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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

DELHI DEFENCE DIALOGUE 2026

DELHI DEFENCE DIALOGUE
MANOHAR PARRIKAR idsa
DDD 2026





Conference Booklet



DEFENCE REFORMS
ATMANIRBHARTA
CO-DEVELOPMENT
EXPORTS





3-4 November 2026



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
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Delhi Defence Dialogue

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EXPORTS

(03-04 November 2026)

Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses
New Delhi

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About MP-IDSA

The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), is a non-partisan, autonomous body dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence, security and international relations. Its mission is to promote national and international security through the generation and dissemination of knowledge on defence and security-related issues.

Established as a registered society in New Delhi on November 11, 1965. Its mission is to provide objective assessments of issues relating to national and international security. Commemorative Postage Stamp: To mark the 50th anniversary of the institute and its contribution to the nation, India Post issued a commemorative postage stamp on December 30, 2015.

MP-IDSA has a well-qualified multi-disciplinary research faculty drawn from academia, defence forces and the civil services, representing a diversity of views. Research at the Institute is driven by a comprehensive agenda and by the need to provide impartial analyses and policy recommendations. Institute's journals, monographs, briefs, and books are the principal mediums through which these analyses and policy recommendations are disseminated. In addition, the news media also carry the views of the institute's experts in the form of op-eds, interviews and participation in debates.

Research Centres

- Africa, Latin America, Caribbean & UN
- Counter Terrorism
- Defence Economics and Industry
- East Asia
- Europe and Eurasia
- Military Affairs
- Non-Traditional Security
- Nuclear and Arms Control
- South Asia
- South East Asia and Oceania
- North America and Strategic Technologies
- Internal Security
- West Asia

About Delhi Defence Dialogue

The Delhi Defence Dialogue (DDD) is a flagship annual platform instituted by the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) to deliberate on emerging challenges, evolving paradigms and transformative opportunities in the domain of defence and national security. Bringing together policymakers, senior military leadership, defence experts, researchers, industry representatives and international delegates, the Dialogue fosters informed deliberation, facilitates the exchange of ideas and promotes collaboration among stakeholders shaping the future of defence and strategic affairs.

Since its inaugural edition in 2024, the Delhi Defence Dialogue has evolved around themes that reflect the changing character of warfare and India's defence priorities. The first edition, themed "Adaptive Defence: Navigating the Changing Landscape of Modern Warfare," examined the implications of an evolving strategic environment and the need for defence establishments to adapt to emerging threats, operational challenges and new paradigms of warfare. The second edition, themed "Harnessing New Age Technology for Defence Capability Development," focused on the growing role of emerging technologies in strengthening defence capabilities and transforming military preparedness, operations and modernisation.

The third edition of the Delhi Defence Dialogue, scheduled for 3–4 November 2026, centres on the theme "Defence Reforms, *Atmanirbharta*, Co-development and Exports." Building on the deliberations of the previous editions, this Dialogue seeks to advance discussions on structural and institutional reforms, indigenous defence capability development, collaborative technology partnerships and the expansion of India's defence exports. It will examine opportunities and challenges across land, naval, missile and

aerospace domains, with particular emphasis on propulsion systems, research and development, co-development frameworks and the strengthening of the domestic defence industrial ecosystem.

Through focused discussions and stakeholder engagement, DDD 2026 aims to identify practical pathways for accelerating defence reforms, deepening self-reliance (Atmanirbharta), fostering mutually beneficial co-development partnerships and enhancing India's position as a reliable global defence manufacturing and export partner. The Dialogue seeks to contribute to a forward-looking vision of a technologically advanced, resilient and self-reliant defence ecosystem, aligned with India's evolving strategic requirements and its ambition to emerge as a significant contributor to global defence capabilities.

DDD 2026: Vision & Way Forward

The Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) is organising the third Delhi Defence Dialogue 2026 (DDG 2026) on the theme "Defence Reforms *Atmanirbharta* (self-reliance), Co-development and Exports" on 3-4 November 2026, at New Delhi. The complex security challenges, hostile neighbours, challenges posed by emerging technologies, their adoption by terror elements, fragility of security umbrellas and unreliability of supply chains necessitate a review of approach to capability development, especially within context of long and complex wars.

The Government of India (GOI) has set the goal of an *Atmanirbhar Viksit Bharat* (self-reliant developed India), including in the defence technologies, on completion of 100 years of independence, i.e. by 2047. India is pursuing a multi-pronged approach in capability development involving self-reliance in defence technologies, co-development collaborations and increasing defence exports. However, achieving this goal would require structural, policy and ecosystem reforms and reorientation of approach to partnerships.

GOI's pursuit of defence *Atmanirbharta* has also been supported by several policy initiatives aimed at strengthening the domestic defence industrial base. These include promoting defence indigenisation and *Atmanirbharta*, developing defence industrial corridors, corporatising the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), and improving the contribution of the defence sector to the wider economy and defence exports. These initiatives provide an important policy context for considering the structural, industrial and ecosystem reforms required to build a self-reliant and globally competitive defence industry.

Defence Reforms and Atmanirbharta (Self-Reliance)

The emerging technologies are changing the dynamics of warfare as well as providing opportunities to find innovative ways to neutralise emerging aerospace threats. India is making efforts to develop and leverage capabilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum, Blockchain and other innovative technologies for countering the emerging threats. Missiles and emerging technologies are becoming critical elements of war fighting. The wide spectrum of threats posed by hypersonic, ballistic and cruise missiles, loitering and swarm drones, and manned aircraft has increased the challenges of aerospace defence. The targeting of civil, energy and critical economic targets in recent wars has further expanded the scope and span of air defence. The neutralisation of wide spectrum of aerial threats will require adoption of multiple emerging technologies and their fusion for building robust aerospace defence systems.

Self-reliance in naval, land, aerospace and missile defence systems will be one of the key focus areas of deliberations. India has made significant progress in the development of defence equipment and efforts are being made to reduce import dependencies on the advanced weapons, propulsion systems, sensors and weapon technologies. In the naval systems, India has developed ships of different sizes and capabilities, submarines, aircraft carriers, naval fighter aircraft prototype, sensors and weapons. Indian naval shipyards are catering to global shipbuilding orders. In the land domain, India has indigenously designed, developed and manufactured advanced artillery guns, tanks including light tanks, Infantry Combat Vehicles, long range rockets and ammunitions. In the military aircraft segment, India has developed and manufactured helicopters, fighter, transport and trainer aircraft of different sizes and capabilities. Some of its indigenous development programs such as the advanced Jet Trainer,

advanced fighter aircraft, aero engines, Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAVs), Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) and Light Transport Aircraft, are in various stages of development. In the missile segment, India has developed Akash, Quick Range Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) and other air defence systems.

India despite above developments remains dependent of several critical systems, sub-system, components, materials, sensors and payloads. Therefore, there is a need to deliberate on the trajectory, identify challenges and articulate a roadmap to make India self-reliant in land, aerospace, naval, missile and space technologies by 2047. In order to achieve this, the Indian defence forces, as key stakeholders, need to evolve from 'facilitators' to 'development partner' in indigenous development. This in turn may require creation of integral R&D organisations in the Indian defence forces and the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) akin to the integral defence forces R&D organisations of the US defence forces; and equivalent defence forces R&D organisations of leading defence manufacturing countries such as Russia, France, China, UK, Israel, etc.

GOI's initiatives to promote defence indigenisation and *Atmanirbharta*, through the development of defence industrial corridors, seek to expand domestic manufacturing capacity, encourage wider participation by private industry and Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and, strengthen indigenous supply chains. The corporatisation of the erstwhile Ordnance Factory Board into seven Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) is another significant institutional reform intended to improve autonomy, accountability, efficiency and competitiveness in defence production. The progress and challenges associated with these initiatives merit consideration as part of the broader effort to reduce import dependence and strengthen India's defence industrial ecosystem.

The success of India's self-reliance mission would also depend upon its ability to identify factors contributing to delays, indecision and closure of indigenous development projects and instituting course corrections. In addition, measures such as review of Allocation of Business (AoB) rules for enhancing ownership and accountability, creation of Research and Development (R&D) structures in the defence forces, and upgradation of defence testing infrastructure need due consideration.

Defence Co-Development, Collaborations and Exports

India's trajectory of defence collaborations was predominantly tilted towards 'license manufacturing and Transfer of Technology (ToT). It now aims to transform the trajectory of defence collaboration from 'license manufacturing and ToT, to 'co-development' of defence technologies in order to meet its emerging challenges. The leveraging of co-development collaborations with global partners is part of India's endeavours towards self-reliance and building a robust globally competitive defence industry. It is making earnest endeavours to establish co-development collaborations for building complex and critical technologies. Complex high value defence systems such as advanced land, aerospace and naval propulsion systems and medium to large civil-military transport aircraft, are being given special emphasis for potential partnerships. Aspects such as reasonable work share of Indian entities, IPR sharing and production of critical systems in India are central to such collaboration. India's large market, and significant design development and manufacturing capabilities provide an enabling environment for establishing co-development collaborations.

India's dynamic public and private domestic industry provides multiple options for establishing co-development collaboration. The co-development collaboration could be established between Indian public and private entities,

amongst Indian private entities and between Indian and global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) in mutually beneficial areas. Therefore, deliberation on "Co-development Collaboration" will be focused on identifying potential areas of co-development, policy, regulatory, technology, certification, IPR or other challenges and the learnings would be leveraged to articulate the way forward.

Propulsion Systems: *Atmanirbharta* and Co-development

Propulsion Technology sits at the very heart of modern warfare and military systems. India's journey towards *Atmanirbharta* (self-reliance) in defence has gathered significant momentum, but propulsion systems continue to be one of the highly demanded, yet less indigenised assets within the Indian defence ecosystem. The indigenous land, aerospace and naval propulsion systems development programs have achieved low to moderate success. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in his Independence Day speech on 15 August 2025, called for the development of an indigenous fighter Aircraft jet engine, which has been a critical challenge for its aeronautics industry. Furthermore, India is in discussion with global aero-engine manufacturers for co-development of an aero-engine for its Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). The deliberations are underway on the quantum of work share of Indian partner, control over Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs) and other aspects of co-development and production; and, creation of enabling aero-engine testing ecosystem. The concurrent development of indigenous aero-engines to replace imported engines of Light Combat Aircraft, is also being explored. The discussions regarding 'Propulsion Systems *Atmanirbharta* and Collaborations' will, therefore, examine the policy, design, development, testing, funding, IPR, and other challenges and leverage learnings to examine the way forward for indigenous development and co-development of naval, aerial and land propulsion systems, including with global partners.

Defence Innovation Collaborations

The defence innovation organisations are created to harness the innovative potential of starts ups and existing capabilities of the civil industry to build military technologies and reduce the development timelines. India has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with friendly foreign countries to establish innovation collaborations that enable innovators from both sides to work together and solve common problems or build complementary capabilities. Therefore, an effort would be made to understand innovation organisations and initiatives, opportunities, challenges and way forward for optimally leveraging and expanding innovation collaborations with friendly foreign countries.

Stimulating Defence Exports

Since 2014, GOI has introduced several measures to facilitate defence exports, including the liberalisation of foreign direct investment in defence manufacturing, the Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020, and the simplification of export authorisation procedures. The Open General Export Licence (OGEL), the Defence Exports Promotion portal, and support through Indian Defence Attaches have also been used to facilitate market access and promote Indian defence products in overseas markets. These initiatives complement efforts to strengthen domestic manufacturing and encourage Indian industry to serve both domestic and international requirements.

Indian defence industry, after decades of inward-looking policies, has been opened up for export to friendly countries. It has the potential to design, develop, manufacture and scale up production of niche and innovative defence technologies not only for Indian defence forces but also for friendly countries. Indian industry could prove to be an able partner for friendly countries in West

Asia, South Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and other parts of the world.

Indian public and private sector companies have developed a unique relationship of cooperation and competition, which is helping India in producing high-quality defence products to meet the requirements of the domestic as well as international customers. Indian government has instituted policy reforms to encourage Indian industry to build quality products for the global market and stimulate exports. Therefore, there is a need to engage with global partners to understand opportunities and challenges of defence exports. Therefore, deliberations on "Stimulating Defence Exports" aim to examine defence equipment requirements, import policies, procurement procedures, taxation, certification and other mechanisms of friendly countries; and challenges and opportunities for defence exports.

The DDD2026 provides an opportunity to engage with stakeholders from defence Ministries, defence forces, industry, policy and domain experts, academia and other from India and friendly foreign countries. The dialogue would provide a platform to deliberate on wide ranging issues of mutual importance. Some of the key issues for the discussion during the DDD2026 include the following:

a) What are the envisaged requirements and roadmaps for building indigenous naval land, aerospace, missile and emerging defence technologies to become self-reliant?

b) What are the challenges and way forward in the design, development, manufacturing, certification, operationalisation and induction of naval, land, aerospace and missile defence systems?

c) What are the defence forces R&D organisations of the leading defence manufacturing countries and what is their contribution in technology development?

d) What are the potential areas, challenges and way forward for co-development of complex defence technologies such as propulsions systems, military transport aircraft with friendly foreign countries?

e) What is the potential, challenges and way forward for leveraging consortium approach between Indian industry or between Indian industry in collaboration with international partners to developing complex system?

f) What are the requirements of defence equipment of friendly foreign countries and their policies on defence equipment import, taxation, acquisition, certification and related aspects?

g) What are the defence export, taxation, testing, standards, certification and other policy reforms required in India to stimulate defence exports?

h) What are the opportunities, challenges and way forward for establishing innovation collaborations with friendly foreign countries?

i) What is the policy, structural, ecosystem, technology development and other reforms required to make India *Atmanirbhar* (self-reliant) and exporter of defence technologies by 2047?

ROUNDTABLES

As a precursor to DDD2026, two roundtables were organised to understand the trajectories and challenges of respective domains and articulate a viable way forward in line with the theme of defence reforms, *atmanirbharta*, co-development and exports.

Roundtable I

On 10 June 2026, MP-IDSA, New Delhi, held a roundtable titled "Indigenous Development of Propulsions Systems". It brought together stakeholders from the Ministry of Defence, DRDO, the Armed Forces, DPSUs, the NSCS, the MEA, domain experts and academia.

Vision & Way Forward

Propulsion Technology determine how fast, how far and how reliably an aviation platform can operate. The ability to design, develop, produce and sustain propulsion systems is a major determinant of a nation's defence preparedness and strategic autonomy. As India advances in its quest for a Developed India (Viksit Bharat) goal by 2047, indigenising such critical systems needs to evolve from mere policy aspirations to operational technologies.

India's journey towards Atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence has gathered significant momentum, but propulsion systems continue to be one of the highly demanded, yet least indigenised, assets within Indian defence ecosystem. The processes involved in designing, developing, manufacturing and certifying any propulsion system, be it naval, aerial or land based, requires convergence of advanced material sciences, precision in manufacturing, rigorous testing infrastructure, institutional coherence and experience accumulated over decades. Materials for advanced propulsion systems is a challenge. The availability of Infrastructure and architecture like trisonic & hypersonic full scale wind tunnels and high-

altitude engine test bed is the need of the hour. Certification and QA are key components of the entire eco system which needs focussed approach. The contribution of academia in building operational systems, Industry interface and patent management, remain key challenges. While consolidating these aspects is a strategic necessity to gain self-reliance in propulsion systems, navigating the complexities involved in doing so makes it challenging. Given the multifaceted geopolitical and strategic realities and the weight of the ambition for self-reliance, India's path remains riddled with significant challenges.

Initiatives such as the Kaveri engine, Air Independent Propulsion Systems (AIP) and Hindustan Turbo Fan Engine-25 (HTFE-25) attest to India's intent for developing indigenous propulsion systems; however, it continues to face challenges in their operationalisation. For instance, while the proposed development of 120 kN aero-engine for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) with an international collaboration partner, will accrue significant learnings yet it alone is not likely to make India self-reliant in propulsion technologies, due to inherent limitations of collaborative developments. Therefore, follow on programs for indigenous development of 80 kN and 100 kN aero-engines may be needed to replace GE-404 and GE-414 engines of LCA Mk-1 and Mk-2 aircraft once they complete their service life in next eight to ten years.

The re-orientation of afterburner Kaveri engine program, creation of tri-sonic, hypersonic and high-altitude wind tunnels, and Flight Test Bed (FTB), preventing development delays, reducing dependence on foreign materials and software tools, creating technology denial mitigation mechanisms and bringing coherence remain priority areas for India's aero-engine development efforts. No single private entity may be able to develop complex propulsion systems alone due to high cost of design, development,

lack of testing ecosystem and challenges of manufacturing and uncertainty of orders. Therefore, increasing investment in R&D, enhancing technology development work share and launching IPR focused development programs by Indian entities with government support may be needed. Additionally, vast experience and design ecosystem of Indian public sector entities, and pragmatism and unique capabilities of Indian private sector make them natural partners.

The synergy among DPSUs, private industry, MSMEs and academia, and robust interface mechanisms are needed for building sustained collaborations amongst Indian developers and manufacturers. Enhancing user participation as development partner becomes important. High cost of development, uncertainties of induction and paucity of design and testing ecosystem necessitate novel approaches such as consortiums, in order to fully harness potential of multiple stakeholders, and enable their involvement as development partners while leveraging government funding for engine development.

Roundtable II

On 8 July 2026, MP-IDSA, New Delhi, held a roundtable titled "Stimulating India's Defence Exports in the Next Decade". It brought together stakeholders from the Ministry of Defence, DRDO, the Armed Forces, DPSUs, the NSCS, the MEA, domain experts and academia.

Vision & Way Forward

India's defence exports have grown significantly, reflecting successful policy effort to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence. In FY 2025–26, India's defence exports reached a record [1] 38,424 crore (approximately $4.1 billion), marking an increase of over 62% compared to the previous year. This growth has been driven by a combination of government reforms, increased private sector participation, and improved production

capabilities. Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and private firms contributed approximately 55% and 45% respectively with DPSUs recording over 150% growth. Despite this progress, India's share in global defence exports remains relatively modest compared to established exporters such as the United States, Russia, China, Israel, UK, and France. Indian defence manufacturers face multiple domestic and international challenges. Within India, issues include policy and regulatory complexities, taxation constraints and export related bottlenecks. In importing countries, Indian exporters encounter delays in approvals, high import duties, complex procurement procedures, limitations of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and lack of mutual recognition of testing and certification. Additional challenges include price competition, relatively low investment in research and development, stringent global quality standards, and negative media narratives. However, evolving geopolitical dynamics and the diversification of global supply chains present a strategic opportunity for India to expand its defence exports. To capitalise on this, it is essential identify existing gaps and implement targeted reforms.

PROGRAMME

Day One: Tuesday, 03 November 2026

0900-0945:	**Registration Tea/Coffee**
0945-0950:	**Welcome Address:** Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy, Director General, MP-IDSA
	Session I: *Atmanirbharta* in Defence Technologies
0950-0955:	**Chair:** Ms Dipti Mohil Chawla, IDAS, Additional Secretary, Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence
0955-1010:	**Keynote Address:** Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, PVSM AVSM VM, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC)
	Topic: *Atmanirbhar* Defence Forces @ 2047
1010-1020:	Q&A
	Session II: *Atmanirbharta* in Naval Systems @ 2047
1020-1025:	**Panel Discussion - Chair:** Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, AVSM VSM (Retd), Former Chief of Materiel, Indian Navy
1025-1035:	**Panelist 1:** Commodore C D Balaji (Retd), Distinguished Scientist and Former Director of Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Former Programme Director of LCA
	Topic: Naval Aviation *Atmanirbharta* @ 2047

1035-1045: **Panelist 2:** Rear Admiral Chandrasekharan Raghuram, VSM (Retd), Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Shipyards Limited

Topic: *Atmanirbharta* in Ship/Submarine Building @ 2047

1045-1055: **Panelist 3:** Captain Nikunj Parashar, Founder, Sagar Defence Engineering Ltd and CMD, Oceanos BV

Topic: *Atmanirbharta* in Unmanned Autonomous Systems @ 2047 (Marine surface, undersurface and naval aerial unmanned autonomous systems)

1055-1105: Q&A

1105-1110: **Chair:** Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy, Director General, MP-IDSA

1110-1130: **Special Address:** Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, PVSM AVSM VSM, Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy

Topic: *Atmanirbharta* in Naval Systems @ 2047

1130-1140: Q&A

1140-1155: Tea/Coffee Break

1155-1210: **Chair:** Maj Gen Kirti Jauhar, AVSM VSM (Retd), Chief International Business Development & Advisor Defence Tech, Raphe mPhibr Pvt Ltd

Keynote Address: Mr Ashish Rajvanshi, Chief Executive Officer, Adani Defence and Aerospace

Topic: Consortium Approach for *Atmanirbharta* in Complex Technologies

1210-1220: Q&A

Session III: *Atmanirbharta* in Land Systems @ 2047

1220-1225: **Chair:** Maj Gen Kirti Jauhar, AVSM VSM (Retd), Chief International Business Development & Advisor Defence Tech, Raphe mPhibr Pvt Ltd

1225-1240: **Keynote Address:** Lt Gen Vineet Gaur, PVSM AVSM, Director General Capability Development, Indian Army

Topic: *Atmanirbharta* in Land System @ 2047

Panel Discussion

1240-1250 : **Panelist 1:** Lt Gen JS Sidana, PVSM AVSM (Retd) Former Director General, Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (DG EME), Indian Army

Topic: *Atmanirbharta* in Emerging Technologies for Indian Army @ 2047

1250-1300: **Panelist 2:** Lt Gen Karanbir Singh Brar, PVSM AVSM (Retd), Distinguished Strategic Advisor, IITM Parvartak, Former GOC Dakshin Bharat Area & DG Armoured Corps

Topic: Academia and Startups for *Atmanirbharta* and Defence Transformation @ 2047

1300-1310: **Panelist 3:** Brigadier Anshuman Narang (Retd), Founder and Director, Atma Nirbhar Soch

Topic: *Atmanirbharta* in Land System @ 2047

1310-1320: Q&A

1320-1410: Lunch

Session IV: *Atmanirbharta* in Aerospace @ 2047

1410-1415: **Chair:** Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, PVSM AVSM VM ADC (Retd), Former Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force

1415-1435: **Special Address:** Dr G Satheesh Reddy Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), Former Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Topic: *Atmarnibharta* in Defence Space Technologies @ 2047

Panel Discussion

1435-1445: **Panelist 1:** Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, PVSM AVSM VM (Retd), Former Vice Chief of Air Staff, IAF, and former Military Advisor to the NSCS

Topic: *Atmarnibharta* in Aeronautics @ 2047

1445-1455: **Panelist 2:** Mr Sameer Joshi, CEO & Director, NewSpace Research & Technologies

Topic: *Atmanirbharta* in UAVs @ 2047

1455-1505: **Panelist 3:** Gp Capt H V Thakur, VM (Retd), Chief Test Pilot (Fixed Wing), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

Topic: *Atmanirbharta* in Combat Aerial Teaming Systems @ 2047

1505-1515: Q&A

1515-1545: **Security Check (Tea)***

* All Guests are requested to vacate the auditorium to facilitate security check prior to VVIP's arrival

1545-1550: **Welcome Address:** Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy, Director General, MP-IDSA

1550-1605: **Inaugural Address:** Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Government of India and President, MP-IDSA

1605-1610: **Vote of Thanks:** Dr O P Das, Research Fellow, MP-IDSA (In Hindi)

1610-1615: Photograph of Speakers with Hon'ble Raksha Mantri

1615-1645: Tea/Coffee Break

Session V: *Atmanirbharta* in Futuristic Tech

1645-1650: **Chair:** Mr Vikas Khitha, Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Astra Advisory Partners LLP, former VP and Head at the Precision Engineering & Systems, Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)

1650-1705: **Keynote Address:** Mr Arun T Ramchandani President, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Senior Vice President & Head, L&T Precision Engineering & Systems

Topic: An Ecosystem for *Atmanirbharta* in Future Technologies [Online]

Panel Discussion

1705-1715: **Panelist 1:** Prof Hideshi Tokuchi, President, Research Institute for Peace & Security (RIPS), Japan and former Vice-Minister of Defense for International Affairs, Japan

Topic: India-Japan Defence Cooperation Elevating to a Higher Level by Defence Industrial Partnership

1715-1725:	**Panelist 2:** Dr Sanjay Badri-Maharaj, Independent Defence Analyst & Security Consultant, Attorney-at-Law, Trinidad and Tobago **Topic:** Future of Manned-Unmanned Aerial Systems [Online]
1725-1735:	Q&A
1900:	Dinner- By Invitation Only

Day Two: Wednesday, 4 November 2026

Session VI: Building Globally Competitive Defence Industry

0900-0905: **Chair:** Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy, Director General MP-IDSA

0905-0925: **Special Address 1:** Dr Samir V Kamat, Former Chairperson, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Topic: Defence *Atmanirbharta*: Industrial Corridors, Corporatization, Defence Economics and Exports

0925-0945: **Special Address 2:** Mr Baba Kalyani, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Forge Limited

Topic: Building a Globally Competitive Defence Industry

0945-1000: Q&A

Session VII: India-Russia Defence Co-development Collaborations

1000-1005: **Chair:** Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (Retd), Former Director General, Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)

1005-1015: **Panelist 1:** Dr Sergey Ermakov, Head of the Center for Military and Political Studies, The Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (RISS), Moscow

Topic: India-Russia Defence Cooperation in a Changing Geopolitical and Security Environment

1015-1025: **Panelist 2:** Dr Abhay A Pashilkar, Director, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratory (CSIR-NAL)

Topic: Prospects for India-Russia Defence Co-development Collaboration

1025-1035: **Panelist 3:** Mr Aleksei Filimonov, United Shipbuilding Corporation, St. Petersburg, Russia

Topic: Propulsion Systems and the Possibilities for Co-development between India and Russia on it [Online]

1035-1045: Q&A

1045-1115: Tea/Coffee Break

Session VIII: Defence Co-development Collaborations

1115-1120: **Chair:** Lt Gen (Dr) Subrata Saha, PVSM UYSM YSM VSM** (Retd), Former Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) & Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS)

1120-1135: **Keynote Address:** Dr Vivek Lall, Chief Executive Officer, General Atomics Global Corporation and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution

Topic: India-US Defence Co-development Collaborations [Online]

Panel Discussion

1135-1145: **Panelist 1:** Commodore (Dr) Peter Leavy AM CSM (Retd), President, Australian Naval Institute

Topic: Prospects of India-Australia Defence Co-development collaborations

1145-1155:	**Panelist 2:** Mr Nick de Larrinaga, Sales & Business Director, MBDA
	Topic: India-UK Defence Co-development Collaborations: Opportunities & Way Forward
1155-1205:	Q&A
	Session IX: *Atmanribharta* and Co-development in Propulsion Systems and Aero Engines
1205-1210:	**Chair:** Mr Saurav Jha, Founder, D Propulse
1210-1220:	**Panelist 1:** Dr S V Ramana Murty, Director, Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)
	Topic: Propulsion Systems: *Atmanirbharta* and Co-development
1220:1230	**Panelist 2:** Mr Philippe Errera, Executive Vice President International Development & Government Affairs, Safran
	Topic: Propulsion Systems: *Atmanirbharta* and Co-development
1230-1240:	Q&A
1240-1345:	Lunch
	Session X: Defence Technology Cooperation
1345-1350:	**Chair:** Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy, Director General MP-IDSA
1350-1410:	**Special Address:** Atty Gilberto C Teodoro, Jr, Secretary of National Defense, Department of National Defense, Philippines
	Topic: Prospects of Philippines-India Defence Technology Cooperation [Online]

1410-1415:	**Chair:** Mr Sandeep Unnithan, Consulting Editor, India Today Group, and Editor-in-Chief, Chakra News
1415-1425:	**Panelist 1:** Dr hab Dorota Domalewska, Director of the Doctoral School, War Studies University, Warsaw, Poland
	Topic: Poland and India in the Defence Sector: Innovation, Industry and Emerging Opportunities
1425-1445:	Q&A
1445-1450:	**Special XI: Defence Reforms**
	Chair: Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy, Director General, MP-IDSA
1450-1510:	**Special Address:** Mr Rajesh Kumar Singh IAS, Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD)
	Topic: A Decade of Defence Sector Reforms
1510-1520:	Q&A
1520-1550:	Tea/Coffee Break
	Session XII: Stimulating Defence Exports
1550-1555:	**Chair:** Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy, Director General, MP-IDSA
1555-1615:	**Special Address:** Mr Sanjeev Kumar IAS, Secretary, Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence (MoD)
	Topic: Stimulating Defence Exports
1615-1620:	**Panel Discussion-Chair:** Mr Snehesh Alex Philip, Editor, Defence and Diplomacy, The Print
1620-1630:	**Panelist 1:** Dr Tigran Grigoryan, Director, Regional Center for Democracy and Security (RCDS), Armenia

Topic: Prospects for Deepening Armenia-India Defence and Security Cooperation

1630-1640: **Panelist 2:** Prof Gustavo Alejandro Cardozo, Doctor in Regional Development and International Relations Scholar, Universidade Regional do Noroeste do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul (UNIJUI), Brazil

Topic: Between Washington and Beijing: India's Opportunity in the Southern Cone

1640-1650: **Panelist 3:** Prof Abraham Ename Minko, PhD, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, PanAfrican University, Cameroon

Topic: Beyond Government-to-Government Deals: Reforming India's defence export policy, Financing and Certification Architecture to Capture Africa's Emerging Procurement Market

1650-1700: Q&A

1700-1730: **Session XIII: Valedictory Session**

Chair: Ambassador Sujan R Chinoy, Director General, MP-IDSA

Valedictory Address: Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India

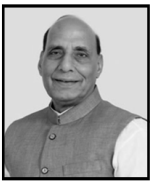
1730-1740: **Vote of Thanks:** Gp Capt (Dr) R K Narang, VM (Retd), Senior Fellow, MP-IDSA

Profiles of Participants

Inaugural Address

Shri Rajnath Singh

Hon'ble Defence Minister,
Government of India and
President, MP-IDSA



Shri Rajnath Singh completed his MSc Physics from Gorakhpur University UP. He worked as a lecturer of Physics at K.B. Post-Graduate College Mirzapur, UP. He became the RSS Karyavah (General Secretary) of Mirzapur city in 1972. He also remained the organizational secretary of ABVP Gorakhpur division from 1969 to 1971. He entered politics in 1974 and in 1977, he was elected as an MLA in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. He was elected MLC for Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council in 1988 and became Education Minister in 1991. During his tenure as Education Minister in UP, he established some landmarks by introducing the Anti-Copying Act and Vedic Mathematics in the syllabus. He became a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1994. On November 22, 1999, he became Union Surface Transport Minister. During this period, he got the opportunity to initiate the NHDP (National Highway Development Programme), a dream project of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

On October 28, 2000, he became Chief Minister of UP and was twice elected as MLA from Haidargarh constituency in Barabanki. On May 24, 2003, he became Union Minister of Agriculture and subsequently for Food Processing. During this period, he initiated a few epoch-making projects like Kisan Call Centre and Farm Income Insurance Scheme. He also embarked on 'Bharat Suraksha Yatra' which covered several States taking up the cause of increasing

terrorist activities and threats to internal security. He laid emphasis on issues of public interest like spiralling prices of essential commodities, farmers' grievances and other national issues. He has also written a book on Unemployment its Reasons and Remedies. He became the BJP National President on December 31, 2005, a post he held till December 19, 2009. In May 2009, he was elected MP from Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. On May 26, 2014, Shri Rajnath Singh took oath as the Union Minister of India and worked as Union Minister for Home Affairs till 30 May 2019. On May 31, 2019, Shri Rajnath Singh was allocated the portfolio of Union Minister for the Ministry of Defence.

He was elected as the President of MP-IDSA during the 52nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 08 August, 2019 and re-elected during the 54th AGM held on 06th October, 2021.

Welcome Address

Amb Sujan R Chinoy

Director General,
MP-IDSA



Amb Sujan Chinoy is the Director General of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Society of the Prime Ministers Museum and Library (PMML) and Member, Governing Council, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). He was a Member of the All-Party MPs Delegation to the UAE and West Africa in the context of OPERATION SINDOOR. He led the Indian side at the India-China High-Level Track 2 Dialogue in Chengdu in October 2025 to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic ties. He is the Honorary Patron-Advisor of the Indo-Japan Friendship Association (IJFA), Gujarat.

A career diplomat from 1981-2018, he was Ambassador to Japan and Mexico and the Consul General of India in Shanghai and Sydney. A specialist on China/East Asia and politico-security-military issues, he headed the India-China Diplomatic and Military Expert Group negotiating Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) with China on the boundary dispute from 1996-2000. At the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) from 2008-2012, he handled external and internal security policy issues.

During his public service spanning 45 years, he has dealt with political, security, defence, trade and economic issues. His Foreign Service career included postings at the UN in New York and Saudi Arabia. He was the Chair of the Think20 engagement group for India's G20 Presidency.

Vote of Thanks

Dr Om Prakash Das

Research Fellow, MP-IDSA



Dr Om Prakash Das is a Research Fellow at the Southeast Asia & Oceania Centre of the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) in New Delhi. He holds a Ph.D. from the Centre for Media Studies (CMS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, where his thesis was titled "A Critical Study of News Visualization in Modern Media: India, ca. 1950 – 2015." He also completed his M.Phil. at CMS, JNU, New Delhi.

Dr Das has authored research papers published in UGC-Care listed journals, international journals, and peer-reviewed journals, in both Hindi and English. He has successfully completed the 'Defence Correspondent Course' by the Ministry of Defence, Government of India (2015) and has produced several defence-related television documentaries and programs.

Previously, Dr Das was a broadcast journalist, news anchor, and senior correspondent with India's public broadcaster, Doordarshan News, Lok Sabha Television, and other private television channels for nearly 18 years. His areas of expertise include defence affairs and policies, international relations, and national security. He has covered various assignments abroad, including the visits of Prime Minister and other high level visits of Indian delegations.

DAY ONE

SESSION-I

Atmanirbharta in Defence Technolgies

Tuesday, 03 November 2026

Time: 0945 - 1020 Hrs

Chair

Ms Dipti Mohil Chawla, IDAS



Additional Secretary, Department of Defence, Ministry of Defence

Ms Dipti Mohil Chawla is presently appointed as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Defence. She has a vast experience of nearly 30 years across various functions of the Government of India in international relations, strategic planning, policy making, technical Intelligence, defence acquisitions, and matters of the armed forces. She has extensive experience and expertise in operations, planning and implementation of schemes projects, defence cooperation, acquisitions, procurements, contract development & disputes resolution, institutional management, human resource development, and personnel management.

Ms Chawla has also worked as financial advisor to the Ordnance Factory Group at Khadki, as financial advisor to the Admiral Superintendent Naval Dockyard, Director General Naval Projects and Western Fleet Commanders in Mumbai. Presently, in her appointment as additional secretary, she looks after the Department of Defence, matters of the Armed Forces, NCC, Coast Guard, IDSA, CSD and National Defence College.

Keynote Address

Air Marshal Tejinder Singh
PVSM AVSM VM



Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to
Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee
(CISC)

Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VM is a serving officer of the Indian Air Force. He is currently serving as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff. Previously, he served as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, South Western Air Command, prior to that he was Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command. He earlier served as the Deputy Chief of the Air Staff and as Senior Air Staff Officer, Eastern Air Command.

He was commissioned into the fighter stream of the Indian Air Force on 13 June 1987 from the Air Force Academy. In a career spanning over three decades, he has more than 4500 hours of flying experience across various fighter jets and has held numerous staff & instructional appointments. He is a highly experienced fighter pilot, qualified flying instructor and a fighter combat leader who has flown the SEPECAT Jaguar, Hunter, Kiran and HPT-32 ac and also qualified as a 2nd pilot on Cheetah helicopter. He is a Category A qualified flying instructor. He has done instructional tenure as Flying Instructor at Flying Instructors School and has been Air Force Examiner at the Aircrew Examining Board. The Air Marshal's operational tenures include being the Commanding Officer of No. 5 Squadron, Station Commander of 47 Signal Unit, a radar station in the Western Sector.

DAY ONE

SESSION-II

Atmanirbharta in Naval Systems @ 2047

Tuesday, 03 November 2026

Time: 1020 - 1220 Hrs

Special Address

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
PVSM AVSM VSM

Chief of Naval Staff, Indian Navy



Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, PVSM, AVSM, VSM is the current and the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff. He previously served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command and as the 46th Vice Chief of Naval Staff. His flag appointments include Chief of Personnel, Controller of Personnel Services and Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command. He was the second Commanding Officer of the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya.

Admiral Krishna was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 1 July 1987. A Communication and Electronic Warfare specialist, he has commanded the corvettes INS Vidyut, Vinash and Kulish, the guided missile destroyer INS Mysore, and the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, the flagship of the Indian Navy. He is a graduate of the Joint Services Command and Staff College, UK, where he topped the course as the best international student, and of the US Naval War College, Newport, where he received the Foundation Award for academic excellence.

As a flag officer, he has served as Chief Staff Officer (Training) and Flag Officer Sea Training at Kochi, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, and Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command. At Naval Headquarters, he has held the appointments of Chief of Personnel and 46th Vice Chief of Naval Staff. He took over as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command, on 31 July 2025.

Keynote Address

Mr Ashish Rajvanshi

Chief Executive Officer, Adani Defence and Aerospace



Mr Ashish Rajvanshi spearheads the Adani Group's philosophy of growth along with sustainability. His deep passion for nation-building and unprecedented possibilities in India's Defence & Aerospace sector conceptualised the Group's foray into the business.

Prior to joining Adani in 2014, Ashish led the Energy and Infrastructure agenda across international markets for the global management consulting firm, Booz Allen Hamilton (later Booz & Co) in London. On the academic front, Ashish has a Computer Science Engineering degree from the Delhi Institute of Technology (DIT) and an MBA from IIM Ahmedabad. He has been named amongst the Top 40 under 40.

Chair

VICE ADMIRAL KIRAN DESHMUKH AVSM, VSM (RETD)



Former Chief of Materiel, Indian Navy

Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, AVSM, VSM is a former Flag officer in the Indian Navy. He last served as the Chief of Materiel. He earlier served as the Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition and as the Admiral Superintendent Naval Dockyard (Visakhapatnam).

An alumnus of Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Mumbai, he holds a Master of Technology degree from IIT Madras and is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. Commissioned as an Engineer officer on 31 March 1986, he served on the destroyers INS Ranjit, Ranvir and Delhi, and as Engineer Officer of the frigate INS Tabar.

Ashore, he held key appointments in dockyard management and ship production, including General Manager (Refit), and Director General Naval Projects. As Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition, he oversaw the commissioning of INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, along with a number of other frontline warships and submarines. He was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal.

Commodore C D Balaji (Retd)



Distinguished Scientist and Former Director of Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) and Former Programme Director LCA

Commodore C D Balaji (Retd) holds a Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering, he was Commissioned into Indian Navy in Sep 1978 into Engineering Branch. He then specialised in Naval Aviation, and further gained rich experience in operation and maintenance of aircraft, operating from an Aircraft Carrier. Subsequently, he obtained a Master's in Aerospace Engineering from Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

Joining Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) on deputation in 2002, he was involved with first-time development of Naval version of the Light Combat Aircraft right from obtaining Govt. sanction in Mar 2003. As Project Director, he was responsible for design, development, building and flight testing of LCA Navy Prototypes. Thus, "from paper to flight" became his journey.

On 01 Dec 2006, he became a part of the fraternity of ADA and rose to become Distinguished Scientist, appointed as Director ADA from July 2015, which appointment he held till his superannuation on 31 March 2017.

He then went on to head a Centre of Excellence in Aerospace and Defence, set up by the Govt. of Karnataka to train young engineers to move into Aerospace domain.

Rear Admiral Chandrasekharan Raghuram, VSM (Retd)



Chairman and Managing Director,
Hindustan Shipyards Limited

Rear Admiral C Raghuram, VSM (Retd), is the Chairman and Managing Director of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam. Commissioned into the Indian Navy on 10 November 1989, he brings more than three and a half decades of experience in naval engineering, ship maintenance, strategic planning and leadership. He is an alumnus of the Naval College of Engineering, Lonavala, Cranfield University in the United Kingdom, the Naval War College and the National Defence College.

During his naval career, he served onboard the frontline warships INS Gomati and INS Trishul, and was part of the commissioning crew of INS Trishul. His postings at the Naval Dockyard, the Afloat Support Team for Talwar-class ships, and the Weapons and Electronics Systems Engineering Establishment (WESEE) built deep expertise in life cycle support and combat system integration. He commanded INS Valsura and held key appointments including Principal Director (Electrical Engineering) at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy), Command Electrical Officer at Eastern Naval Command, and Chief Staff Officer (Technical) at Western Naval Command.

Before joining HSL, he served as Assistant Chief of Materiel at Naval Headquarters, overseeing the maintenance and operational readiness of key naval platforms. He was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal in 2017. At HSL, he leads one of India's important defence public sector shipyards in naval shipbuilding and repair, and in advancing the Aatmanirbhar Bharat vision of self-reliance in maritime defence capabilities.

Captain Nikunj Parashar

Founder, Sagar Defence Engineering Ltd and CMD, Oceanos BV



Capt Nikunj Parashar is Founder of Sagar Defence Engineering Ltd. After more than 14 years in the merchant navy, rising from Third Officer to Master and commanding Very Large Crude Carriers for companies such as Maersk Tankers and the Shipping Corporation of India, he turned to building technology that reduces human risk at sea. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Nautical Technology, Chief Mate and Master (F.G.) certifications, and has completed an entrepreneurship course at IIM Ahmedabad.

In 2015, he co-founded Sagar Defence Engineering, which designs and manufactures unmanned surface, underwater and aerial systems for the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Army, Air Force and paramilitary forces. The company delivered India's first Unmanned Marine Surface Vehicle to the Indian Navy and developed Varuna, India's first Personal Aerial Vehicle, along with autonomous boat and underwater swarm systems. In 2017, he also became CMD of Oceanos BV, a Rotterdam-based company developing retrofittable autonomous navigation technology for existing vessels.

His work has earned recognition including the "Best Maritime Start-up" honour at the Maritime India Summit in 2016 and the NASSCOM Innovative Startup Award in 2019. He is a regular speaker at forums such as the India Defence Conclave and Technology in Maritime (TIM) Global, and his work has been featured in outlets including The New York Times and BBC Click.

DAY ONE

SESSION-III

Atmanirbharta in Land Systems@ 2047

Tuesday, 03 November 2026

Time: 1220 - 1320 Hrs

Chair



Maj Gen Kirti Jauhar AVSM, VSM (Retd)

Chief International Business Development & Advisor Defence Tech, Raphe mPhibr Pvt. Ltd.

Commissioned into the Armoured Corps in 1988, Major General Kirti Jauhar took voluntary retirement in 2023. With over 34 years of distinguished service to the Nation, his illustrious career has been marked by operational roles in tank warfare, counter-terrorist operations, and international experience with the United Nations.

His role in the Indian Army's Make in India initiative was path breaking, wherein he played a pivotal role in fostering partnerships with the indigenous defence industry, driving self-reliance in defence manufacturing and procurement.

As part of the Capability Development vertical at Army Headquarters, he successfully steered critical capital procurement projects. Later, as the ADG of the Army Design Bureau (ADB), he spearheaded the Army's engagement with the defence industry, startups, MSMEs, and academia to drive innovation, R&D, and indigenous design, development, and manufacturing.

During his tenure at ADB, he led the design & development of cutting-edge technologies in AI, Unmanned systems, Sensors, Counter-UAS, Quantum, Situational Awareness, and many more, collaborating with deep tech startups and MSMEs. His work in the unmanned systems domain is noteworthy, with many of those projects rolling out and some in the final stages of development.

Instrumental in establishing the Indian Army Cell at IIT-Delhi, he set up Regional Technology Nodes at Pune, Bangalore & Chennai to enhance outreach to the defence industry. The General holds a Master's in Defence and Strategic Studies from Madras University and an M.Phil. in Defence and Management Studies from DIAV University, Indore. In recognition of his exemplary service, he has been awarded on six occasions - twice by the Hon'ble President of India.

As a veteran, he continues to contribute to the defence ecosystem, in the unmanned systems domain,working with Ms Raphe mPhibr as Chief of International Business, Contracts and Advisor Defence Tech.

Keynote Address

Lieutenant General Vineet Gaur
PVSM AVSM

Director General Capability
Development, Indian Army



A 1987 batch officer commissioned from the Indian Military Academy Dehradun in the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME). The officer has had an exceptionally brilliant academic career. He was awarded the Chancellor's Gold Medal for all-around best graduating student of the university during his B.Tech (Mechanical Engineering). The General Officer also topped his M.Tech course in Reliability Engineering from IIT Mumbai. He is an alumnus of Higher Defence Management Course and the prestigious National Defence College (NDC).

Lt Gen Vineet Gaur has held various appointments in command and staff, important ones being Commanding Officer, 15 Corps Zone Workshop, Director (Production) in EME Directorate, Brigadier EME in 33 Corps, Deputy Assistant Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (PF&M) at Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff, Brigadier Military Secretary (C) at Military Secretary Branch, IHQ of MoD (Army) and Major General Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, HQ Northern Command. The General Officer was also a Maintenance Officer in UNIFIL (Lebanon). His instructional appointments include instructor Cl 'B' at Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering, Secunderabad and DS at College of Defence Management, Secunderabad. He is presently holding the appointment of Director General Capability Development, Capability

Development Directorate, IHQ of MoD (Army) since 26 Dec 2022.

For his excellence in professional services, he has been awarded the GOC-in-C, Northern Command CC in 2008, Chief of the Army Staff Commendation Card in 2010 and GOC-in-C ARTRAC Commendation Card in 2012. For his distinguished service, the General Officer has been awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2023 and Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 2025.

Lieutenant General JS Sidana PVSM AVSM (Retd)



Former Director General, Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (DG EME), Indian Army

Lieutenant General JS Sidana, Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, is a distinguished technology leader with nearly four decades of service in the Indian Army. He was the Director General of the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers before his retirement where his Corps was responsible for the upkeep of the entire equipment and weapon systems of the Indian Army. In his illustrious career, he has served in key appointments, including Commandant, Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers, where he led in cutting edge research, development, indigenisation, and self-reliance in emerging technologies. His technical expertise has been built through serving in Simulator Development division and command of an Army Base Workshop, developing Simulators and undertaking upgrades in surveillance, radars, thermal imaging and advanced communication systems.

He holds a BTech in Electronics from JNU and an MTech from IIT Kanpur, both completed with distinction at the top of his class. He also holds a Masters in Management Studies and an M.Phil. He keeps himself abreast with technology and his technical expertise spans advanced neural networks, artificial intelligence, digital signal processing, digital communication networks, surveillance systems, radar and missile technology. He has guided pioneering projects in AI, robotics, blockchain and quantum

Lieutenant General Karanbir Singh Brar, PVSM AVSM (Retd)



Distinguished Strategic Advisor, IITM Pravartak, Former General Officer Commanding Dakshin Bharat Area

Lt Gen Karanbir Singh Brar, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), is a distinguished Army veteran with nearly four decades of service across diverse operational environments, including J&K, Manipur, Nagaland, Assam, Rajasthan and Kutch. He served on two UN missions in Congo and South Sudan, including as a Sector Commander commanding multinational troops in high-risk operational environments.

As a Divisional Commander, he led an Indian Army Battle Group at the SCO Exercise in Russia in 2019. He was part of the Emergency Procurement Team to Russia following the Uri attacks and, earlier, the trial team that took the T-72 tank to Ladakh in 1987.

A member of the inception team of the Army Design Bureau, he later served as Director General Armoured Corps, where he spearheaded major capability-development initiatives, including Light Tanks and Swarm Drones. As GOC Dakshin Bharat Area, covering five southern states and two Union Territories, he oversaw major disaster-relief operations, including the Wayanad landslides and Cyclones Michaung and Fengal.

An NDC alumnus with two MPhils and advanced computer qualifications, he is currently pursuing a PhD. His honours include the PVSM and AVSM. Since retiring in August 2025, he has served as Distinguished Strategic Advisor to IIT Madras Pravartak, advancing defence, Deep Tech and AI initiatives.

Brigadier Anshuman Narang (Retd)



Founder and Director of Atma Nirbhar Soch

Brigadier Anshuman Narang (Retd) is the Founder and Director of an independent think tank Atma Nirbhar Soch, which conducts courses on the militaries of India's adversaries, military technologies, and doctrinal issues. He is an alumnus of the prestigious Rashtriya Indian Military College. He held the "Adani Defence Chair of Excellence" on UAS Warfare with Special Focus on Counter-UAS at CENJOWS. He is the author of several books on the People's Liberation Army, including 'Trajectory of Red Army's Unmanned Warfare' (2018), 'China's Strategic Deterrence' (2019), and 'PLA's Tactical Transformation with Chinese Characteristics' (2022).

DAY ONE

SESSION-IV

Atmanirbharta in Aerospace @ 2047

Tuesday, 03 November 2026

Time: 1415 - 1525 Hrs

Chair

Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, PVSM AVSM VM ADC (Retd)



Former Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force

Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, PVSM AVSM VM ADC (Retd), is former Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force, an office he held from 30 September 2019 until his retirement on 30 September 2021. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Pune, he holds a Master's in Defence Studies from the Defence Services Command and Staff College, Bangladesh, where he was later inducted into the Mirpur Hall of Fame. Over a career spanning 41 years, he served in several key operational and administrative appointments.

Commissioned into the fighter stream on 15 June 1980 with the Sword of Honour, he logged over 4,250 hours of flying across 26 types of fighter and transport aircraft. He is an experimental test pilot, a Category A qualified flying instructor and a pilot attack instructor. His early career included command of a Jaguar squadron at a frontline base, command of the Flight Test Squadron at the Aircraft and System Testing Establishment, and service as Chief Test Pilot and Project Director at the National Flight Test Centre on the Tejas LCA programme. He also served as Air Attaché in Moscow.

He later held senior leadership roles as Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Projects), Commandant of the National Defence Academy, Senior Air Staff Officer at Central Air Command and Deputy Chief of the Air Staff. He then

served as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Southern Air Command and of Training Command, before becoming Vice Chief of the Air Staff on 1 May 2019. His decorations include the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and the Vayu Sena Medal, and he was appointed Honorary Air ADC to the President of India on 1 January 2019.

Special Address

Dr G Satheesh Reddy



Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB), Former Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

Dr Satheesh Reddy is a renowned defence and aerospace scientist whose career in Defence R&D and technology leadership spans several decades. He graduated in Electronics and Communication Engineering from JNTU Anantapur and holds an MS and PhD in the same field from JNTU Hyderabad. He joined the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) in 1986 and later moved to Research Centre Imarat (RCI). Beginning as a navigation engineer, he developed inertial sensors and hybrid navigation systems that made India self-reliant in navigation technologies, and as Project Director he developed India's first guided bomb.

He went on to serve as Director of RCI, Director General (Missiles and Strategic Systems), Director General of the Aeronautical Development Agency, Scientific Adviser to the Raksha Mantri, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D, and Chairman, DRDO. He is the chief architect of "Mission Shakti", India's first anti-satellite missile test, and led work on hypersonic technology demonstrators, new-generation missiles, Air Independent Propulsion for submarines, the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System, drone and anti-drone systems, and light tanks. He also strengthened the defence R&D ecosystem through DRDO-Industry-Academia centres of excellence and greater participation of industry, MSMEs, startups and academia. During the COVID-19 pandemic, DRDO under his leadership

developed more than 75 products, including ventilators, oxygen plants and the anti-Covid drug 2-DG.

He is the first Indian in over 100 years to receive the Honorary Fellowship and Silver Medal of the Royal Aeronautical Society, London, and the first recipient outside the USA in over four decades of the AIAA Missile Systems Award. He has also received the National Aeronautical Prize, the National Design Award and the Homi J Bhabha Gold Medal, and holds over 25 honorary doctorates. He is currently a Member of the National Security Advisory Board, Honorary Adviser (Aerospace and Defence Manufacturing Hub) to the Government of Andhra Pradesh with Cabinet rank, and Distinguished Senior Professor at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad.

Air Marshal Sandeep Singh
PVSM AVSM VM (retd)

Former Vice Chief of Air Staff, IAF
and former Military Advisor to NSCS



Air Marshal Sandeep Singh superannuated as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff on 31 Jan 23. He was commissioned in the IAF as a Fighter Pilot and is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and National Defence College. He is an Experimental Test Pilot and Cat 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor. He has flown several aircraft and has nearly 4900 hrs of operational and test flying experience.

He was the Project Test Pilot of IAF Su-30 Team in Russia, Commanding Officer of one of the first Su-30 Mkl Squadron, Commander of two Flying Bases, Commandant of Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE), Deputy Chief of the Air Staff (DCAS), Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of South Western Air Command and the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS). He was the Military Advisor to the NSA at National Security Council Secretariat from April 2023 to August 2025. The Air Marshal is well known in the Defence Services, MoD, DRDO and the industry for his widespread operational experience and technical knowledge.

The officer has vast experience of joint operations and technology driven capital acquisitions and R&D projects. He has been responsible for the induction, production and subsequently indigenisation of the Su-30 MKI aircraft. As the Deputy Chief and later Vice Chief of the Air Force, he has been instrumental in the modernisation and indigenisation drive of the IAF. As the Military Advisor at NSCS, he has provided critical inputs to the national leadership on security issues and has been deeply involved with the equipping of the three defence forces, growth of Indian defence industry and policies & plans that impact national security.

Mr Sameer Joshi

CEO & Director, NewSpace Research & Technologies



Mr Sameer Joshi is the CEO and Director of NewSpace Research and Technologies Pvt. Ltd. He has been instrumental in leading the company's aerospace and defense R&D programs and has been appointed as the India Co-Chair of the India-UK Autonomous Platforms and Uncrewed Systems Working Group. This role reflects his commitment to fostering collaboration and innovation between India and the UK in defense technology. Joshi's leadership at NewSpace Research and Technologies is marked by his expertise in General Business and Technology, and his extensive experience in corporate governance.

Group Captain H V Thakur VM (Retd)



Chief Test Pilot (Fixed Wing), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

Group Captain Harsh Vardhan Thakur, VM (Retd), is a distinguished aviator and experimental test pilot with a career spanning over three decades in the military and aerospace domains. After 24 years of service in the Indian Air Force, he joined Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in 2016, where he is Chief Test Pilot (Fixed Wing) at HAL Bangalore. He has logged over 5,300 hours of fighter flying, including 3,000 hours on the Jaguar, 1,000 hours as a flying instructor and 1,200 hours in experimental flight testing. He has been instrumental in testing new aircraft such as the HJT-36 and HTT-40, and has done pioneering work on departure resistance and spin exploration for the HJT-36 Yashas.

At HAL, he leads the Combat Air Teaming Systems (CATS) programme, developing and testing manned-unmanned teaming solutions for the IAF. This includes the CATS Optionally Manned Combat Aircraft, based on the modified Kiran Mk-2, whose flight testing began in November 2023, and the CATS-Warrior UCAV, under testing since January 2025. He also leads the HLFT-42 Next Generation Lead-in Fighter Trainer programme, and has contributed to international proposals for the Tejas Lean-In Fighter-Trainer and the Tejas Navy variant pitched to the US Navy and Marine Corps. He currently flies and evaluates a diverse fleet, including the Jaguar, Mirage-2000, Tejas, Hawk-132, HJT-36, HTT-40, HJT-16 and Kiran Mk-2 UAV.

His decorations include the Vayu Sena Medal, the IAF Chief's Commendation, the VCAS Commendation, the

AOC-in-C Commendation, the President's Medal, the Sword of Honour at the Air Force Academy and the Commandant's Medal as Academy Cadet Captain at the National Defence Academy. He also designed the Jaguar's Mission Planning and Debrief System, still used by Jaguar squadrons, and has published extensively on Combat Air Teaming Systems and Lead-in Fighter Trainers.

DAY ONE

SESSION-V

Atmanirbharta in Futuristic Tech

Tuesday, 03 November 2026

Time: 1710 - 1810 Hrs

Chair

Mr Vikas Khitha



Co-Founder & Managing Partner, Astra Advisory Partners LLP, former VP and Head at the Precision Engineering & Systems, Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T)

Mr Vikas Khitha is the founder of Bharat Risk Management Services, is an industry leader with over 38 years of experience in design, development, manufacturing and project execution across India, Japan, Europe, the UK and North Africa. He retired in April 2026 as Vice President and Head, Corporate Office and International Defence Relations, at Larsen & Toubro, after attaining 60 years of age. At L&T he also led the Corporate Strategy function from the Group Chairman's office.

He has led operational and financial turnarounds for medium and large conglomerates in India and Europe, and has worked across automotive, defence, aerospace, space, shipbuilding, manufacturing, infrastructure, power and financial services. He has co-authored several technical papers in leading international scientific and engineering journals, some of whose research has been commercialised on a large scale. He has undertaken advanced courses in aerospace engineering, propulsion, advanced thermodynamics and fluid dynamics in India, the UK and Europe, and is associated with reputed think tanks in a personal capacity.

Recognising that India’s growing private-sector defence and space manufacturing lacked an indigenous consulting firm with domain expertise, he founded Bharat Risk Management Services. The firm began as a consulting practice and grew by word of mouth into a legal entity,

aiming to catalyse growth among medium-sized indigenous industries and start-ups in defence, aerospace, space, shipbuilding, power, infrastructure and strategic sectors. Indian subsidiaries of international firms entering the Indian market have since also engaged it. The firm aspires to become a platform for high-quality consulting and advisory services, drawing on senior military veterans, diplomats, bureaucrats and industry professionals who wish to continue nation-building after retirement.

Keynote Address

Mr Arun T Ramchandani



President, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Senior Vice President & Head, L&T Precision Engineering & Systems

Mr Arun T Ramchandani has been elected as the President of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) for FY 2025-27. He is Senior Vice President & Head, Precision Engineering and Systems (PES) IC, Larsen & Toubro Limited.

Mr Ramchandani joined L&T in 1984 after completing his B.Tech in Mechanical Engineering from IIT, Delhi. He is a prominent Defence & Aerospace leader in India with over four decades of experience. Under him, L&T's Aerospace & Defence business has been incubated and grown to its current scale as Precision Engineering & Systems Independent Company (PES IC).

He has been instrumental in the design & development of critical equipment and new products for Defence & Aerospace, with expertise in systems engineering, design & simulations. A recognized technology professional, he served as the Chair of CII National Committee on Defence, besides being an Executive Council Member of SIDM. He is a Fellow of INAE, with Honorary Fellowship by ISSE and Eminent Engineer Award by IEI.

Prof Hideshi Tokuchi



President, Research Institute
for Peace & Security (RIPS), Japan, and
former Vice-Minister of Defense for
International Affairs, Japan

Prof Hideshi Tokuchi served as Japan's first-ever Vice-Minister of Defence for International Affairs from 2014 to 2015 after completing several senior assignments in the Ministry of Defence, including the Director-General of Defence Policy Bureau, of Budget and Equipment Bureau, of Personnel and Education Bureau, and of Operations Bureau.

He has been the President of the Research Institute for Peace and Security (RIPS), an independent think-tank in Tokyo, since 2021. He often writes and speaks about issues related to Japan's national security policy and East Asian regional security. He taught Japan's foreign and security policy at several universities in Japan.

He earned his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Tokyo in 1979, and his Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy (M.A.L.D.) degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in 1986.

He was awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star, in recognition of his long years of service in the government in November 2025.

Dr Sanjay Badri-Maharaj



Independent Defence
Analyst & Security Consultant, Attorney-at-Law, Trinidad and Tobago

Dr Sanjay Badri-Maharaj from Trinidad, received his MA and PhD from the Department of War Studies, Kings College London. His thesis was on India's Nuclear Weapons Program. He has written and published extensively, including 11 books, the last of which was a co-authored publication on the 2025 India-Pakistan conflict.

He has served as a consultant to the Ministry of National Security in Trinidad and was a visiting International Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.

DAY TWO

SESSION-VI

Building Globally Competitive Defence Industry

Wednesday, 04 November 2026

Time: 0900-1000 Hrs

Special Address

Dr Samir V Kamat

Former Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)



Dr Samir V Kamat, is a well-known Materials and Defence Scientist with significant contributions to several critical Defence systems and technologies. He recently retired as Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

Dr Kamat completed his B. Tech. (Hons) in Metallurgical Engineering from IIT Kharagpur in 1985 and Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from The Ohio State University, USA in 1988.

Dr Kamat is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE), Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Indian Institute of Metals (IIM), Indian Society for Structural Integrity (ISSI) and Institution of Engineers India (IEI). He is a recipient of the Life Fellow and Distinguished Alumni Award from IIT Kharagpur, JRD Tata Medal for Leadership and

Platinum Medal from Indian Institute of Metals, Metallurgist of the Year Award from Ministry of Steel, and Scientist of the Year Award from DRDO.

Special Address

Mr Baba Kalyani

Chairman and Managing Director, Bharat Forge Limited



Mr B N Kalyani is the Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Forge Limited, the flagship company of the Kalyani Group.

Mr Kalyani holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering from BITS Pilani and a Master of Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. His academic background, combined with his visionary approach, has been instrumental in driving Bharat Forge's success as a technology-driven organization.

Beyond Bharat Forge, Mr Kalyani plays a pivotal role in shaping India's industrial and economic landscape. He is a Member of the Prime Minister's Science Technology & Innovation Advisory Council and co-chairs several high-profile international business forums, including the India-Sweden Business Roundtable. Additionally, as the Founding President of the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers, he has been instrumental in strengthening India's defense manufacturing ecosystem, driving self-reliance and indigenous capability development.

Committed to strong governance and corporate responsibility, Mr Kalyani chairs Bharat Forge's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Committee and Risk Management Committee and serves as a member of the Stakeholders' Relationship Committee.

Mr Kalyani was honored with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, for his exceptional service to the industry. He has distinguished honors, including the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star from Japan, the Cross of the Order of Merit from Germany, the Commander First Class of the Royal Order of Polar Star from Sweden, and the Knight in the Order of the Legion of Honour from France, one of the country's highest distinctions awarded to foreign nationals.

DAY TWO

SESSION-VII

India-Russia Defence Co-development Collaborations

Wednesday, 04 November 2026

Time: 1000-1045 Hrs

Chair



Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (Retd)

Former Director General, Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS)

A veteran fighter of the Indian Air Force Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani is an avid writer and author. He has written several articles on air power, national security, strategy, military leadership and the integration of the Armed Forces that have been published in national newspapers, journals and magazines. He has written book chapters and co-edited six books and a monograph on 'Operation Sindoor', the 07-10 May 2025 conflict between India and Pakistan. He has also authored an anthology of poems - Footsteps on the Sands of Time, that was published in Dec 2025.

Dr Sergey Ermakov

Head of the Center for Military and Political Studies, The Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (RISS), Moscow



Dr Sergei Ermakov is the Head of the Center for Military and Political Studies at the Russian Institute for Strategic Studies (RISS).

He graduated from the Russian State University for the Humanities (RSUH), Faculty of Information Systems, and completed postgraduate studies at the Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

His professional interests focus on global and regional security, including the militarization of artificial intelligence, multi-domain military operations, and information security.

He frequently provides commentary to Russian media on current international security issues. He regularly contributes to RISS's annual collective reports published in the journal Problems of National Strategy.

Dr Abhay A Pashilkar



Director, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratory (CSIR-NAL)

Dr Abhay Pashilkar is presently the Director of the CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories, Bengaluru. His areas of research are flight dynamic modeling, simulation, control and human factors. He has guided seven PhDs and one MS Engineering candidate in these areas. He has over 50 publications in national and international journals and conferences. At CSIR-NAL, Dr Pashilkar worked primarily at the Flight Mechanics & Control Division (FMCD). Up to 2015, he was part of the National Control Law Team (NCT) for the Light Combat Aircraft – Tejas. Before taking over as its Director, he held various leadership positions at NAL from 2005 onwards till 2022.

Dr Pashilkar has degrees in Aerospace Engineering from IIT Kharagpur and the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore. He worked briefly as a Guest Scientist in 1998 at the Institute of Flight Mechanics, DLR, Braunschweig, Germany. Pashilkar was with NTU, Singapore, for his post-doctoral fellowship from 2003 till 2005.

Under his leadership, the laboratory has successfully completed type certification of the Hansa NG and flown the sub-scale HAPS for more than 130 hours. NAL has also been selected to play the role of a multi-stage integrator for the development of the drone ecosystem in the country.

Mr Aleksei Filimonov

United Shipbuilding Corporation



Mr Alexey Vasilievich Filimonov, born on 9 July 1976 in St. Petersburg, Russia, is a Russian engineering professional specialising in automated information processing, control systems, and design engineering. He graduated in 1999 as an engineer from St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications named after Professor M. A. Bonch-Bruevich, specialising in automated information processing and control systems. He subsequently pursued further studies in management at St. Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance and completed a project management specialisation at the Moscow Aviation Institute (National Research University) in 2020.

Mr Filimonov began his professional career in 1995 with the Leningrad Bookselling Association "Lenkniga", where he worked as a loader, driver, and auto mechanic. From 1995 to 1997, he served as Head of Production at KOMFANT LLP. Following military service in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation between 1997 and 1998, he joined JSC "SPKB" in September 1999, serving as a Design Engineer and subsequently as Head of Department until August 2018.

In September 2018, Filimonov joined PJSC Nevskoye Design Bureau as Deputy Chief Engineer and Chief Designer, positions he held until October 2019. From November 2019 to September 2025, he served as Chief Engineer at PAO Nevskoye Design Bureau. In May 2025, he took up the position of Project Manager in the Design Department at JSC "OSK", where he is listed as serving as Director of the Design Department.

DAY TWO

SESSION-VIII

Defence Co-development Collaborations

Wednesday, 04 November 2026

Time: 1115-1205 Hrs

Chair

Lt Gen (Dr) Subrata Saha, PVSM UYSM YSM VSM** (Retd)



Former Member, National Security Advisory Board (NSAB) & Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS)

Lt Gen Saha is the Executive Chairman of the Manekshaw Centre for National Security Studies and Research, a consortium of IITs, IISc, IIST and IIITs.

Commissioned into the Third Battalion of the Assam Regiment in Dec 1978, he commanded the Fifth Battalion and the Assam Regiment Centre. He retired as the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS) and Colonel of the Assam Regiment in Mar 2017.

Post superannuation he was Member of the National Security Advisory Board for two terms. He was the founding Director General of Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and founding Director School of Defence and Strategic Studies at the Rashtriya Raksha University. He was Chairman of the Committee for Corporatisation of the Ordnance Factories 2020, Chairman Committee for Strategic Railways 2021, Chairman Committee for Defence Quality Assurance Reforms 2022, and Member of the Committee for Review of DRDO in 2023-24.

Pioneer of Make in India Defence, as DCOAS he created the Army Design Bureau in 2016 and led an unprecedented indigenisation drive promoting collaboration amongst all stakeholders, conceiving the strategy, 'Win Indian Wars with Indian Solutions'.

He was the GOC15 Corps in Kashmir in 2014-15, ADGMO (A) in 2013-2014, Divisional Commander in Strike Corps, Brigade Commander on the Line of Control in Kashmir, and held Battalion and Company Commander assignments in Counter Insurgency/Terrorism in Assam and Punjab, and Op Meghdoot (Siachen Glacier) in 1986. He served as Deputy Regional Commander United Nations Mission in Angola in 1996-97.

As GOC 15 Corps he was widely acclaimed as 'the people's general' for the'rescue and relief' during floods in Kashmir 2014, and foolproof security leading to an incident free Assembly Elections 2014 with highest ever voter turnout.

He was awarded the rare DISTINGUISHED grading on Junior Command Course. He has the unique distinction of being a graduate of Staff College Camberley (UK) and United States Army War College. He was awarded Best Overseas Student at Staff College Camberley UK and awarded the Gold Medal at Higher Command Course in Army War College Mhow. He holds a PhD in Irregular Warfare, M Phil, two master's degrees, graduate from Staff College United Kingdom, and Diploma in Management from IGNOU. He mentors young entrepreneurs and scientists in defence related research activities.

Keynote Address

Dr Vivek Lall



Chief Executive Officer, General Atomics Global Corporation and Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution

Dr Vivek Lall is the Chief Executive of General Atomics Global Corporation, based in San Diego, California. He has extensive experience in the global aerospace, defence, space, and advanced technology sectors. Previously, he held senior leadership positions at Lockheed Martin and The Boeing Company, contributing to major commercial and military aviation programmes. He has also worked with Raytheon and NASA Ames Research Center and served as a special adviser to the United Nations on broadband policy and cybersecurity. He holds a PhD in Aerospace Engineering, an MBA, and degrees in Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering.

Dr Lall serves in several prominent academic and international advisory roles, including at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the University of Cambridge, and the University of Southern California's Artificial Intelligence Trust Hub. His expertise spans unmanned aerial systems, defence technologies, space policy, artificial intelligence, nuclear technologies, and global security. He has also contributed to US–India aviation cooperation and serves on various international business and industry advisory boards, including those associated with the US Chamber of Commerce, the US–India Business Council, and the US–Japan Business Council.

Dr Lall has received several distinctions, including the President's Lifetime Achievement Award in the United States and the World Leader Award from the UK House of Lords. He has been recognised for his contributions to aerospace, technology, and international business, and has featured in publications such as Fortune and Forbes. He is also the co-author, with Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin, of a 2025 Financial Times article on space, and is the subject of the biography Fly High, Stay Grounded.

Commodore (Dr) Peter Leavy AM CSM (Retd)



President, Australian Naval Institute

Dr Peter Leavy joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1984 and served as a Principal Warfare Officer, retiring as a Commodore in 2024. He in a variety of ships, culminating in command of HMAS Stuart and HMAS Sydney, and ashore served as Director, Sea Power Centre (the Navy's 'think tank'); Commodore Warfare in Fleet Headquarters; Australia's Naval Attaché in Washington, DC; Commandant, Australian Defence Force Academy; and Chief of Staff, Joint Operations Command. He led the Australian Defence Force contribution to the search for the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 in 2014, for which he was awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal, and he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 2024.

He is currently the President of the Australian Naval Institute, an Associate Fellow of the Naval Studies Group at the University of New South Wales and an independent research consultant to the Australian National University and the University of Western Australia. His current research projects focus on maritime security in the Indian Ocean region and Australia's maritime interests, which include SLOC security in the South China Sea. He is also active in numerous dialogues and workshops, including bilateral maritime activities with the Philippines, China, Brunei, and Vietnam. Dr Leavy's PhD was awarded by the Australian National University in 2026 and examined Australian naval decision-making and medium- power naval strategies.

Mr Nick de Larrinaga

Sales & Business Director, MBDA



Mr Nick de Larrinaga leads MBDA UK's sales activities in India, focusing on providing battle-winning capabilities to the Indian Armed Forces and supporting Atmanirbhar

Bharat through industrial partnerships. Nick is a graduate of War Studies from King's College London, and a former defence analyst and editor at Jane's Defence.

DAY TWO

SESSION-IX

Atmanribharta and Co-development in Propulsion Systems and Aero Engines

Wednesday, 04 November 2026

Time: 1205-1240 Hrs

Chair

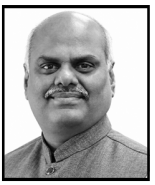
Mr Saurav Jha

Founder, D Propulse



Mr Saurav Jha is the Founder & CEO of D-Propulse, a company dedicated to creating high-speed solutions for the Indian military by leveraging its proprietary rotating detonation engine technology. He has served as a consultant on military-industrial affairs to both the Government & large conglomerates. Jha is a noted defence analyst and author with a vast range of publications to his name spanning both academia and mainstream media. In the past, Jha has also worked as an energy economist and been an advisor to FICCI's Americas Division. He has written multiple books.

Dr S V Ramana Murty



Director, Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE)

Dr S V Ramana Murty is an Outstanding Scientist and Director of the Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE), a premier laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Ministry of Defence, Government of India, based in Bengaluru. GTRE is responsible for the design and development of gas-turbine engines for military applications and advanced research in gas-turbine technologies.

Dr Murty has a strong technical background in aerospace propulsion. He previously served as Scientist 'G' and Technical Director of the Turbine Group at GTRE, where his work focused on the aero-thermal design, configuration, manufacturing and testing of axial-flow and radial-inflow turbines for aerospace, marine and land-based applications. He holds a B.Tech. in Mechanical Engineering from JNTU, Kakinada, an M.Tech. in Internal Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines from REC, Warangal, and a Ph.D. from VTU, Belgaum. He has also completed a fellowship course in Gas Turbine Technology at the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), Pune. His professional achievements include technical publications and recognition through the DRDO Technology Day Award.

Mr Philippe Errera



Executive Vice President International Development & Government Affairs, Safran

Mr Philippe Errera is the Group's Executive Vice President for International Development and Government Relations at SAFRAN since June 2023.

As a French career diplomat since 1996, he served various roles related to foreign and security policy in the United States and in France, before being appointed adviser then chief of staff to the Minister of Foreign Affairs from 2007 to 2010. Ambassador, French Permanent

Representative to NATO from 2011 to 2013, he then joined the Ministry of Defence as Director of Strategic Affairs in 2013 and became the first Director General for International relations and

Strategy of the Ministry of Defence from 2015 to 2018. In 2019, he moved back to the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs to serve as Director General for Political and Security Affairs. Philippe is a Knight of the French Legion of Honour.

DAY TWO

SESSION-X

Defence Technology Cooperation

Wednesday, 04 November 2026

Time: 1345-1440 Hrs

Special Address

Atty Gilberto C Teodoro, Jr

Secretary of National Defense,
Department of National Defense,
Philippines



Atty. Gilberto C. Teodoro, Jr. is the Secretary of the Department of National Defense (DND). He is the principal assistant and advisor of the President on defense matters and exercises overall authority, direction, and control over the DND Offices and its Bureaus. Atty. Teodoro first served as the Secretary of National Defense from 2007 to 2009 where he pushed for key initiatives in security sector reform. Noteworthy is the implementation of the Defence System of Management, which provided decision-makers with relevant and accurate information increasing efficiency and transparency. Sec. Teodoro also assisted in the resolution of several internal security threats while assisting on structural and procedural changes to ensure observance of human rights. The honorable Secretary also pursued the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral security and defense cooperation with both regional and extra-regional States to further peace and combat non-traditional security threats. Furthermore, he actively pursued the integration of various international protocols on disaster risk management, assisted in capacity building of sectors, and coordination of response and rehabilitation efforts.

Prior to joining the DND, Sec Teodoro served as a Member of the Philippine House of Representatives from 1998 to 2007. As a congressman, he principally authored the Securities Code of 2000 shifting the Philippine securities regulation system from a merit regulation system to a full

disclosure system. He was a member of the Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council and was the head of a sizable bloc of the Nationalist People's Coalition Representatives and had stints as the Assistant Majority Leader and Deputy Minority Leader.

Secretary Teodoro was a former youth representative to various regional, provincial, and municipal bodies. He served as a Member of the Provincial Board of Tarlac, Kabataang Barangay (KB) Chairman in Region III from 1980 to 1985. As chair of KB in the region, he motivated the youth in his constituency to improve their political and civic consciousness. Atty. Teodoro has an impressive educational background, graduating from prestigious local and foreign academic institutions. He attended De La Salle University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in commerce majoring in Management of Financial Institutions. He attended the University of the Philippines – College of Law, graduating third in his class with a bachelor's degree in law and the Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence award. He placed first in the 1989 Philippine Bar Examinations. He has a master's degree in law from Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA. He was admitted to the State Bar of New York. He completed the Command and Staff Course of the Philippine Air Force and the AFP Joint and Combined Staff Officer Course and won the Leadership Award in both courses. Atty. Teodoro is also a recipient of numerous awards, honors, and decorations from civilian, military, and educational institutions. He was awarded the Philippine Legion of Honor with the rank of Grand Commander, the first to be awarded such a rank.

Chair

Mr Sandeep Unnithan



Consulting Editor, India Today Group,
and Editor-in-Chief, Chakra News

Mr Sandeep Unnithan is Consulting Editor with the India Today Group's digital and TV platforms and Editor-in-Chief of Chakra News, an independent digital news organisation.

He focuses on defence and national security and has three decades as a journalist, having worked with The Indian Express, India Today magazine and TV9 Network where he was Editor, News9 Plus, India's first OTT news app.

A graduate in Ancient Indian History from St. Xavier's College, Mumbai, he has authored research papers for defence think tanks, including MP-IDSA and the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS). He is the author of two books. Black Tornado: The Three Sieges of Mumbai 26/11 reveals the untold military dimensions of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and was adapted into the ZEE5 web series State of Siege in 2020. His second book, Operation X, co-authored with Captain M.N.R. Samant, Maha Vir Chakra, was published in July 2019. It is the only authentic account of a covert naval intelligence unit that operated during the 1971 Indo-Pak War. The unit carried out Operation Jackpot, India's largest special forces strike, and waged one of the largest maritime guerrilla campaigns of the 20th century.

Sandeep is a passionate advocate of indigenously designed, developed and manufactured (IDDM) weapons. He hosted Guns of India on News9 Plus, a show showcasing IDDM small arms.

Dr hab Dorota Domalewska

Director of the Doctoral School, War Studies University, Warsaw, Poland



Dr Dorota Domalewska, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of National Security at War Studies University in Warsaw, Poland, and serves as Editor-in-Chief of Security and Defence Quarterly. She is also Director of the Doctoral School at War Studies University. She was a lecturer at Stamford International University in Bangkok (2012) and at Rangsit University in Pathum Thani, Thailand (2012-2015), and later a Research Fellow at Rangsit University (2019) and at MIT University in Skopje, North Macedonia (2026). Her interdisciplinary research integrates security studies, social cybersecurity, strategic communication, and security education.

She has served as principal investigator and team member on several research projects funded by the Polish National Science Centre, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, and the Ministry of National Defence, focusing on information security and disinformation. These include "Defending National Identity in the Era of Cyber Threats: A Linguistic Characterisation of Disinformation Content" (Ministry of Science and Higher Education, 2024-2027); "Social Bot Use in Public Debate on Social Media During the 2020 Polish Presidential Campaign" (National Science Centre, 2019-2020); and "National, Local and Transnational Identity and Community in Contemporary Poland as a Component of National Security" (Ministry of National Defence, 2018-2022).

She has published and co-authored numerous articles and books on social cybersecurity, strategic communication, and

disinformation, including the monograph Humans in the Cyber Loop: Perspectives on Social Cybersecurity (Brill, 2025); the book chapter "Values in the Crossfire: An Analysis of Fake News Narratives about the War in Ukraine," in Values and Ethics in Russia's War Against Ukraine (Routledge, 2026); and the journal articles "Mapping the Role of Social Sciences in Cybersecurity Research" (Studia Politologiczne, 2025) and "Digital Entrapment: A Systematic Review of Addictive Digital Technology and Mitigation Strategies" (Kultura i Spo?ecze?stwo, 2025). She is a member of the International Society of Military Sciences, Women in International Security Poland, and the Polish Society for Social Communication.

DAY TWO

SESSION XI

Defence Reforms

Wednesday, 04 November 2026

Time: 1445-1520 Hrs

Special Address

Mr Rajesh Kumar Singh IAS



Defence Secretary, Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Mr Rajesh Kumar Singh, a 1989-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Kerala cadre, was born on 24 November 1964. He assumed office as the 40th Defence Secretary of India on 1 November 2024, following his appointment by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. He also holds additional charge as Secretary of the Department of Defence Research and Development and Chairman of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Prior to his appointment as Defence Secretary, Singh served as Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Secretary of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying. His other assignments in the central government include Director of Works and Urban Transport in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Joint Secretary in the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Commissioner (Lands) at the Delhi Development Authority, and Chief Vigilance Officer of the Food Corporation of India.

During his earlier service in the Kerala government, Singh held key positions including Urban Development Secretary and Finance Secretary. His career spans administration, industrial policy, urban development, agriculture, petroleum and natural gas, and defence, providing him with extensive experience in central and state government administration.

DAY TWO

SESSION XII

Stimulating Defence Exports

Wednesday, 04 November 2026

Time: 1550-1700 Hrs

Special Address

SHRI SANJEEV KUMAR IAS

Secretary, Department of Defence Production (DDP), Ministry of Defence (MoD)



Mr Sanjeev Kumar, an IAS officer of the 1993 batch, Maharashtra Cadre, assumed the charge of Secretary (Defence Production), Ministry of Defence, on 21.08.2024.

Prior to joining as Secretary, Department of Defence Production (DDP), in the Ministry of Defence, he was working as Chairman, Airport Authority of India (AAI), under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, from 07.04.2021 to 20.08.2024.

Earlier, he worked as State GST Commissioner of Maharashtra from 2020 to 2021 and was Chairman of the GST Law Committee. He had also worked in the State Sales Tax Department in various capacities and spearheaded VAT transformation and departmental autonomy between 2001 and 2005.

He was the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd. (MSEDCL), the largest electricity distribution company in India, for more than four years.

Mr Kumar has served in various ministries and departments of the Government of Maharashtra, including the Water Supply & Sanitation Department and the Energy and Industries Department. He has worked as Joint CEO of the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and was also Managing Director of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation.

During his tenure with the Government of India, he worked as Joint Secretary and Mission Director for the Housing for All project under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

He also worked as Director in the Ministry of Power, where he was in charge of the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY) and the Restructured Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme (RAPDRP).

Chair

Mr Snehesh Alex Philip



Editor, Defence and Diplomacy, The Print

Mr Snehesh Alex Philip, an Editor- Defence and Diplomacy at ThePrint, has over 18 years of experience as a journalist and specialises in defence, security, intelligence, and foreign policy issues.

He became the youngest Indian journalist to be posted to Pakistan in 2013, when he was deputed as the Islamabad correspondent for the Press Trust of India.

Snehesh's journalism delves into defence strategies, military affairs, national security issues and international diplomacy. He is seen as a reliable and balanced voice on matters of national and regional security. His ability to navigate high-stakes issues with nuance and integrity has earned him credibility among key policymakers, and speaking opportunities at the National Defence College in New Delhi and the Army War College in Mhow.

He has also attended the IVLP programme by the US State Department, which selected him for his knowledge of issues surrounding Quad and the overall India-US relations.

Dr Tigran Grigoryan



Director, Regional Center for Democracy and Security (RCDS), Armenia

Dr Tigran Grigoryan is a political analyst who specializes in security, democratic transition, and geopolitical change. He regularly writes about and comments on regional developments for CivilNet. Previously, he worked at Armenia's Security Council. Tigran was also directly involved in grassroots democracy building in Nagorno-Karabakh. He holds a Master's degree in Conflict, Governance, and International Development from the University of East Anglia.

Prof Gustavo Alejandro Cardozo



Doctor in Regional Development and
International Relations Scholar,
UNIJUI, Brazil

Prof Gustavo Alejandro Cardozo is an Argentine academic based in Brazil, holding a doctorate in Regional Development (2024) from UNIJUÍ. He has taught International Relations and Political Economy for over twenty years across Argentina, Paraguay, Brazil, and Taiwan. He is a Senior Researcher at ObservaChina and the Brazilian Research and Studies Center (BRaS), with a research agenda spanning China–Latin America relations, Asia-Pacific and South Atlantic geopolitics, and, most recently, the political economy of Indian defence exports to the Southern Cone.

His recent book chapters include "India's Regional Hegemony Under Challenge: China's Growing Influence in South Asia" (Routledge), "Energetic Connections: China, Argentina, and the South Atlantic" (Palgrave Macmillan), and "Sustainability and Development: China and Brazil in Perspective," published in Dynamics of International Relations: Continuity and Change in a Globalized World (Mittal Publications, New Delhi, 2025). His book on Taiwan's diplomatic strategy toward the Indo-Pacific is under contract with Vernon Press. He also serves as a peer reviewer for academic journals, including RSEISA.

Prof Abraham Ename Minko



PhD, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, PanAfrican University, Cameroon

Prof Abraham Ename Minko is Professor of Political Science and International Relations at the Pan African University Institute of Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (PAU-IGHSS) in Yaoundé, Cameroon. He holds a Ph.D in Political Science and International Relations. He brings over 14 years of experience in peace and security research, with more than 60 peer-reviewed publications to his name.

DAY TWO

SESSION XIII

Valedictory Session

Wednesday, 04 November 2026

Time: 1700-1740 Hrs

Valedictory Address

Prof Ajay Kumar Sood

Principal Scientific Advisor, Government of India



Dr Ajay Kumar Sood is an Indian physicist and researcher serving as the fourth Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. He is a Distinguished Honorary Professor of Physics at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru, and has made significant contributions to condensed matter physics, graphene, nanotechnology and Raman spectroscopy. He obtained his BSc (Honours) in Physics in 1971 and MSc (Honours) in 1972 from Panjab University, Chandigarh, followed by a PhD from IISc in 1982. He also undertook postdoctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Solid State Research in Stuttgart, Germany, from 1983 to 1985.

Dr Sood joined the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam, in 1973 and moved to IISc as an Associate Professor in 1988, becoming a Professor of Physics in 1994. His research spans hard and soft condensed matter physics, semiconductor systems, carbon nanotubes, and advanced materials. He has held several prominent academic and scientific leadership positions, including President of the Indian Academy of Sciences and Vice-President of the Indian National Science Academy. He has also served on the Scientific Advisory Committee to the Prime Minister of India and is associated with several national and international scientific institutions.

His contributions to science have been recognised through numerous honours, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar

Prize in 1990, the TWAS Prize in Physics in 2000, and the Padma Shri in 2013. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2015 and a Corresponding Member of the Australian Academy of Science in 2026. He holds multiple Indian and US patents, serves as Secretary-General of The World Academy of Sciences, and has contributed to scientific research and publishing through editorial and advisory roles in leading journals and institutions.

Vote of Thanks

Gp Capt (Dr) R K Narang, VM (Retd)



Confernce Coordinator & Senior Fellow, MP-IDSA

Group Captain (Dr.) Rajiv Kumar Narang, Vayu Sena Medal (Retd.) is Senior Fellow at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (MP-IDSA). He is former Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter pilot, qualified Flight Safety and Accident Investigator, Centre Seat Qualified Instructor on Chetak/ Cheetah helicopters and holder of Commercial Helicopter Pilot License (CHPL). He is an alumnus of the 57 Defence Services Staff College, Wellington, India, M Sc. in Defence & Strategic Studies and PhD in International Relations. He was awarded Vayu Sena Medal for meritorious service in 2000.

He has authored a book titled "India's Quest for UAVs and Challenges" and research papers on aviation, drones, counter-drone systems, Make in India and Self-Reliance. He worked as Research/ Senior Fellow at the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) between 2014 & 2019 and Director, Strategic Initiatives at Drone Federation of India between July 2021 to February 2023. He was a member of Drone Working Sub Group, Department of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry in 2020-21 and High Power Steering Committee (HPSC) of Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) in 2021 & 2022. He authored the HQ IDS-SIDM report titled "A Roadmap for India Becoming Atmanirbhar in Counter Drone Technologies/ Systems" in 2022.

Dr Bipandeep Sharma

Associate Fellow, MP-IDSA



Dr Bipandeep Sharma is an Associate Fellow at the Non-Traditional Security Centre at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. He works on Polar Regions where his core area of expertise is on 'Arctic Geopolitics'. He focuses on security and strategic developments in the Arctic; aspects of Antarctic governance; deep seabed mining and on issues related to UNCLOS, CLCS, climate change and economic development in the Polar Regions. Dr Bipandeep Sharma has obtained his PhD form the Department of Political Science, Panjab University, Chandigarh. He holds M.Phil. and Master's degrees in Defence and Strategic Studies. Prior joining MP-IDSA, he has taught papers on Contemporary Global Politics; International Relations; Climate Change and Sustainable Development, at the Institute of Social Science Education and Research, Panjab University, Chandigarh.

Ms Khyati Singh

Research Analyst, MP-IDSA



Khyati Singh is a Research Analyst at the Centre for North America and Strategic Technologies, MP-IDSA. She is the author of Cyber Leviathan: Digital Strategies in International Relations, published by Routledge and co-published by KW Publishers for South Asia. She specialises in AI, US security studies, defence policy, international relations, and emerging strategic technologies, with over five years of experience in strategic research and policy analysis. She completed her PhD in United States Studies at the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

Before joining MP-IDSA in 2024, she worked as a Research Associate at the Centre for Aerospace Power and Strategic Studies (CAPSS). She has presented her work at national and international forums, including the India Space Congress, the US Naval War College, and academic events at the National University of Singapore. She has also participated in expert panels on India–US cybersecurity cooperation, AI governance, and the strategic implications of China's technological rise.

Her scholarly work includes peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and policy commentaries published in outlets such as Small Wars & Insurgencies, Connections, The Diplomat, The Indian Express, Firstpost, and The Strategist. Her research and writing examine the intersection of geopolitics, emerging technologies, cyber conflict, and international security. She received the Best Article Award at the APRI Forum in Armenia in 2024 and secured first position in the oral presentation category at the 2026 AI for Viksit Bharat event at JNU.

Mr Vivek Reshi

Research Analyst,
MP-IDSA



Vivek Reshi is a Research Analyst at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA), New Delhi. His research interests lie at the intersection of emerging technologies, national security, and strategic affairs.

He holds a Master's degree in Public Policy and a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Engineering. Previously, he worked as a Policy Fellow at the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India (IISc Bengaluru), where he contributed to critical technology assessment and international science and technology cooperation. He also served as a Project Associate at the Centre for Technology Foresight and Policy, IIT Jodhpur, contributing to research on climate technology, innovation ecosystems, and technology foresight. He brings several years of industry experience in cloud infrastructure and enterprise DNS management.

Ms Meghna Pradhan

Research Analyst, MP-IDSA



Meghna Pradhan is a Research Analyst at the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi.She is currently pursuing her PhD at the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Delhi, with her thesis focused on how emerging technologies such as AI affect political processes. She holds an M.Phil. in Korean Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University, an M.A. in East Asian Studies from the University of Delhi, and a B.Sc. in Economics from Symbiosis School of Economics.

Her research is focused on impact of emerging technologies such as AI on security and governance domains, and their applications in East Asian contexts. She has presented her work at several conferences, including the AKS Young Scholars' International Seminar and the Researchers' Association for the Study of Korea (RASK) International Seminar.

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