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## DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

### India and Bangladesh hold joint military exercises

A joint military exercise between India and Bangladesh ‘[SAMPRITI- X](#)’ was held during 5-16 June at Jessore military station in Bangladesh. The aim of the exercise is to strengthen interoperability between the two armies. The Indian contingent was represented by the ‘Dogra Regiment’. Armies of both nations shared expertise in counter-terrorism, disaster management, and on peacekeeping operations under UN mandate.

### INS Satpura visits Manila

Towards enhancing defence cooperation with the military forces of friendly foreign countries, [INS Satpura](#) on a deployment to the South China Sea (SCS) and West Pacific, visited Manila from 3-6 June 2022. The visit was aimed at strengthening mutual defence cooperation and interoperability between the Navies of India and the Philippines. INS Satpura is a 6000 tonnes, indigenously designed and built guided-missile stealth frigate, based at Eastern Fleet in Vishakhapatnam.

### Indian Army Contingent Participates In Multinational Joint Exercise in Mongolia

Multinational Peacekeeping exercise ‘[Ex Khaan Quest 2022](#)’ in which military contingents from 16 countries participated, commenced in Mongolia on 6 June. A contingent of ‘Ladakh Scouts’ represented the Indian Army in the 14-day exercise aimed at enhancing defence cooperation, and interoperability, building military-to-military relationships and developing peace support operations and military readiness among participating nations.

### Visit of RAAF P8A to Goa

The long-range maritime surveillance aircraft Boeing P8A of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) arrived at [INS Hansa](#), Goa on 6 June 2022, to undertake coordinated operations with the Boeing P8I of the Indian Navy (IN) from 7-9 June 2022. The coordinated exercise involved anti-submarine warfare and surface surveillance. The P8 aircraft of both India and Australia are regularly coordinating operations as part of bilateral and multilateral exercises AUSINDEX and MALABAR.

### Indian Naval Ships Kamorta and Sahyadri Visit Jakarta, Indonesia

As part of the deployment to South East Asia, [INS Kamorta](#) and INS Sahyadri were on a three-day visit to Jakarta, Indonesia from 15 June. INS Kamorta is an indigenously built Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvette and INS Sahyadri is an indigenously built multi-role stealth Frigate. The interaction between the Indian Navy (IN) and the Indonesian Navy (TNI-AL) aimed to further Interoperability and Mutual Cooperation.

### Op Sankalp: 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Indian Navy’s Maritime Security Operations

Indian Navy’s stealth Frigate, [INS Talwar](#) is presently deployed for Op Sankalp commemorating the 3<sup>rd</sup> continuous year of the Indian Navy’s presence in the Gulf for protection of India’s maritime interests. In the aftermath of attacks on merchant ships in the Gulf of Oman in June 2019, the Indian Navy had commenced Maritime Security Operations, code-named ‘Op SANKALP’, on 19 June 2019 to ensure the safe passage of Indian Flag Vessels transiting through the Strait of Hormuz.

### **38<sup>th</sup> India–Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (Ind-Indo CORPAT)**

The 38<sup>th</sup> edition of India-Indonesia [Coordinated Patrol](#) (CORPAT) between the navies of India and Indonesia was conducted at Port Blair from 13-14 June 2022. From India, Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft and INS Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette based at Andaman and Nicobar Command, took part in the exercise whilst KRI Cut Nyak Dien, a Kapitan Pattimura (PARCHIM I)-class Corvette represented Indonesian Navy. The exercise will facilitate institutional measures for suppressing Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU) fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy in the region.

### **Raksha Mantri holds bilateral talks with Australian counterpart on 22 June**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles in New Delhi on 22 June 2022. During the talks, the two Ministers reviewed the [defence cooperation](#) between the two countries and explored new initiatives to further strengthen bilateral engagements on regional and global shared interests.

### **India and Malaysia to enhance defence cooperation**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held talks with Malaysian Defence Minister YB Dato 'Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein via video conferencing on 27 June 2022. They discussed wide range of issues including bilateral, regional and defence industrial cooperation. The two ministers expressed their views to further boost the defence cooperation under the existing [Malaysia-](#)

[India Defence Cooperation](#) Meeting (MIDCOM) framework, scheduled to be held in July 2022. They also shared views on the induction of women in peacekeeping forces and enhancing Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operation capability.

### **IAF to participate in a tactical leadership programme with Egyptian Air Force**

Indian Air Force will participate in a [Tactical Leadership Programme](#) at Egyptian Air Force Weapon School from 24 June–24 July 2022, in Cairo west Airbase. From India, three Su-30MKI aircraft, two C-17 aircraft (including contingent), and 57 IAF personnel will participate. The exercise is aimed at enhancing defence cooperation and sharing of best practices between the two Air Forces.

### **INS Satpura arrives at Pearl Harbour in Hawaii to participate in RIMPAC-22**

INS Satpura reached Pearl Harbour on 27 June 2022, to participate in the [RIMPAC-22](#) Naval Exercise on Hawaii Island. RIMPAC is one of the largest multilateral Naval Exercises held by the US navy biennially. 27 countries are participating in the current edition where India is represented by INS Satpura and P8I maritime patrol aircraft. The exercise will run for six weeks.

## **ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT**

### **DAC clears proposals worth Rs 76,390 crore**

Following Prime Minister's call for 'Aatmanirbharta', Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), in a meeting chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on 6 June 2022, accorded [Acceptance of Necessity](#) (AoN) for Capital Acquisition

Proposals of the Armed Forces amounting to Rs 76,390 crore under ‘Buy (Indian)’, ‘Buy & Make (Indian)’ and ‘Buy (Indian-IDDM)’ categories. This will boost the Indian Defence Industry and reduce foreign dependency on arms. The DAC has accorded AoN for procuring and manufacturing defence equipment for the Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard.

### **Intermediate-Range Ballistic Missile, Agni-4, successfully tested**

A successful training launch of an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM), [Agni-4](#), was carried out at approximately 1930 hours on 6 June 2022, from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The test was carried under the aegis of Strategic Force Command (SFC), reaffirming India’s policy of ‘Credible Minimum Deterrence’ capability.

### **Short-Range Ballistic Missile, Prithvi-II, successfully tested**

A successful training launch of a Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM), [Prithvi-II](#) was carried out on 15 June 2022, at approximately 1930 hrs from the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur Odisha. The missile is a proven system and can hit its target with a high degree of precision. Prithvi-II is a single-stage missile with a maximum payload capacity of 500 kg and with 250 km range of strike.

### **Keel laying ceremony of the fourth ship of SVL and Second and third ships of ASW SWC**

The keel for the fourth ship of [Survey Vessel](#) (Large) and second & third ships of anti-submarine warfare – shallow water craft (ASW SWC) for the Indian Navy was held on 17 June in the presence of senior officials of the Navy, GRSE and L&T. The contract for the construction of

four SVL and eight ASW SWC for the Indian Navy was awarded to GRSE as part of indigenous shipbuilding programme. The collaboration between GRSE & L&T in terms of Public-Private Partnership has proved a harbinger for more such successful collaborations between Indian Shipyards for warship construction.

### **5G test bed to be established at Mhow**

Following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), an Indian [5G test bed](#) is to be established at the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE), Mhow in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M). The test bed will facilitate the Indian Army to utilise the 5G technology for its operational use along with the border areas.

### **Advanced Light Helicopter Mk-III inducted into Coast Guard Region East**

The Indian Coast Guard Eastern Region has inducted an indigenously developed Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Mark-III in Chennai. The [ALH Mark-III](#) is built at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The ALH mark-III becomes the first aircraft of the newly created 840 Squadron stationed at Chennai. The aircraft will provide the capability of Beyond Visual Range detection using a radar system equipped with long-range imaging.

### **Tata Advanced Systems, Larsen and Toubro deliver the 100<sup>th</sup> missile launcher for Akash**

Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Larsen and Toubro (L&T), jointly delivered 100th Akash Air Force Launcher (AAFL) for the Indian Air Force (IAF). These [AAFLs](#) are developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The TASL has

already delivered 49 Akash Launchers to the Indian Army. The AAFL is a multi-technology weapon launch platform for air defence missiles, jointly developed under the IGMDP Programme of the DRDO by TASL and L&T.

### **VL-SRSAM successfully flight-tested by DRDO & Indian Navy off Odisha Coast**

The Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully flight-tested the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from an Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha on 24 June 2022. The [VL-SRSAM](#) can neutralise close-range areal threats including sea-skimming targets. Congratulating the success, Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh said that the missile system will further the defence capabilities of the Indian Navy.

### **Indigenous ALH MK III squadron commissioned at Porbandar, Gujarat**

An indigenous [Light Helicopter \(ALH\) Mark-III](#) was commissioned into the Indian Coast Guard 835 Squadron (CG) at Air Enclave, Porbandar, Gujarat on 28 June 2022. The ceremony was presided by DG, Coast Guard V.S. Pathania. The ALH Mark-III is manufactured by HAL with state-of-the-art equipment including advanced RADAR as well as Electro-optical sensors, Shakti engines, a full glass cockpit, high-intensity searchlight, advanced communication systems, an automatic identification system as well as SAR homer.

### **Indigenously developed Laser-Guided ATGM successfully tested**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army successfully test-fired indigenously developed Laser-Guided [Anti-Tank Guided](#)

[Missile](#) (ATGM) from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun at KK Ranges with support of Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S) Ahmednagar on 28 June 2022. The ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead to defeat precisely Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.

### **High-speed Expendable Aerial Target, ABHYAS, successfully flight-tested**

[ABHYAS](#) – High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT), was successfully flight-tested from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on 29 June 2022. The performance of the aircraft at low altitude and high manoeuvrability was demonstrated during the test flight. Designed & developed by DRDO, the air vehicle was launched using twin under-slung boosters powered by a small gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at high subsonic speed.

## **CIVIL-MILITARY FUSION**

### **Transfer of IAF land to AAI for RCS UDAN/Expansion of Airfield Infrastructure to Facilitate Civil Aircraft Operations from IAF Bases**

In line with the PM's vision of 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik' (UDAN) and to facilitate Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), the Indian Air Force has extended working permission by providing Defence Land under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to the Airport Authority of India (AAI) at seven places, viz, Bagdogra, Darbhanga, Adampur, Utarlai, Sarsawa, Kanpur and Gorakhpur. AAI will now utilize the IAF airfields to operate civil flights. The connectivity plan under the [RCS UDAN](#) scheme is expected to boost the economy and develop the area.

### **MoU Signed between Indian Navy and NCMRWF for cooperation on Numerical Model-based applications in METOC**

[Indian Navy](#), Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Ministry of Earth Sciences for 'Cooperation on Numerical Model-Based Applications in Meteorology and Oceanology'. The collaboration is aimed at rapid development in the field of weather/ocean modelling, coupled modelling, data assimilation, ensemble forecasting and satellite data use.

### **MoU signed between Indian Navy and the Directorate General of Shipping for transition of Indian Navy personnel to Merchant Navy**

A [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) has been signed between the Indian Navy and the DG Shipping on 20 June 2022, to facilitate the transition of IN personnel, both retired and serving, to the Merchant Navy. By this MoU, DG Shipping has envisioned certification of IN personnel in accordance with the International STCW (Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) conventions. The MoU will boost the government's focus on furthering the maritime Blue economy by utilising skilled and trained human resources.

## **DEFENCE EXPORTS**

### **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh hands over 12 High-Speed Guard Boats, constructed under India's \$100 million Line of Credit, to Vietnam**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh handed over 12 High-Speed Guard Boats to

Vietnam during his visit to Hong Ha Shipyard in Hai Phong on 9 June 2022. The boats have been constructed under the GOI's \$100 million Defence [Line of Credit](#) to Vietnam. The first five boats were constructed in the Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard in India and the other seven were built at Hong Ha Shipyard. During the visit, both sides signed a 'Joint Vision Statement on India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030' to enhance defence cooperation.

## **DEFENCE REFORMS**

### **Cabinet clears the 'AGNIPATH' scheme the recruitment of youth in the Armed Forces**

The Union Cabinet approved a new recruitment scheme for Indian youth to serve in the Armed Forces. The scheme is called [AGNIPATH](#) and the youth selected under this scheme will be known as Agniveer. It is envisaged that the average age profile of the Indian Armed forces would come down by about 4-5 years by the implementation of this scheme. Enrolment will be based on an 'All India All Class' basis and the eligible age will be in the range from 17.5 to 21 years.

### **Army, DAD synergy conference held, Agnipath on key agenda**

The [fourth Synergy Conference](#) between the Indian Army and Defence Accounts Department (DAD) was held in New Delhi on 28 June 2022. The day-long conference was co-chaired by Vice Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) Lt Gen BS Raju and Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Rajnish Kumar. The primary agenda of the conference included deliberations on the Agnipath scheme and the schedule for timely implementation of a system for pay and allowances for Agniveers.

'The Newsletter is a compilation of media reports and does not necessarily reflect the views of the Manohar Parrikar IDSA or the Ministry of Defence, Government of India'.