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KEY EVENTS

Raksha Mantri Pays Tribute to Kargil Heroes

On the occasion of the [27th Kargil Diwas](#), Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh paid tributes to the soldiers who secured India's victory during the 1999 Kargil War at Dras, Ladakh. He termed Kargil Vijay Diwas as a day of inspiration for every young person who seeks to understand the distinction between personal success and national duty. The RM also highlighted the importance of equipping the armed forces with advanced technologies and modern weapon systems, noting that recent progress in indigenous defence production and military capability enhancement has strengthened India's preparedness.

Raksha Mantri Highlights Defence Modernisation and Self-Reliance

At an event in New Delhi on 4 July 2026, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [highlighted](#) India's progress in defence modernisation and indigenous manufacturing over the past decade. He noted that annual defence production reached a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in FY 2025–26, while defence exports exceeded ₹38,000 crore, reflecting the growing international acceptance of Indian defence platforms under the *Make in India* and *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* initiatives. He emphasised that strengthening domestic defence manufacturing remains central to enhancing India's strategic autonomy and long-term security. The Raksha Mantri stated that improvements in industrial capacity, technology adoption and defence production have contributed to India's expanding global profile and economic resilience.

Raksha Mantri Highlights Progress in Defence Self-Reliance and Innovation

At an event in New Delhi on 18 July 2026, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [highlighted](#) the transformation of India's defence sector and noted that Operation Sindoor demonstrated the effectiveness of indigenous systems such as Akash Teer, the Akash air defence system and BrahMos. The RM highlighted the growing defence innovation ecosystem and noted that procurement worth over ₹2,400 crore has been approved from start-ups and MSMEs. In comparison, projects exceeding ₹1,500 crore have been sanctioned under innovation initiatives such as iDEX, iDEX Prime and ADITI. As of March 2026, 676 start-ups and innovators were participating in the iDEX programme with 551 contracts signed.

BRO Strategic Infrastructure Conclave Held

At the [Border Roads Organisation](#) (BRO) Strategic Infrastructure Conclave in New Delhi on 15–16 July 2026, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh emphasised the importance of connectivity in strengthening border security, supporting economic development and implementing initiatives such as the Vibrant Villages Programme. During the event, the RM also launched new digital platforms for project management and released publications documenting BRO's engineering achievements and future vision.

12th India-Malaysia Sub Committee Meeting on Military Cooperation Held

The 12th India-Malaysia Sub Committee Meeting on Military Cooperation (SCMC) was [held](#) in New Delhi on 1 July 2026. Discussions covered military exchanges, bilateral exercises, training, staff talks, capacity building, maritime cooperation

and emerging domains. Both sides also explored opportunities to enhance collaboration in the defence industry, defence technology, cyber security, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR). The two delegations reaffirmed their commitment to practical cooperation under the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), particularly through the Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism.

India and Rwanda Expand Bilateral Defence Cooperation

The second India–Rwanda Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting was [held](#) in New Delhi on 6–7 July 2026. The discussions resulted in an implementation plan with defined timelines to advance collaboration in military training, bilateral exercises, defence medical services and defence industry cooperation. The meeting built upon the 2018 defence cooperation agreement and underscored the growing scope of India–Rwanda defence relations, particularly in capacity building, institutional cooperation and defence industrial engagement.

India and Japan Hold Eighth Defence Policy Dialogue in Tokyo.

India and Japan [held](#) the 8th India–Japan Defence Policy Dialogue in Tokyo on 13 July 2026, where both sides reviewed the progress of bilateral defence cooperation and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India–Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership. The dialogue covered the full spectrum of defence engagement and explored opportunities to expand cooperation in emerging domains such as defence industrial collaboration, technological innovation, cyber security and space.

IAF and SIDM Hold 'SANKALP 2026' Seminar on Defence Indigenisation

The Indian Air Force (IAF), in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), [organised](#) the 'SANKALP 2026' seminar in New Delhi to strengthen collaboration between the armed forces, industry, academia and certification agencies in advancing defence indigenisation. Representatives from the Ministry of Defence, the armed forces, CEMILAC, DGAQA, industry and academia deliberated on technological priorities, while Indian defence companies showcased indigenous aerospace capabilities.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

DAC Approves Capital Acquisition Proposals Worth ₹52,000 Crore

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, [accorded](#) Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately ₹52,000 crore on 3 July 2026. For the Indian Army, the DAC approved the procurement of the AKASH TARANG anti-UAV electronic warfare system, Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) systems, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) weapon systems, Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (V-SHORADS), Active Protection Systems for tanks, and jet-based kamikaze drones. The Indian Navy received approval for the procurement of Multi Influence Ground Mines (MIGM), Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial Systems (NSUAS) and the establishment of a Land-Based Testing Facility for electric propulsion systems. For the Indian Air Force, the DAC approved the acquisition of Fixed-Wing High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (FW-HAPS), which will provide

persistent intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), telecommunications and remote sensing capabilities.

DRDO Successfully Flight-Tests Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully [conducted](#) the flight-test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR) at the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, on 8 July 2026. The Pinaka LRGR represents a significant advancement in India's indigenous precision-guided artillery capabilities.

Indian Navy Commissions Indigenous Stealth Frigate INS Mahendragiri

The Indian Navy [commissioned](#) INS Mahendragiri (F38), the sixth Project 17A indigenous stealth frigate, into the Eastern Fleet at Visakhapatnam on 11 July 2026 in a ceremony presided over by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh. Designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), the warship has over 75 per cent indigenous content. It incorporates advanced stealth features, modern sensors, electronic warfare systems, and a high degree of automation. The multi-role frigate is capable of undertaking anti-air, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare missions, while also supporting maritime security operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), and search and rescue missions.

Indian Navy Receives Second Indigenous Diving Support Vessel 'Nipun'

The Indian Navy [took](#) delivery of 'Nipun', the second indigenous Diving Support Vessel (DSV), from Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) at Visakhapatnam on 30

July 2026. Designed and constructed in accordance with the standards of the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) with nearly 75 per cent indigenous content, *Nipun* has been designed to undertake deep-sea diving, underwater rescue and salvage operations. The induction of *Nipun* strengthens the Indian Navy's capabilities in the specialised domain of underwater operations.

Indian Navy Commissions INS Malvan

The Indian Navy [commissioned](#) INS Malvan, the second Mahe-class Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC), at Karwar on 22 July 2026. Indigenously designed and built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), the vessel, with over 80 per cent indigenous content, is the second of eight ships in its class and the sixth ASW-SWC to enter service, further strengthening the Navy's coastal defence and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.

DRDO Signs Key Industry Contracts for AEW&C Mk-II Programme

The DRDO, through its Centre for Air Borne Systems (CABS), [signed](#) two major contracts with Indian industry partners on 22 July 2026 to advance the Airborne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) Mk-II programme. Under the first contract, AI Engineering Services Limited (AIESL) will convert six Airbus A321 aircraft from commercial to military 'green' configuration, providing the platform for the AEW&C Mk-II system. The second contract appoints Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL) as the Development-cum-Production Partner (DcPP) for the programme's mission systems. CABS and ADSTL will jointly undertake mission system integration and flight testing in coordination with the IAF before certification by the relevant military airworthiness agencies.

DRDO Conducts Maiden Flight Test of Kusha Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile

The DRDO successfully [conducted](#) the maiden flight test of the Kusha Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha, on 23 July 2026. The Kusha weapon system has been designed to engage a wide spectrum of aerial targets, including fighter aircraft, cruise missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and other high-value airborne platforms over extended ranges and altitudes. The programme integrates indigenous missiles, long-range surveillance radars, fire-control radars, command-and-control systems and battle management elements developed by multiple DRDO laboratories in collaboration with Indian industry.

DRDO Develops Indigenous 350 kg Thrust Expendable Turbojet Engine

The DRDO has successfully [developed](#) India's first indigenous expendable turbojet engine in the 350 kg thrust class. Designed by the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), the engine was manufactured and assembled by Azad Engineering, Hyderabad, demonstrating the growing role of Indian industry in developing complex propulsion technologies. The indigenous expendable turbojet engine is expected to support the development of future long-range cruise missiles, loitering munitions and other unmanned aerial systems requiring compact, high-performance propulsion.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

INS Sudarshini Participates in Sail4th 250 Celebrations in New York

Indian Naval Sail Training Ship INS Sudarshini [arrived](#) at New York on 4 July 2026 to participate in the United States International Naval Review 250 and Sail4th 250 celebrations commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence. During the Parade of Sail along the Hudson River, the ship represented India while showcasing the country's maritime heritage and long-standing seafaring traditions. The visit forms part of Lokayan 2026, the Indian Navy's 10-month transoceanic deployment aimed at strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing naval diplomacy and promoting goodwill with partner countries.

Indian Air Force Participates in Exercise Pitch Black 2026

The IAF participated in [Exercise Pitch Black 2026](#), the Royal Australian Air Force's premier biennial multinational air combat exercise from 20 July to 7 August 2026. The exercise, which focuses on complex large-force employment and multinational air combat operations, brings together one of the largest contingents of participating air forces in its 45-year history. The IAF contingent included Rafale multirole fighter aircraft, supported by C-17 Globemaster III strategic airlift aircraft and IL-78 air-to-air refuelling aircraft, along with pilots, engineers, technicians, controllers and other specialists. The IAF had previously participated in the 2018, 2022 and 2024 editions.

'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'.