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Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

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KEY EVENTS

President of India Visits Headquarters Army Training Command

President Smt. Droupadi Murmu [visited](#) the Headquarters Army Training Command (ARTRAC) in Shimla on 1 May 2026. The President was briefed on the Command's role in training, doctrinal development and operational preparedness of the Indian Army. The President highlighted ARTRAC's contribution towards enhancing professionalism, operational efficiency and capacity development within the Army through its network of training establishments. She emphasised the importance of continued innovation and preparedness to strengthen national security and support the broader objectives of Aatmanirbharta and Viksit Bharat.

Raksha Mantri Highlights Role of Emerging Technologies

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [emphasised](#) the importance of sustained research, technological adaptation and operational surprise in future warfare while addressing the North Tech Symposium in Prayagraj on 4 May 2026. He noted increased industry participation in defence R&D and transfer of over 2,200 DRDO technologies to industry. He called for greater focus on emerging domains such as directed energy weapons, hypersonic systems, underwater and space technologies, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Raksha Mantri Holds Bilateral Talks with Vietnam's Defence Minister

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) bilateral talks with Vietnam's Deputy Prime

Minister and Minister of National Defence General Phan Van Giang in New Delhi on 6 May 2026. The discussions focused on reviewing ongoing defence cooperation and exploring avenues to strengthen bilateral engagement under the India-Vietnam Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Both sides reviewed progress in areas such as training, capacity building and high-level exchanges, while also discussing enhanced maritime cooperation, defence industry collaboration, and joint research and co-production initiatives.

Raksha Mantri Highlights Lessons from Operation Sindoor

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [addressed](#) the second Joint Commanders' Conference in Jaipur on 8 May 2026. The Raksha Mantri emphasised the need for the armed forces to remain future-ready amid evolving geopolitical uncertainties and highlighted the importance of strengthening capabilities in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, data analytics and secure communication networks. He noted that future conflicts would increasingly involve hybrid threats and multidomain operations spanning cyber, space and cognitive domains. During the event, the Raksha Mantri also released the Joint Doctrine for Integrated Communication Architecture aimed at enhancing interoperability and integrated operational preparedness.

Raksha Mantri Lays Foundation Stones for Defence Projects in AP

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu [laid](#) the foundation stones. They presided over the grounding ceremonies of multiple defence and aerospace projects in

Andhra Pradesh on 15 May 2026. The projects include the Core Integration and Flight Testing Centre for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme at Puttaparthi and a Naval Systems Manufacturing Facility of BDL at Anakapalli. Grounding ceremonies were also held for a Defence Energetics Facility, an Ammunition and Electric Fuses Plant, and a proposed Drone City in Kurnool involving a consortium of eight drone companies. Several defence companies signed MoUs with the Andhra Pradesh government to establish defence manufacturing units.

Raksha Mantri Holds Bilateral Talks with Vietnam's Defence Minister

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) bilateral talks with Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence General Phan Van Giang in Hanoi on 19 May 2026. Discussions focused on strengthening defence cooperation, maritime security and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific. Both sides discussed ways to deepen cooperation in military training, defence industry collaboration, cybersecurity, maritime security, capacity building, UN peacekeeping operations, and high-level exchanges. The Defence Ministers virtually inaugurated a Language Lab at the Air Force Officers' College in Vietnam established with Indian assistance. The RM also announced the setting up of an Artificial Intelligence Lab at the Telecommunications University in Nha Trang. In addition, an MoU was exchanged between India's Military College of Telecommunications Engineering and Vietnam's Telecommunications University

in the fields of Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Technology.

Raksha Mantri Holds Bilateral Talks with RoK Defence Minister

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) bilateral talks with the Republic of Korea (RoK) Minister of National Defence, Ahn Gyu-back, in Seoul on 20 May 2026. The discussions focused on expanding defence cooperation in industry, production, maritime security, emerging technologies, logistics and regional security. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening defence ties and maintaining a free, open, inclusive and rule-based Indo-Pacific. The two countries signed agreements on defence cyber cooperation, training exchanges between India's National Defence College and Korea National Defence University, and cooperation in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Discussions were also held on advancing the India-Korea Defence Innovation Accelerator Ecosystem (KIND-X).

Chief of the Naval Staff Visits Myanmar

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi [visited](#) Myanmar from 2 to 5 May 2026. During the visit, the CNS held discussions with senior military and government leadership of Myanmar, including the Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Armed Forces, the Defence Minister and the Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Navy. The engagements included visits to key naval establishments and discussions on maritime security, training, capacity building and operational cooperation. The visit also aimed to review

ongoing naval interactions such as coordinated patrols, naval exercises, hydrographic cooperation and training exchanges.

Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani Appointed Chief of Defence Staff

Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani (Retd) was [appointed](#) as the Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, with effect from the date of assumption of charge. He succeeds General Anil Chauhan, whose tenure concluded on 30 May 2026. Lieutenant General Raja Subramani previously served as Military Adviser in the National Security Council Secretariat. He held senior appointments including Vice Chief of the Army Staff and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Central Command. Commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in 1985, he has extensive operational experience across counter-insurgency, mountain warfare and strike corps operations, along with a range of instructional, intelligence and diplomatic assignments.

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan Appointed Chief of the Naval Staff

Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan was [appointed](#) as the next Chief of the Naval Staff. He will succeed Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, who retired on 31 May 2026. Commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1987, Vice Admiral Swaminathan is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare and has held several important operational, training and staff appointments during his naval career. His command assignments include INS *Vidyut*, INS

Vinash, INS *Kulish*, INS *Mysore* and aircraft carrier INS *Vikramaditya*. He has also served as Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.

India and Algeria Joint Commission Meeting on Defence Cooperation Held

India and Algeria [held](#) the inaugural meeting of the Joint Commission on defence cooperation in New Delhi on 5 May 2026. The two sides discussed expanding cooperation in areas such as military training, exercises, medical collaboration, and the defence industry, and agreed to strengthen bilateral defence engagement further. Both countries signed the Rules of Procedure to oversee the implementation of defence cooperation activities, establishing a framework for future Joint Commission interactions. India and Algeria signed a defence cooperation memorandum in 2024 to expand engagement across operational and industrial domains.

Tenth India–Australia Defence Policy Talks Held in New Delhi

The Tenth India–Australia Defence Policy Talks were [held](#) in New Delhi on 8 May 2026. The discussions reviewed progress in bilateral defence cooperation and focused on enhancing strategic coordination across multiple domains. The two countries expressed a commitment to expanding interoperability, maritime engagement, training exchanges, and defence-industrial collaboration. Discussions also highlighted the increasing scale and complexity of bilateral exercises.

India and Singapore Explore New Avenues to Strengthen Strategic Ties

The 16th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue was [held](#) in Singapore on 28 May 2026, co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Singapore's Permanent Secretary (Defence) Joseph Leong. The dialogue reviewed ongoing defence engagements and explored new avenues for expanding strategic cooperation between the two countries. India and Singapore also reaffirmed their commitment to supporting an open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific architecture through cooperation in regional and multilateral frameworks such as ASEAN-led mechanisms and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus). The Defence Secretary also toured the Singapore Armed Forces' Digital Operations Technology Centre to explore potential cooperation in digital and emerging warfare domains.

Indian Air Force Airlifts Sacred Buddhist Relics to Mongolia

The Indian Air Force (IAF) undertook a strategic cultural outreach mission on 30 May 2026 by [airlifting](#) the sacred relics of Arahant Sariputta and Arahant Mahamoggallana, the chief disciples of Gautama Buddha. The relics flew from New Delhi to Mongolia aboard an IL-76 strategic airlift aircraft. The mission was carried out in support of India's broader diplomatic and cultural engagement efforts with friendly nations, particularly in the Buddhist cultural sphere. The transportation of the relics highlights the

role of the Indian Armed Forces, especially the IAF's strategic airlift capability, in supporting national objectives beyond conventional military operations.

DRDO Opens CBRN Field Training and Demonstration Centre

DRDO [inaugurated](#) a Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Field Training and Demonstration Centre at Burari in Delhi on 6 May 2026 to enhance preparedness for radiological and nuclear emergencies. The facility was inaugurated by the Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, and the Chairman, DRDO, Dr Samir V Kamat. The centre, established under the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), includes specialised facilities such as radiological and nuclear test beds, heavy-ion research infrastructure, emergency medical response systems, and real-time field response units. It is intended to function as a CBRN Centre of Excellence for training personnel from defence, disaster management and internal security agencies involved in crisis response and preparedness.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

MoD Signs ₹1,476 Crore Contract with BEL

The Ministry of Defence [signed](#) a contract worth ₹1,476 crore with Bharat Electronics Limited on 5 May 2026 for the procurement of five Ground-Based Mobile Electronic Systems for the Indian Army under the Buy (Indian-IDD) category. The systems will have a minimum indigenous content of 72 per cent.

DRDO and IAF Successfully Conduct Maiden Flight-Trial of TARA Weapon

DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully [conducted](#) the maiden flight-trial of the Tactical Advanced Range Augmentation (TARA) weapon off the Odisha coast on 7 May 2026. TARA is India's first indigenous glide weapon system designed to convert unguided warheads into precision-guided weapons. Developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat along with other laboratories and industry partners, the system is intended to enhance the accuracy and lethality of low-cost weapons against ground targets.

DRDO Conducts Scramjet Combustor Test for Hypersonic Missile

DRDO's Defence Research and Development Laboratory successfully [conducted](#) an extensive long-duration test of an actively cooled full-scale scramjet combustor in Hyderabad on 9 May 2026, marking a major milestone in India's hypersonic missile development programme. The test achieved a run time of over 1,200 seconds at the Scramjet Connect Pipe Test facility, significantly improving upon an earlier successful trial conducted in January 2026. The test provides a strong foundation for the future hypersonic cruise missile development efforts.

Agni Missile with MIRV Capability Flight Tested

The flight-trial of an advanced Agni missile equipped with Multiple Independently Targeted Re-Entry Vehicle (MIRV) capability was successfully [conducted](#) on 8 May 2026. The missile was tested with multiple payloads directed at spatially

distributed targets across the Indian Ocean Region. The successful test demonstrated India's capability to engage multiple strategic targets using a single missile platform.

DRDO Completes Development Trials of ULPGM-V3 Missile System

DRDO [completed](#) the final deliverable configuration development trials of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Launched Precision Guided Missile (ULPGM)-V3 in both Air-to-Ground and Air-to-Air modes on 19 May 2026. The system has been developed in collaboration with Bharat Dynamics Limited and Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited, along with a wide network of MSMEs and Indian industry partners. The trials validated the missile's capability in anti-tank Air-to-Ground roles as well as in Air-to-Air engagements against drones, helicopters, and other airborne targets.

Agni-1 Ballistic Missile Test Launch Conducted

The test-launch of the short-range ballistic missile Agni-1 was [conducted](#) from Chandipur, Odisha on 22 May 2026. The launch validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile system. The test was conducted under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Indian Army Contingent Participates in Exercise CINBAX-II 2026 in Cambodia

An Indian Army contingent [participated](#) in the second edition of the India-Cambodia bilateral military exercise CINBAX-II 2026, held from 4 to 17 May 2026 at

Kampong Speu Province. The exercise is being conducted under the framework of the UN mandate and focuses on joint operations in a sub-conventional environment.

Multilateral Exercise PRAGATI 2026 Held in Meghalaya

The multilateral military exercise PRAGATI 2026 [commenced](#) at Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya on 20 May 2026 with participation from 12 friendly nations — Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Seychelles, Sri Lanka and Vietnam. PRAGATI, which stands for Partnership of Regional Armies for Growth and Transformation in the Indian Ocean Region, was aimed at strengthening military cooperation, enhancing interoperability and promoting professional exchanges among participating armies. The two-week exercise focused on counter-terrorism operations in semi-mountainous and jungle terrain and includes joint planning exercises, tactical drills and coordinated operations to improve operational coordination and adaptability in challenging environments.

HNLMS *De Ruyter* Visits Kochi

Royal Netherlands Navy Ship HNLMS *De Ruyter* [arrived](#) at Kochi on 4 May 2026 along with a high-level Dutch naval delegation led by Major General Rob De Wit, Deputy Commander of the Royal Netherlands Navy, and the Ambassador of

the Netherlands to India. The visit forms part of the ship's Indo-Pacific deployment and reflects growing maritime engagement between India and the Netherlands. The delegation also visited naval training establishments and Cochin Shipyard Limited to explore opportunities for cooperation in training and shipbuilding.

IOS SAGAR Visits Chattogram, Bangladesh

Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR [arrived](#) at Chattogram, Bangladesh, on 8 May 2026 as part of its multinational deployment to strengthen maritime cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region. The visit included engagements between the Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy focused on enhancing professional interaction and operational understanding.

India–Vietnam Maritime and Scientific Cooperation Strengthened

INS *Sagardhwani* [concluded](#) its visit to Cam Ranh, Vietnam, from 4–8 May 2026, reinforcing maritime and scientific cooperation between India and Vietnam. The deployment included professional interactions with the Vietnam People's Navy and scientific engagements with Vietnamese oceanographic institutions. Scientists from DRDO's Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory interacted with researchers from Vietnamese oceanographic institutions to strengthen cooperation in marine science, technology and capacity building.

'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'.