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KEY EVENTS

President Approves Distinguished Service and Gallantry Awards

On the eve of 75th Republic Day on 25 January 2024, President Smt Droupadi Murmu [approved](#) distinguished service and gallantry awards to 93 Indian armed forces and central armed forces personnel. The President also [approved](#) President's Tatrakshak Medal and Tatrakshak Medal to six Indian Coast Guard personnel.

Prime Minister Dedicates Frontline Naval Combatants

Prime Minister Narendra Modi [dedicated](#) to the nation three frontline naval combatants - INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer - at the Naval Dockyard in Mumbai on 15 January 2025. The prime minister noted that the commissioning of the three vessels together underscored India's unwavering commitment to building a robust and self-reliant defence sector. Mr Modi highlighted the inclusion of 33 ships and seven submarines in the Navy over the past decade, with 39 out of 40 naval vessels being built in Indian shipyards.

Ministry of Defence Declares 2025 as 'Year of Reforms'

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh chaired a [meeting](#) with all the Secretaries of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on 31 December 2024 to review the progress on various schemes, projects, reforms and the way ahead. It was decided to observe 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms' in the MoD, with the aim of transforming the Armed Forces into a technologically-advanced combat-

ready force capable of multi-domain integrated operations.

DRDO's 67th Foundation Day Celebrated

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh on 2 January 2025 [visited](#) DRDO Headquarters in New Delhi, to mark the 67th Foundation Day of the organisation. Shri Singh commended DRDO for bolstering the defence sector through collaboration with the private sector, start-ups and academia. Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat briefed the Raksha Mantri about the ongoing R&D activities and the roadmap for 2025. Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth also attended the meeting.

Raksha Mantri Meets Defence Minister of Maldives

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh held a bilateral [meeting](#) with the Defence Minister of Maldives Mohammed Ghassan Maumoon in New Delhi on 8 January 2025. The two Ministers reasserted the commitment to realise the joint vision for India-Maldives Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership.

Raksha Mantri: Aero Space Power is the New Frontier of Military Dominance

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, addressing an Ambassadors' Round-Table, organised as a prelude to [Aero India 2025](#) in New Delhi on 10 January 2025, stated that the event was a forum to forge strategic partnerships, Transfer of Technology, joint development and co-production. The RM emphasised that India's defence industrial

ecosystem is an attractive opportunity for foreign companies seeking to establish new ventures and partnerships.

Raksha Mantri Holds Telephone Conversation with UK Defence Secretary

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [held](#) a telephonic conversation with the UK Defence Secretary John Healey on 16 January 2025. The Ministers reviewed the progress made between the two countries in niche defence technology areas such as Electric Propulsion and jet engines.

Army Day Celebrations: RM Exhorts Armed Forces to Remain Vigilant

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh during his [address](#) at 'Gaurav Gatha', an event organised in Pune as a part of the 77th Army Day celebrations, highlighted the increasing use of unconventional and asymmetrical methods in today's warfare and exhorted the Armed Forces to always remain vigilant and ready to face any challenge. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan also [extended](#) his greetings and best wishes to all ranks of the Indian Army on the occasion of the 77th Army Day on 15 January 2025.

Chief of Air Staff Visits Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands

Air Chief Marshal AP Singh visited Lakshadweep Islands from 4 -5 January 2025. The CAS [interacted](#) with the air warriors and visited various military establishments at Minicoy and Kavaratti Islands.

Defence Secretary Visits INS Rajali

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh [visited](#) INS Rajali, the Indian Navy's

premier Naval Air Station, in Tamil Nadu on 13 January 2025. He inspected various operational facilities at the station.

Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command Conducts Operational Demonstration

The Indian Navy [concluded](#) a breath-taking Operational Demonstration (Op Demo) at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh on 4 January 2025. The event was graced by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and hosted by Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.

Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise-2025 (TROPEX-25) Held

Lt Gen Johnson P Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani, Vice Chief of the Army Staff, Vice Adm K Swaminathan, Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, Air Marshal SP Dharkar, Vice Chief of Air Staff and Lt Gen Ajay Kumar, Director General Infantry [embarked](#) on Indian Navy ships off the West coast from 30 to 31 January 2025 to witness TROPEX-25.

INS Sarvekshak Completes Hydrographic Survey at Mauritius

INS Sarvekshak [completed](#) the final phase of the hydrographic survey of Mauritius covering an extensive area of over 25,000 sq. nautical miles. The creation of new nautical chart will enable Mauritius to develop its maritime infrastructure, resource management and coastal development planning.

AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

RM flags-off SANJAY Battlefield Surveillance System from New Delhi

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh [flagged-off](#) 'SANJAY - The Battlefield Surveillance System (BSS)' in New Delhi on 24 January 2025. SANJAY is an automated system which integrates the inputs from ground and aerial battlefield sensors to produce a Common Surveillance Picture over secured Army Data Network and Satellite Communication Network. SANJAY has been developed by the Indian Army and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

IAF Holds Industry Outreach Event (IOE) 2025 at Guwahati

In a bid to bolster India's defence capability and promote indigenous innovation, the IAF [held](#) a two-day Industry Outreach Event 25 (IOE25). The first phase was hosted online on 13 January 25 and second phase was held at Air Force Station Guwahati on 15 January 2025.

Sixth Scorpene Submarine 'Vaghsheer' Delivered to IN

Vaghsheer, the sixth submarine of the Project 75 class, was [delivered](#) to Indian Navy on 9 January 2025 after successful completion of mandatory sea trials. The submarine was launched in April 2022 and commenced her sea trials in December 2023.

'Nag Mk 2' Field Evaluation Trials Held

The Field Evaluation Trials of indigenously-developed Nag Mk 2, the third-generation Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile, were successfully

[conducted](#) at Pokhran Field Range. The weapon is ready for induction. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO, Indian Army and industry for the successful field evaluation trials of Nag Mk 2.

Keel-Laying Ceremony of Training Ship for ICG Held at MDL, Mumbai

The Keel-Laying ceremony of a Training Ship (Yard 16101) for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was [held](#) at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL), Mumbai on 13 January 2025. With a range of 7,500 nautical miles, the ship will be equipped with specialised facilities for training of cadets and 70 under-trainee officers, after their basic training ashore.

'Utkarsh', Second Multi-Purpose Vessel, Launched

The second of the two Multi-Purpose Vessels, being built by M/s L&T Shipyard for the Indian Navy, was [launched](#) in the presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on 13 January 2025 at L&T, Kattupalli, Chennai. VAdm B Sivakumar, Controller Warship Production & Acquisition, Jayant Patil, Advisor to CMD, Arun Ramchandani, Head M/s L&T PES and other Senior Officers from Indian Navy and M/s L&T were also present.

Two Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Launched

Two FPVs-Amulya and Akshay-indigenously designed and constructed by the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the ICG were [launched](#) in the presence of Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar in Goa on 5 January 2025. The two

FPVs are the third and fourth vessels of the fleet of eight FPVs being constructed by GSL for ICG.

Rs 1,561 Crore Contract Inked for 47 T-72 Bridge Laying Tanks

The MoD [signed](#) a contract on 21 January 2025 with Heavy Vehicles Factory, a unit of Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited (AVNL), for the procurement of 47 Tank-72 Bridge Laying Tanks (BLT) for the Indian Army at a total cost of Rs 1,560.52 crore.

DRDO Conducts Scramjet Engine Ground Test

Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), a Hyderabad-based laboratory of DRDO demonstrated a cutting-edge [Active Cooled Scramjet Combustor](#) ground test for 120 seconds for the first time in India on 21 January 2025. The successful ground test marks a crucial milestone in developing next-generation hypersonic missiles.

Keel Laying Ceremony of Seventh Ship of ASW SWC Project Held

The keel laying ceremony of the seventh ship (BY 529, Machilipatnam) of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) project was [undertaken](#) on 29 January 2025 at CSL, Kochi. The 'Mahe' class ships will be equipped with indigenously developed, state-of-the-art underwater sensors, and are envisaged to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters as well as Low Intensity Maritime Operations (LIMO) and Mine Laying Operations.

DIA-CoE at IIT Hyderabad Demonstrates LAAM System

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Samir V Kamat congratulated DRDO-Industry-Academia Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE), IIT Hyderabad for the design, development and demonstration of Large Area Additive Manufacturing (LAAM) System. This will open up new possibilities for large-scale production of metal parts, paving the way for growth and innovation in the area of additive manufacturing in the country.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

INS Tushil Visits Senegal, Nigeria

INS Tushil, Indian Navy's latest stealth frigate, as part of the ongoing operational deployment [visited](#) Port of Dakar, Senegal on 3 January 2025. The ship participated in a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) and joint patrol with the Senegalese Navy off the waters of the West African Coast. INS Tushil, [proceeded](#) to Nigeria, on 12 January 2025, for an operational turnaround, as part of her ongoing deployment to the Gulf of Guinea.

French Carrier Strike Group Visits India

The French Carrier Strike Group, led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle and comprising other French naval ships, [visited](#) India from 3-9 January 2025 with port call in Goa and Kochi. In Goa, the French Carrier Strike Group hosted a series of engagements, including a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) at sea with the Indian Navy's Western Fleet.

Simultaneously, French naval ships FS Forbin and FS Alsace, also part of the Carrier Strike Group, visited Kochi.

INS Mumbai Participates in Multi-National Exercise La Perouse

Guided missile destroyer INS Mumbai [participated](#) in the fourth edition of the Multinational Exercise LA PEROUSE on 18 January 2025. This edition witnessed participation of personnel/ surface and sub-surface assets from various maritime partners including Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Royal Navy, United States Navy, Indonesian Navy, Royal Malaysian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy and Royal Canadian Navy.

Indian Navy Hosts Indonesian Navy Delegation

Admiral Muhammad Ali, Chief of Staff of the Indonesian Navy, [visited](#) India as part of the high-level delegation accompanying President Prabowo Subianto, the Chief Guest for the Republic Day Parade 2025. Adm Muhammad Ali and Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, CNS held bilateral interactions to deepen maritime cooperation. The ICG and the Indonesia Coast Guard also [renewed](#) their MoU on Maritime Safety and Security Cooperation for another three years.

'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'.