

DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol 4 | Issue 2 | February 2025



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

Centre for Defence Economics and Industry, MP-IDSA

CONTENTS

KEY EVENTS

- Rs 6.81 lakh Crore Allocated in Union Budget 2025-26 for MoD
- Raksha Mantri Holds Telecon with US Secretary of Defense
- Raksha Mantri Inaugurates 15th Edition of Aero India 2025
- Raksha Mantri Addresses 16th Foundation Day of IIT Mandi
- Raksha Mantri Confers Gallantry Medals to ICG Personnel
- Raksha Mantri at National Science Day Celebrations
- Raksha Mantri Visits Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex
- RRM Meets European Commissioner for Defence and Space
- CDS Visits Rashtriya Indian Military College
- CDS Emphasizes Need for Synergised Air and Naval Operations
- Chief of the Army Staff Visits France
- 13th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting Held
- Chief Operations Officer of Royal Bhutan Army Visits India
- CDS at CDM National Seminar on Future-Ready Military Leadership
- Quality Assurance (QA) Conclave Held
- 5th Joint Working Group Meeting between India and Spain MoD Held
- Indian Navy's Tropex-25 Exercise
- South Western Air Command Commanders' Conference Held
- Indian Navy Chiefs' Conclave 2025
- Manthan, the Defence Innovation Event, Held at Aero India 2025

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

- DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight-Trials of VSHORADS
- MoD Inks Contracts Worth Rs 10,147 crore with EEL, MIL and BEL
- DRDO Releases Augmented Research Verticals across DIA-CoEs
- MoD Inks Rs 642 Crore Contract with BEL for 28 EON-51 Systems

- DRDO Showcases State-of-the-Art Technologies and Systems at Aero India 2025
- MoD Inks Contract Worth ₹1220.12 Cr with BEL
- MoD Signs ₹697.35 Cr Contracts for Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks
- Steel Cutting of Third Fleet Support Ship for Indian Navy
- Indian Army Signs Contract for Critical CBRN Defence Equipment
- NASM-R Successfully Tested

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

- IN's First Training Squadron Visits Singapore, Cambodia, and Vietnam
- INS Tushil at Port Victoria, Seychelles
- India- Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise Cyclone-III Held
- IN Platforms Participate in the International Fleet Review 2025
- India-Japan Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian Held

KEY EVENTS

Rs 6.81 lakh Crore Allocated in Union Budget 2025-26 for MoD

In the Union Budget for Financial Year (FY) 2025-26, the [Ministry of Defence](#) (MoD) was allocated Rs 6,81,210.27 crore. This allocation is 9.53 per cent more than the Budgetary Estimate of FY 2024-25 and stands at 13.45 per cent of Union Budget, which is highest among the Ministries.

Raksha Mantri Holds Telecon with US Secretary of Defense

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh on 6 February 2025 [congratulated](#) Pete Hegseth, in their first telephonic conversation after his confirmation as the new US Secretary of Defense. The two Ministers reviewed the extensive India-US defence cooperation activities covering multiple domains in land, air, maritime and space. They also agreed to provide enhanced support to the growing defence innovation collaboration between the governments, start-ups, businesses and academic institutions.

Raksha Mantri Inaugurates 15th Edition of Aero India 2025

Aero India 2025, Asia's largest aerospace and defence exhibition, was [inaugurated](#) by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in Bengaluru on 10 February 2025. The event, themed 'The Runway to a Billion Opportunities', showcased India's indigenous defence capabilities alongside global aerospace advancements, fostering international collaborations under Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The [Defence Ministers' Conclave](#) and [CEOs Roundtable](#) saw global participation, highlighting India's push for co-development and co-production in defence

technology. The event witnessed the participation of over 162 delegates from 81 countries, including 15 Defence Ministers, 11 Deputy Defence Ministers, 15 Permanent Secretaries, and 17 Service Chiefs. It also featured strategic discussions with aerospace giants, the signing of multiple technology transfer agreements, and the launch of Indian Naval Aviation-Technological Roadmap 2047.

Raksha Mantri Addresses 16th Foundation Day of IIT Mandi

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, while addressing the 16th Foundation Day of IIT Mandi on 24 February 2025, highlighted that India's technological sector is expected to reach USD 300-350 billion in the next five years. He noted that with more than 1.25 lakh start-ups and 110 unicorns, India is emerging as the third-largest start up ecosystem in the world.

Raksha Mantri Confers Gallantry Medals to ICG Personnel

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [conferred](#) gallantry, distinguished service, and meritorious service medals to the personnel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) during the 18th ICG Investiture Ceremony held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on 25 February 2025.

Raksha Mantri at National Science Day Celebrations

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [called](#) upon the youth to inculcate scientific temper and excel in frontier technologies by making best use of the internationally-competitive infrastructure being established in the country. He was inaugurating Vigyan Vaibhav, a two-day science and

technology extravaganza organised in Hyderabad, Telangana as part of National Science Day celebrations on 28 February 2025.

Raksha Mantri Visits Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [visited](#) DRDO's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, the nerve centre for design and development of indigenous missile systems, in Hyderabad, Telangana on 28 February 2025.

RRM Meets European Commissioner for Defence and Space

Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth [held](#) a meeting with the Commissioner for Defence and Space, European Commission Andrius Kubilius in New Delhi on 28 February 2025. They discussed defence and security cooperation with focus on maritime engagements and information sharing in the Indo-Pacific.

CDS Visits Rashtriya Indian Military College

CDS Gen Anil Chauhan [visited](#) the Rashtriya Indian Military College on 19 February 2025, reaffirming the institution's pivotal role in shaping the future leadership of the Indian Armed Forces.

CDS Emphasizes Need for Synergised Air and Naval Operations

[CDS Gen Anil Chauhan](#) at a seminar on 'Synergising Air and Naval Forces: Enhancing Combat Power in the Indian Ocean Region on 25 February 2025 highlighted the importance of joint force projection and integration of air and naval power for safeguarding national interests.

Chief of the Army Staff Visits France

General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), was on an official [visit](#) to France from 24-27 February 2025. The COAS met General Pierre Schill, the French Army Chief to foster stronger military ties between the two nations. Among other engagements, the COAS visited the Neuve Chapelle Indian War Memorial to lay a wreath in honour of the fallen Indian soldiers who participated in World War I.

13th Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee Meeting Held

The 13th meeting of Malaysia-India Defence Cooperation Committee (MIDCOM) took [place](#) in Kuala Lumpur on 19 February 2025. The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Secretary General of Ministry of Defence, Malaysia Lokman Hakim Bin Ali. India and Malaysia also exchanged the finalised Terms of Reference (ToR) on the establishment of Strategic Affairs Working Group. Both sides also exchanged the finalised ToR on the establishment of Su-30 forum as an outcome of MIDCOM.

Chief Operations Officer of Royal Bhutan Army Visits India

Lieutenant General Bato Tshering, Chief Operations Officer of the Royal Bhutan Army, was on an official [visit](#) to India from 1-7 February. He [called](#) on Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on 4 February 2025. Lt Gen Tshering's visit [cemented](#) several key defence initiatives, including greater participation of Bhutanese officers in Indian defence institutions, and on peacekeeping operations.

CDS at CDM National Seminar on Future-Ready Military Leadership

The College of Defence Management (CDM), Secunderabad, [hosted](#) its annual National Seminar from 30-31 January 2025, on 'Developing Military Strategic Authentic Leaders (MISAL): Re-Imagining Concepts and Strategies.' CDS General Anil Chauhan delivered the keynote address, emphasising the critical need for adaptive leadership in an era of disruptive technologies and complex geopolitical shifts.

Quality Assurance (QA) Conclave Held

Quality Assurance (QA) Conclave, themed 'Collaborative Quality Assurance: Bridging the Gap Between Industry and Defence', was [held](#) on 7 February 2025. Delivering the keynote address, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar [highlighted](#) India's strides in defence manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative. The conclave aimed to foster deeper collaborations and innovative strategies between the defence sector and shipbuilding industries to promote indigenisation.

5th Joint Working Group Meeting between India and Spain MoD Held

The 5th Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting between the MoD of India and Spain took [place](#) in New Delhi on 6 February 2025. The C295 Project with Airbus Spain and Tata Advanced Systems Limited is the first Make-in-India project in the defence aircraft sector.

Indian Navy's Tropex-25 Exercise

The 2025 edition of Indian Navy's capstone Theatre Level Operational Exercise

(TROPEX), is being held in the Indian Ocean Region with participation by all operational Indian Naval units and Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard assets. TROPEX 25 is being conducted from January-March 2025 both in Harbour and at Sea, integrating various facets of combat operations, cyber and electronic warfare operations, live weapon firings and Amphibious Exercise (AMPHEX).

South Western Air Command Commanders' Conference Held

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) reviewed the operational preparedness of South Western Air Command (SWAC) at Gandhinagar on 5 February 2025. He exhorted all personnel to imbibe the spirit of the IAF doctrine which envisages the IAF as an agile, adaptive and decisive aerospace power.

Indian Navy Chiefs' Conclave 2025

The Indian Navy Chiefs' Conclave was [held](#) at the Naval Headquarters, New Delhi from 8-9 February 2025, bringing together eight Former Naval Chiefs and the current naval leadership. The aim of the Conclave was to gain from the collective experience and knowledge of the former Chiefs, and update them on the latest developments and policy initiatives of the Navy.

Manthan, the Defence Innovation Event, Held at Aero India 2025

Manthan 2025, the flagship annual defence innovation event, was [held](#) as part of Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru on 12 February 2025. Organised by the iDEX-DIO under the aegis of the Department of Defence Production, the event brought together stakeholders of the defence innovation

ecosystem, including innovators, industry leaders, academia, incubators, investors, thought leaders, and senior government officials.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

DRDO Successfully Conducts Flight-Trials of VSHORADS

DRDO successfully [conducted](#) three successive flight-trials of Very Short-Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) from Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. These tests were carried out against high-speed targets flying at very low altitude.

MoD Inks Contracts Worth Rs 10,147 crore with EEL, MIL and BEL

MoD on 6 February 2025 [inked](#) contracts with Economic Explosive Limited (EEL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL) for the procurement of Area Denial Munition (ADM) Type-1 (DPICM) and High Explosive Pre Fragmented (HEPF) Mk-1 (Enhanced) rockets respectively for PINAKA Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) at a total cost of Rs 10,147 crore. In addition, a contract for upgrades in SHAKTI Software was also signed with BEL.

DRDO Releases Augmented Research Verticals across DIA-CoEs

Directorate of Futuristic Technology Management (DFTM) at DRDO HQs in New Delhi on 7 February 2025 [released](#) the redefined and augmented Research Verticals and Thrust Areas across DRDO Industry Academia–Centres of Excellence (DIA-CoEs) to streamline and enhance the focus of Directed Research. The existing 65 Research Verticals distributed across 15

DIA-CoEs have been redesigned into 82 Research Verticals.

MoD Inks Rs 642 Crore Contract with BEL for 28 EON-51 Systems

The MoD on 8 February 2025, [signed](#) a contract with BEL for procurement of 28 EON-51 systems for 11 New Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels and three Cadet Training Ships for the Indian Navy at a total cost of Rs 642.17 crore under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category. EON-51 is an Electro Optical Fire Control System.

DRDO Showcases State-of-the-Art Technologies and Systems at Aero India 2025

DRDO [participated](#) in the 15th edition of Aero India and showcased indigenously developed state-of-the-art technologies and systems. 35 Licensing Agreements for Transfer of Technology (LATOT) for 19 niche technologies of 16 DRDO laboratories were handed over to 32 Industries.

MoD Inks Contract Worth ₹1220.12 Cr with BEL

The MoD [signed](#) a contract with M/s BEL, Bengaluru on 20 February 2025 for procurement of 149 Software Defined Radios for ICG at a cost of ₹1220.12 Cr under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category.

MoD Signs ₹697.35 Cr Contracts for Rough Terrain Fork Lift Trucks

The MoD on 20 February 2025 [signed](#) contracts with M/s ACE Limited and M/s JCB India Limited for procurement of 1868 Rough Terrain Fork Lift Truck (RTFLT) at a cost of ₹697.35 crore for Indian Army, Indian Airforce and Indian Navy.

Steel Cutting of Third Fleet Support Ship for Indian Navy

Steel Cutting ceremony of third of the five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) was [held](#) at M/s L&T Shipyard, Kattupalli on 20 February 2025, in the presence of R Adm Satish Shenai, Flag Officer Commanding Tamil Nadu and Puducherry Naval Area and senior officials from Indian Navy, Hindustan Ship Yard Limited (HSL) and M/s L&T.

Indian Army Signs Contract for Critical CBRN Defence Equipment

The Indian Army [signed](#) a contract on 25 February 2025 for procurement of 223 Automatic Chemical Agent Detection and Alarm (ACADA) systems with M/s L&T Ltd at a cost of Rs 80.43 Cr, under the Buy Indian (IDDM) category.

NASM-R Successfully Tested

DRDO and Indian Navy [carried](#) out successful flight-trials of first-of-its-kind Naval Anti-Ship missile (NASM-SR) on 25 February 2025.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

IN's First Training Squadron Visits Singapore, Cambodia, and Vietnam

As part of its Long-Range Training Deployment to Southeast Asia, the First Training Squadron (1TS), comprising INS Sujata, INS Shardul, and ICGS Veera, conducted port calls in Singapore, Cambodia, and Vietnam in February 2025. The visit to [Singapore](#) included engagements on training collaboration and a solemn wreath-laying ceremony at the Kranji War Memorial. In [Cambodia](#), the squadron focused on enhancing naval cooperation with the Royal Cambodian

Navy through professional exchanges, PASSEX, and the formal [handover](#) of a Small Arms Simulator to the Royal Cambodian Army. The deployment continued to [Vietnam](#), where the ships participated in cross-training visits, professional interactions, and a planned bilateral exercise with the Vietnam People's Navy and Coast Guard.

INS Tushil at Port Victoria, Seychelles

INS Tushil, on her maiden passage around the West coast of Africa, [arrived](#) at Port Victoria, Seychelles, on 7 February 2025 for an operational turnaround. During the port call, Captain Peter Varghese, the Commanding Officer, hosted Shri Kartik Pande, HCI (High Commissioner of India) to Seychelles, and Maj Gen Michael Rosette, Chief of Defence Forces, Seychelles Defence Forces.

India- Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise Cyclone-III Held

The 3rd edition of India-Egypt Joint Special Forces Exercise [CYCLONE](#) was conducted from 10-23 February 2025 at Mahajan Field Firing Ranges, Rajasthan.

IN Platforms Participate in the International Fleet Review 2025

Indian Navy platforms INS Shardul and Long Range Maritime Surveillance P8I aircraft [visited](#) Bali, Indonesia, to participate in the International Fleet Review (IFR) 2025, from 15-22 February 2025. The IFR was reviewed by the President of Indonesia and witnessed the participation of Naval forces from various countries. Following IFR 25, both INS Shardul and the P8I participated in Exercise Komodo, a multilateral naval exercise aimed at

enhancing maritime interoperability and regional security cooperation.

India-Japan Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian Held

An Indian Army contingent, represented mainly by troops from a battalion of the

MADRAS Regiment, [participated](#) in the 6th edition of India-Japan Joint Military Exercise Dharma Guardian on 22 February 2025, held in Japan. The Japan Ground Self Defence Force (JGSDF) contingent, was represented by 34th Infantry Regiment.

'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'.