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Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

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## KEY EVENTS

### President Reviews International Fleet Review 2026

The Indian Navy successfully [conducted](#) the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2026 off the coast of Visakhapatnam on 18 February 2026. President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, reviewed the Fleet from INS Sumedha, the Presidential Yacht. A total of 85 ships, including 19 foreign warships, participated in the fleet review.

### President Undertakes Sortie in LCH Prachand

The IAF held [Exercise Vayushakti-26](#) at Pokhran Field Firing Range, Jaisalmer on 27 February 2026. The exercise showcased the IAF's capability to execute complex, integrated air operations in a dynamic, realistic battlefield environment. President Smt Draupadi Murmu undertook a sortie in the indigenously developed LCH Prachand.

### PM Modi and President Macron Inaugurate FAL of H-125 LUH

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron, on 17 February 2026, virtually inaugurated the Tata Advanced Systems Final Assembly Line for the Airbus H-125 Light Utility Helicopter, located at Vemagal, Karnataka.

### Prime Minister Inaugurates the First ELF of the Northeast in Assam

Prime Minister Narendra Modi [inaugurated](#) the first Emergency Landing Facility (ELF) in the northeast in Dibrugarh, Assam, on 14 February 2026.

### MoD Allocated Rs 7.85 Lakh Crore in Union Budget 2026-27

In the Union Budget, Defence Services [received](#) Rs 7.85 lakh crore for FY 2026-27, a significant increase of 15.19 per cent over the BE of FY 2025-26. Out of the total allocation made to the MoD, a share of 27.95 per cent is for capital expenditure, 20.17 per cent for revenue expenditure on sustenance and operational preparedness, 26.40 per cent for revenue expenditure on pay and allowances, 21.84 per cent for Defence Pensions, and 3.64 per cent for civil organisations.

### Raksha Mantri Addresses 50<sup>th</sup> ICG Raising Day

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [graced](#) the 50<sup>th</sup> Raising Day celebrations of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in New Delhi on 1 February 2026. The RM exhorted the ICG to prepare a clear, well-targeted, and visionary roadmap for the next 25 years.

### Raksha Mantri Approves Grant of 'Miniratna' Category-I Status to YIL

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [approved](#) the grant of 'Miniratna' Category-I status to Yantra India Limited (YIL) on 2 February 2026.

### Raksha Mantri Holds Talks with Greek Defence Minister

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) a bilateral meeting with the Minister of National Defence of the Hellenic Republic, Nikolaos-Georgios Dendias, in New Delhi on 9 February 2026. A Joint Declaration of Intent to strengthen defence industrial cooperation between India and Greece was signed.

**Raksha Mantri and French Counterpart Co-chair 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Defence Dialogue**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [co-chaired](#) the 6<sup>th</sup> India-France Annual Defence Dialogue with the Minister of the Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs of France, Catherine Vautrin, in Bengaluru on 17 February 2026. The defence cooperation agreement was renewed for another 10 years. An JV MoU was also signed for the manufacture of Hammer missiles.

**Raksha Mantri Inaugurates Exercise MILAN**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [addressed](#) Navy Chiefs and Heads of Delegations from 74 countries during the inaugural ceremony of Exercise MILAN at Visakhapatnam on 19 February 2026.

**RRM-Led Indian Delegation Participates in 3<sup>rd</sup> World Defence Show 2026**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth [led](#) a high-level Indian delegation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the third World Defence Show (WDS) 2026, on 8-9 February 2026.

**CDS Addresses Seminar 'MITRA' at CDM, Secunderabad**

CDS General Anil Chauhan [addressed](#) the College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad, on 24 February 2026. The CDS highlighted the 'Third Revolution in Military Affairs,' characterised by Convergence Warfare that fuses contact and non-contact, kinetic and non-kinetic, and old and new domains across all levels of conflict.

**CDS Inaugurates Two-Day CBRN Conclave**

DRDO [organised](#) the Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Conclave at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on 26-27 February 2026. The conference, inaugurated by CDS General Anil Chauhan, was an effort to strengthen India's response against CBRN threats.

**Chief of the Army Staff Visits Australia**

The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), General Upendra Dwivedi, [visited](#) Australia from 16 to 19 February 2026. As part of his visit, the COAS held wide-ranging interactions with senior leadership of the Australian Defence Forces.

**CAS Attends SAC Annual Commanders' Conference**

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS), [attended](#) the Annual Commanders' Conference of Southern Air Command (SAC) on 16 February 2026.

**Defence Secretary Visits Forward Areas in Bhuj**

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [visited](#) forward areas in the Creek Sector in Bhuj, Gujarat, on 4-5 February 2026. He interacted with Lt. General Dhiraj Seth, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command and other senior officers of the Konark Corps.

**Defence Secretary Calls on Seychelles' Foreign Minister**

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [called](#) on Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora of the Republic of Seychelles,

Barry Faure, and Chief of Defence Forces, Seychelles Defence Forces, Major General Michael Anselme Marc Rosette, in New Delhi on 10 February 2026. Both sides reviewed the growing defence and security collaboration.

### **Secretary (Defence Production) Meets Senior Italian Defence Officials in Rome**

Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar [called](#) on Italy's Under Secretary of State for Defence, Matteo Perego di Cremnago, and held meetings with National Armaments Director, Admiral Giacinto Ottaviani, and Chief of the Italian Defence Forces, General Luciano Portolano, during his visit to Rome on 26-27 February 2026.

### **IAF Participates in Singapore Air Show 2026**

The IAF [participated](#) in the Singapore Airshow 2026, with the Sarang Helicopter Display Team, on the indigenously designed and manufactured Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv. The Air Show featured a static display of 37 aircraft.

### **India-Tanzania 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting Held**

The fourth edition of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting between India and Tanzania was [held](#) in Zanzibar from 2 to 3 February 2026. Both countries reviewed ongoing defence cooperation and discussed a broad range of areas for further collaboration.

### **24<sup>th</sup> India-US Joint Technical Group Plenary Held at DRDO HQs**

DRDO [hosted](#) the 24<sup>th</sup> Indo-US Joint Technical Group Plenary Meeting in New Delhi on 3-4 February 2026. The plenary was conducted in line with the framework for India-US Major Defence Partnership signed in October 2025.

### **Western Air Command Hosts ADJO Exercise 2026 Framework**

Headquarters Western Air Command [conducted](#) a high-level Joint Operations Conclave on 5-6 February 2026 under the All Domain Joint Operations (ADJO) Exercise 2026 Framework.

### **Indian Navy Assumes First-Ever Command of CTF 154**

The Indian Navy assumed [command](#) of CTF 154, under the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF). The change-of-command ceremony was held on 11 February 2026 at the CMF Headquarters in Manama, Bahrain. Cmde Milind M Mokashi, Shaurya Chakra, of the Indian Navy, formally took over as Commander CTF 154 from the outgoing Commander of the Italian Navy.

### **DAP 2026 Draft Released**

The draft of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2026 was released by the MoD on 10 February 2026. It will replace the 2020 version. The proposed [draft](#) aims to align India's defence acquisition with the rapidly evolving geo-strategic landscape, the growth of the Indian economy and the growth of the private defence industry.

### **Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff Visits India**

VAdm Dimitrios Eleftherios Kataras, Chief of the Hellenic Navy General Staff, [visited](#) India from 16 to 19 February 2026. VAdm Kataras had bilateral interactions with Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS, and senior MoD officials to further maritime engagements.

### **India Assumes Chairmanship of the IONS**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Conclave of Chiefs of the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) [convened](#) at Visakhapatnam on 20 February 2026, bringing together Chiefs of Navies and Heads of Maritime Security Agencies from 33 countries.

### **India-Kenya 4<sup>th</sup> JDCC Meeting Held**

The fourth meeting of the Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) between India and Kenya was [held](#) in Nairobi, Kenya, between 24 and 26 February 2026.

### **Indian Army's Tenth Chiefs' Conclave Held in New Delhi**

The [Tenth Chiefs' Conclave](#) was held in New Delhi from 27 to 28 February 2026. The Conclave was attended by former Chiefs of the Army Staff and Honorary Generals of the Indian Army and the Nepali Army.

## **AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **Raksha Mantri Inaugurates Missile Integration Facility at BEL, Bengaluru**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, on 16 February 2026, inaugurated the [Missile](#)

[Integration facility](#) at BEL. He also flagged off the Akash 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment Combat systems and unveiled the Mountain Fire Control Radar. The RM also remotely inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for Artificial Intelligence (CoE-AI) in Pune.

### **Raksha Mantri Visits DRDO's GTRE in Bengaluru**

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) in Bengaluru on 16 February 2026 and reviewed the status of ongoing projects related to indigenous military gas turbine engine development.

### **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet Technology Successfully Demonstrated**

DRDO [carried](#) out a successful demonstration of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha, on 3 February 2026. The technology enables the development of long-range air-to-air missiles.

### **Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile 'Agni-3' Successfully Test-Fired**

IRBM 'Agni-3' was successfully [test-fired](#) from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, Odisha, on 3 February 2026. It was carried out under the Strategic Forces Command.

### **DAC Clears Rs 3.60 Lakh Crore Worth of Capital Acquisition Proposals**

The Defence Acquisition Council, under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, [accorded](#) Acceptance of Necessity

(AoN) for various proposals of the Services at an estimated value of about Rs 3.60 lakh crore, on 12 February 2026. For the IAF, AoN was approved for the procurement of Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) (Rafale), Combat Missiles and Air-Ship Based High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (AS-HAPS).

### **MoD Inks Rs 2,312 Crore Contract with HAL for Eight Dornier 228 Aircraft**

MoD [signed](#) a contract on 12 February 2026 with HAL, Kanpur, for the acquisition of eight Dornier 228 Aircraft along with Operational Role Equipment for the ICG for Rs 2,312 crore under the Buy (Indian) category.

### **DG ICG Inaugurates Waterjet Production and Testing Facility in Goa**

DG ICG, DG Paramesh Sivamani, [inaugurated](#) the Waterjet Production and Testing Facility of M/s Marine Jet Power (MJP) India at Goa on 13 February 2026. India becomes the third country, after the United States and South Korea, to host such a facility.

### **First Cadet Training Ship Krishna Launched**

Yard 18003 (Krishna), the first of the three Cadet Training Ships (CTS) under construction at M/s L&T, Kattupalli (Chennai), was [launched](#) on 16 February 2026. The CTS will be utilised for training Officer Cadets at sea after their basic training ashore.

### **DRDO Conducts Successful Qualification Test for Gaganyaan Drogue Parachute**

India's human spaceflight programme [achieved](#) a key milestone on 19 February 2026 with the successful qualification level load test of the Drogue Parachute for the Gaganyaan programme at the Rail Track Rocket Sledge (RTRS) facility of DRDO at TBRL, Chandigarh.

### **Indian Navy Commissions Anjadip**

INS Anjadip, the fourth ship of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project, was [commissioned](#) into the Indian Navy at Chennai Port on 27 February 2026. The Commissioning Ceremony was presided over by Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS.

### **DRDO Conducts Successful Flight Trials of VSHORADS**

DRDO successfully [conducted](#) three successive flight trials of the Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from ITR, Chandipur.

## **DEFENCE DIPLOMACY**

### **INS Sudarshini Makes First Port Call of Lokayan 26 at Oman and Egypt**

Indian Navy's sail training ship INS Sudarshini arrived at the port of Salalah, [Oman](#), on 2 February 2026, marking the first international port call of her iconic transoceanic voyage - Lokayan 26. INS Sudarshini arrived at Safaga, [Egypt](#), on 21 February 2026.

**India - Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise Khanjar Held**

The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Exercise KHANJAR was [held](#) from 4-17 February 2026, in Missamari, Assam.

**IAF Conducts Joint Exercise with RTAF in IOR**

The IAF [conducted](#) an exercise with the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF) in the Indian Ocean Region from 9-12 February 2026. The air combat training exercise featured Su-30MKI multirole fighters from the IAF and SAAB Gripen jets from the Royal Thai Air Force (RTAF). Extended range operations by the IAF aircraft over the maritime domain were ensured by the IAF IL-78 mid-air refuelling tankers. The IAF participating forces operated from airbases

in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, while the Thai Gripens operated from airbases in Thailand.

**India-Japan Joint Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' Held**

The 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the annual Joint Military Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN' between the Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defence Force (JGSDF) was [conducted](#) at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubattia in Uttarakhand from 24 February to 9 March 2026.

**India-US Joint Special Forces Exercise Vajra Prahar Held**

A US Army contingent [participated](#) in the 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the India-US Joint Special Forces Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR, at the Special Forces Training School, Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, from 24 February to 16 March 2026.

'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'.