

DEFENCE NEWSLETTER

Vol I | Issue 5 | September 2022



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

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MAJOR EVENTS/NEWS

Prime Minister commissions India's first indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at a glittering ceremony, commissioned the country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier [Indian Naval Ship \(INS\) Vikrant](#) at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) on 2 September 2022. The event showcased the country's growing prowess in indigenous manufacturing and is a major milestone toward 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. At the same event, Prime Minister unveiled the new Naval Ensign and dedicated it to Chhatrapati Shivaji. The 262.5 m long and 61.6 m wide Vikrant displaces approx 43,000 Tonnes, having a maximum speed of 28 Knots with an endurance of 7,500 Nautical Miles.

Raksha Mantri visits Mongolia

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited Mongolia from 5-7 September 2022. It is the first-ever visit by an Indian [Defence Minister to Mongolia](#). The bilateral defence engagements have been expanding between the two countries via Joint Working Group meetings, military-to-military exchanges, high-level visits, capacity building and training programmes and bilateral exercises. The RM held talks with Mongolia's Minister of Defence, Lt Gen. Saikhanbayar and reviewed bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries. The RM inaugurated a Cyber Security Training Centre, built with assistance from India, and laid the foundation stone of the India-Mongolia Friendship School, to be constructed with Indian assistance. India and Mongolia established a 'strategic partnership' in 2015, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the country.

Raksha Mantri participates in India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue

The Raksha Mantri, along with External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar, participated in the [2nd India-Japan 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue](#) on 8 September 2022. The Japanese side was represented by Minister of Defence Yasukazu Hamada and Minister of Foreign Affairs Yoshimasa Hayashi. The ministers reviewed the defence cooperation and acknowledged the importance of the India-Japan defence partnership and the critical role it will play in ensuring a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific region. They expressed their commitment to continuing bilateral and multilateral exercises including 'Dharma Guardian', 'JIMEX' and 'Malabar'. They welcomed the operationalisation of the Reciprocal Provision of Supply and Services Agreement in March 2022. The RM invited Japanese industries to invest in India's defence corridors

Raksha Mantri visits Egypt

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh visited Egypt from 19-20 September 2022. The RM signed a MoU on defence cooperation with his Egyptian counterpart General Mohamed Zaki. He also called on President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi. Both leaders agreed to further develop military cooperation and focus on joint training, [defence coproduction](#) and maintenance of equipment. The RM expressed appreciation for the firm stand taken by Egypt against terrorism.

General Anil Chauhan takes over as the new CDS

[General Anil Chauhan](#), PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM assumed office as the new Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) on 28 September 2022. General Chauhan will be the Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of

Staff Committee (COSC), and also the Principal Military Advisor to the Raksha Mantri on all Tri-Service matters as well as Secretary, Department of Military Affairs. The post was vacant since the death of the country's first CDS Gen. Bipin Rawat in a helicopter crash in December 2021. Gen. Chauhan, born on 18 May 1961, was commissioned into 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981. He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade held at Garud Regimental Training Centre

On the occasion of the successful completion of training of Air Force Special Forces '[Garud Commandos](#)', Maroon Beret Ceremonial Parade was held at Garud Regimental Training Centre (GRTC), Air Force Station Chandinagar on 3 September 2022. Addressing the parade, Air Vice Marshal Rakesh Sinha, AVSM, Assistant Chief of the Air Staff Operations (Offensive), Air Headquarters, congratulated the commandoes and stressed the importance of training to keep pace with the changing security scenario. As part of the ceremony, the Garuds demonstrated Combat Firing Drill, Assault Explosives, Hostage Rescue, Obstacle Crossing Drill, Wall Climbing, Rappelling, Slithering and Military Martial Arts.

ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT

Successful flight tests of the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile System Conducted

DRDO and the Indian Army successfully completed six flight tests of the [Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile](#) (QRSAM) system high-speed aerial targets. The mission objectives were met with pin-point

accuracy with state-of-the-art guidance and control algorithms including warhead chain. The Raksha Mantri expressed confidence that the QRSAM system will be a force multiplier for the Armed Forces.

Project 17A Frigate YD 12653 (Taragiri) Launched

Taragiri, a [Project 17A Frigate](#) was launched at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai on 11 September 2022 by Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, FOC-IN-C, Western Naval Command. Taragiri is the fifth ship of Project 17A Frigates. Project 17A is the advanced version of the P17 Frigates (Shivalik Class) with improved stealth features, state-of-the-art weapons and sensors and platform management systems. Seven ships, 4 at MDL and 3 at GRSE, are under construction under the P17A program. Four ships (two each at MDL and GRSE) have been launched between 2019 and 2022. 75 per cent of the orders for equipment and system of Project 17A ships are being placed with indigenous firms, including MSMEs.

Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) Missile successfully tested by DRDO

DRDO conducted two successful test flights of [Very Short Range Air Defence System \(VSHORADS\)](#) missile from a ground-based portable launcher on 27 September 2022. VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence System (MANPAD), indigenously-designed and developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Indian Industry Partners. The missile is meant for neutralizing low-altitude aerial threats at short ranges.

CoE–SURVEI Standardizes Drone Images for Land Survey

The Ministry of Defence set the World's first standard on land survey using drones when the Centre of Excellence–Satellite and Unmanned Remote Vehicle Initiative (CoE–SURVEI) published a draft concept note prescribing the technical parameters which may serve as a reference standard to estimate the image quality of drone survey output. [CoE – SURVEI](#) has prescribed 19 parameters to evaluate the quality of drone output and 8 extension techniques to estimate the quality of image, apart from indicating sample benchmarking from literature.

DEFENCE DIPLOMACY

Indian Army Participates in Exercise Vostok-2022

An Indian Army contingent participated in the multilateral exercise [Vostok-2022](#) from 1-7 September 2022 in Russia. The Indian Army was represented by troops from 7/8 Gorkha Rifles who took part in several programs including joint field training exercises, combat discussions, and firepower exercises. The other participating contingents included those from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO), and other partner states like Syria, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Laos. The White House spokesperson stated that the US has concerns about countries participating in military exercises with Russia, even as it is involved in military operations against Ukraine. India did not participate in the naval component of the drill, in solidarity with Japan's concerns over the drills taking place close to the Southern Kuril Island, claimed by both Japan and Russia.

INS Satpura visits Fiji

As part of its Operational Deployment in the Pacific Ocean, [INS Satpura visited Suva, Fiji](#) from 1-3 September 2022. The crew paid homage to martyred soldiers at Fiji's National War Memorial. The ship's crew planted a thousand mangrove saplings in coordination with Fiji's forestry department. A medical camp and a yoga session were also conducted.

Indian Navy Hosts Japan-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise, JIMEX 2022

Indian Navy hosted the sixth edition of [Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2022](#) (JIMEX 22) in the Bay of Bengal from 11 September 2022. The Indian Navy was represented by three indigenously designed and built warships – INS Sahyadri, a multi-purpose stealth frigate and Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvettes, INS Kavaratti and INS Kadmat. The guided missile destroyer INS Ranvijay, Fleet Tanker INS Jyoti, Offshore Patrol Vessel INS Sukanya, submarines, MIG 29K fighter aircraft, Long Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft and ship-borne helicopters also participated in the exercises. Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) was represented by the helicopter carrier Izumo and Takanami, a guided missile destroyer.

Multilateral Naval Exercise Kakadu held in Australia

INS Satpura and a P8 I Maritime Patrol Aircraft of the Indian Navy participated in the multinational [Exercise Kakadu-2022](#) held at Darwin, Australia on 12 September 2022. The ship participated in various exercises such as Anti-Submarine Warfare, Anti-Ship Warfare, close quarter manoeuvres with friendly foreign warships. The two-week-long exercise involved ships from 14 navies, including the United States, Japan, Australia, UK, France, New

Zealand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore and South West Pacific nations.

Exercise Pitch Black 2022 conducted in Australia

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent returned on 13 September 2022 after successfully participating in the multinational [Exercise Pitch Black 22](#) hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) at its Darwin Air Base. The three-week exercise saw the participation of 17 Air Forces and over 2500 military personnel and 100 aircrafts. The IAF contingent was represented by four Su-30 MKI and two C-17 aircraft. The participating forces took part in various multi-aircraft combat drills by day and night, simulating complex aerial scenarios, involving large formations. Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial three-week multi-nation air exercise conducted by the RAAF.

INS Tarkash Deployed in the Gulf of Guinea

INS Tarkash, mission-deployed in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) for [Anti-piracy operations](#), participated in a Joint Maritime Exercise with Nigerian Navy Patrol Ships NNS Kano, Osun, Sokoto and Nguru from 12-13 September 2022. The exercise marks the first joint operational deployment by India and Nigeria in the GoG. Various maritime operations like anti-piracy, assistance to vessels in distress, SAR drills, and Anti-Air and Anti-Surface operations were conducted with the Nigerian Navy.

INS Sunayna in Seychelles

INS Sunayna participated in the capacity-building exercise, Operation Southern Readiness, conducted by [Combined Maritime Forces \(CMF\)](#) at Seychelles from 24-27 September 2022. This is the first that

Indian Naval Ships have participated in the CMF exercise. The joint training exercise was attended by delegations from the US, Italy, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, and participation by ships from the UK, Spain & India. Demonstrations were conducted on Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS) operations by the Seychelles Special forces with close support from the Indian Naval team.

INS Tarkash visits Port Gentil, Gabon

INS Tarkash, on deployment in the [Gulf of Guinea](#) for anti-piracy control, visited Port Gentil, Gabon from 24-27 September 2022. This marks the first-ever visit by any Indian Naval Ship to Gabon. Lectures and demonstrations on damage control and fire-fighting, diving and casualty evacuation were conducted by the Indian Navy. Community interactions, including yoga sessions, were conducted by the ship's crew.

Bangladesh Navy visits Southern Naval Command

An eight-member delegation from the Bangladesh Navy Operational Sea Training Group (BNOSTG) visited Headquarters Sea Training, [Southern Naval Command](#), Kochi. Interactive sessions and classes on seamanship, firefighting, damage control, first aid and safety at sea were conducted as part of the orientation training.

South Korean naval ships visit Chennai

[Republic of Korea \(ROK\) Navy](#) Cruise Training Task Group consisting of two naval ships, ROKS Hansando and ROKS Daecheong arrived in Chennai on 28 September 2022 for a four-day goodwill visit. The ships started their 110-day voyage on 2 September 2022 and will cover 10 ports of nine countries in the Indo-Pacific region.

'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.'