 29 December 2025 for the procurement of Loiter Munition System for Artillery Regiments, Long Range Guided Rocket Ammunition for Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MRLS), and Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System, among others.

DRDO Successfully Conducts Maiden Flight Test of Pinaka Rocket

The maiden flight test of Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR 120) was conducted successfully at Chandipur on 29 December 2025.

MoD Inks Rs 4,666 Crore Contracts for Battle Carbine and Torpedoes

On 30 December 2025, the MoD signed contracts totalling Rs 4,666 crore for the procurement of Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbines and Heavy Weight Torpedoes.

DRDO Successfully Conducts Salvo Launch of Two Pralay Missiles

DRDO successfully conducted a salvo launch of two Pralay missiles in quick succession from the same launcher off the coast of Odisha on 31 December 2025.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

India-Maldives Joint Military Exercise Ekuverin Held

The 14th edition of the Joint Military Exercise [EKUVERIN](#) between the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) was held at Thiruvananthapuram from 2-15 December 2025.

ICGS Vigraha Undertakes Operational Visit to Indonesia

As part of its overseas deployment to ASEAN countries, ICGS Vigraha undertook an operational visit to Jakarta, Indonesia, from 2-5 December 2025. Personnel from the ICG and the Indonesian Coast Guard (BAKAMLA) participated in professional engagements.

India-France Hold Eighth Edition of Exercise Garuda

The eighth edition of Exercise Garuda, a bilateral Indo-French air exercise between the IAF and the French Air and Space Force (FASF), concluded at Air Base 118, Mont-de-Marsan, France, on 27 November 2025. The IAF contingent returned to India on 2 December 2025 after the successful culmination of the exercise. The IAF participated with Su-30MKI fighters, supported by IL-78 air-to-air refuelling aircraft and C-17 Globemaster III transport aircraft.

India-Indonesia Exercise Garuda Shakti Held

The 10th edition of the India-Indonesia Joint Special Forces [Exercise Garuda](#)

Shakti by the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. The exercise was conducted from 3 to 12 December 2025.

India–Malaysia Exercise Harimau Shakti Held

The fifth edition of India-Malaysia joint military exercise 'Exercise Harimau Shakti 2025' was held at Mahajan Field Firing Range, Rajasthan, from 5-18 December 2025. The Indian contingent is being represented mainly by troops from the DOGRA Regiment. The Malaysian side was represented by soldiers from the 25th Battalion of the Royal Malaysian Army.

ICG Ship Sarthak Visits Kuwait and Iran

ICG Ship Sarthak, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, visited Suwaikh Port in Kuwait on

9 December 2025 for its maiden port call, as part of its Overseas Deployment (OSD) to the Gulf region. The ship's crew undertook a series of professional interactions with the Kuwait Coast Guard and other maritime stakeholders. The ICG Sarthak then entered the Chabahar port in the Islamic Republic of Iran, for a four-day visit from 16-19 December 2025.

India-UAE Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone Held

45 personnel from a battalion of The Mechanised Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army participated in the second edition of the India-UAE Joint Military Exercise Desert Cyclone-II, conducted at Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 18-30 December 2025. The 53 Mechanised Infantry Battalion represented the UAE Land Forces contingent.

'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'.