



# DEFENCE NEWS

15 MAR 2023



**Ms. Droupadi Murmu**  
The President of India  
(Supreme Commander of  
The Armed Forces of India)



**Sh. Rajnath Singh**  
Defence Minister



**GEN Manoj Pande,**  
PVSM, AVSM, VSM , ADC  
Chief of the Army Staff



**Admiral Radhakrishnan Hari  
Kumar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC**  
Chief of the Naval Staff



**Air Marshal V R Chaudhari,**  
Chief of the Air Staff

❖ Defence procurement from foreign sources has reduced from 46% of the overall expenditure in 2018-19 to 36.7% till December 2022.

❖ Indian government has set a target of achieving defence manufacturing worth Rs 1,75,000 crore, including defence exports of Rs 35,000 crore by 2024-25. Minister of state for Defence Ajay Bhatt said.

❖ The defence ministry sealed a deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to procure six Dornier-228 at a cost of Rs 667 crore for the Indian Air Force. The addition of the six aircraft will further bolster the operational capability of the IAF in remote areas.



❖ **ADVANCED TOWED ARTILLERY GUN SYSTEMS** : The Ministry of Defence received a proposal from the Indian Army to buy 310 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) for deployment along the borders with China and Pakistan, marking a significant step towards 'Make-in-India' in the defense sector. The Indian Army has submitted a proposal worth more than USD 1 billion, which is currently being discussed

❖ **EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME** : Indian Army has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with ABV Regional Cancer Centre and Agartala Government Medical College & GBP Hospital in Tripura to provide cashless and capless medical treatment to Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) beneficiaries and their dependents in the state of Tripura. This will include Assam Rifles ECHS Members at CGHS rates.

#### ❖ **WHAT IS ONE RANK ONE PENSION SCHEME?**

➤ One Rank One Pension (OROP) implies the payment of the same pension to armed forces personnel for the same rank and the same length of service, irrespective of the date of retirement.

➤ Why Ex-servicemen are on strike in Delhi, what is the issue? A petition was submitted by a group of ex-servicemen asking that the Centre be told to order the arrears to be paid in a single instalment.

➤ The Supreme Court, in Feb 2023, pulled up the Ministry of Defence over the delay in payment of arrears of One Rank-One Pension (OROP).

➤ The government has directed Controller General Defence Accounts (CGDA) to disburse all outstanding OROP arrears to the ex-servicemen in a single instalment by March 15 in response to the Supreme Court's criticism of the defence ministry over the delay in OROP payments.

➤ Taking exception to the Defence ministry issuing a communication on January 20 stating that the arrears of 'One Rank, One Pension (OROP) scheme will be paid in four half-yearly instalments, the Supreme Court on 13 Mar 2023 asked the government to withdraw the same.

❖ **Cabinet nod to sign contract with L&T for acquisition of three CADET TRAINING SHIPS** : Union Cabinet has accorded approval to sign a contract with engineering and construction conglomerate Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) for the acquisition of three cadet training ships at an overall cost of Rs 3,108.09 crore. The delivery of ships is anticipated to begin in 2026. These Ships will cater to the training of Officer cadets, including women, at sea after their basic training to meet the future requirements of the Indian Navy.



**Lieutenant General MV Suchindra Kumar has assumed the appointment of the Vice Chief of the Army Staff on 01 Mar 2023**

❖ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on 14 Mar conducted two consecutive successful flight tests of Very Short Range Air Defence System missile. The test flight was conducted at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.

❖ **INDIA'S DEFENCE EXPORTS HAVE INCREASED** to Rs 13,399 crore, while reliance on weapons imports have come down to 36.7 per cent from the earlier 46%.

**AK-203 KALASHNIKOV RIFLES IN ARMY :** The long-pending project to manufacture over six lakh AK-203 Kalashnikov rifles at the Korwa ordnance factory in Amethi district of UP has kicked off. Kalashnikov AK-203 rifles for Indian armed forces are currently under manufacturing and testing stage at an Indo-Russian joint venture at Korwa in Uttar Pradesh. The AK-203 is a Russian gas-operated, magazine-fed, select fire assault rifle designed to chamber the 7.62×39mm cartridge. It is one of the latest iterations of the AK series of assault rifles originally designed by Mikhail Kalashnikov. The AK-203 was developed in the 2010 by Kalashnikov Concern in Russia.

**FIRST WOMAN TO COMMAND AN ARMY BATTALION :** Colonel Geeta Rana from Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers is the first woman to command an army battalion in the Eastern Ladakh region with China after the Indian Army recently approved women officers for command posts.

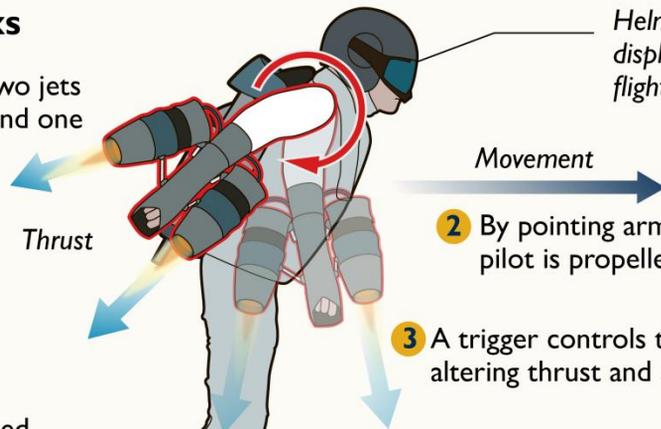


The Indian Army has start testing Jet Pack suits ma by a British company Grav Industries. Army is curren engaged in the evaluation these suits in Agra, collaboration with Richa Browning, the test pilot the suit and the founder Gravity Industries, whi designs these suits.



**How it works**

**1** The suit has two jets on each arm and one on the back



**2** By pointing arms back, the pilot is propelled forward

**3** A trigger controls the throttle, altering thrust and altitude

**3D printed parts include:**

- Nylon-12 printed backpack structure and arm mounts
- Steel rear turbine shroud
- Aluminium turbine housings

**Gravity jetsuit**

- Propulsion Speed
- Max payload
- Flight time
- Fuel type

**Five gas turbine jets**  
**Up to 56mph**  
**95kg**  
**Up to 10 minutes**  
**Diesel, kerosene or jet fuel**

❖ India's Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is in advanced discussions with Argentina and Egypt for the sale of its Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) TEJAS MK-1A. Argentina is interested in acquiring at least 15 aircraft, and Argentine pilots have already tested the fighter jet in India.



Group Captain Shaliza Dhama becomes 1<sup>st</sup> woman Commanding Officer in IAF

Indian Air Force has selected Group Captain Shaliza Dhama to take over command of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector. Group Captain Dhama was commissioned in the year 2003 as a Helicopter pilot and has over 2800 hours of flying experience. A Qualified Flying Instructor, she has served as Flight Commander of a Helicopter Unit in the Western sector.

❖ Indian Air force cycling team participated in a Cycling Race organised by Air Force of Sri Lanka. The three-day Cycling Race of 395 kilometres was held to commemorate the 72nd Air Force Day in Sri Lanka.



**MiG-21 :** The formidable Mikhoayan Gurevich MiG-21 fighter has completed 60 years with Indian Air Force. The country's first supersonic fighter gave India the upper edge and helped it win three wars against Pakistan.

❖ Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) recently approved a new variant of the Hindustan 228-201 LW aircraft developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It has a maximum take-off weight of 5695kgs with 19 passenger seating capacity. The aircraft would fall in the Sub-5700 kg aircraft category.

**EXERCISE CHETAK CHAUKAS** : Indian Army's Chetak Corps conducted Exercise Chetak Chaukas focusing on planning, preparation, familiarisation & updation of the database with all stakeholders to strengthen Rear Area Security.

**MILITARY EXERCISE FRINJEX-23** : The maiden Joint Military Exercise FRINJEX-23 between Indian Army and French Army was conducted at Pangode Military Station, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 07<sup>th</sup> and 08<sup>th</sup> March 2023. It is for the first time armies of both the nations are engaging in this format with each contingent comprising of a Company Group each from the Thiruvananthapuram based Indian Army troops and French 6th Light Armoured Brigade.

**INDIAN MILITARY EXERCISES**

The Indian military exercises can be segregated into 3 categories:

- (a) Domestic exercise
- (b) Bilateral Exercise
- (c) Multilateral exercise

**(a) Domestic exercise** – This exercise aims to improve internal engagements and there can be inter-services or intra-services depending on nature and its application.

List of military domestic exercises:

- Gandiv Vijay
- Paschim Lehar
- Vayu Shakti
- Vijay Prahar

**(c) Multilateral exercise** – These exercises are conducted by the military including more than one partner nation.

Multilateral exercise	No of Participating countries
RIMPAC	26
MALABAR	3
COBRA-GOLD	Asia – Pacific countries
Samvedna	South Asian Region Nations

**(b) Bilateral exercise** – These exercises are conducted between two countries. The following table provides you with a list of important Indian bilateral army exercises.

Exercise Name	Participant Nations
Sampriti	India & Bangladesh
Mitra Shakti	India & Sri Lanka
Maitree Exercise	India & Thailand
Vajra Prahar	India & US
Yudh Abhyas	India & US
Nomadic Elephant	India & Mongolia
Garuda Shakti	India & Indonesia
Shakti Exercise	India & France
Dharma Guardian	India & Japan
Surya Kiran	India & Nepal
Hand in Hand Exercise	India & China
SIMBEX	India & Singapore
Shakti Exercise	India & France
CORPAT	India & Thailand

❖ **DHARMA GUARDIAN** : The joint Army exercise between India and Japan, Dharma Guardian, the Indian Army participated in Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with the Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF). The air exercise has been conducted from March 1 to 2, 2023. Dharma Guardian. The annual exercise has been conducted in India since 2018. The 4th edition of the Exercise 'Dharma Guardian' between India and Japan is being held from February 13 to March 2 at Komatsu, Japan.

❖ **ARMY INSTALLED J&K'S STEEP DODA DISTRICT'S TALLEST ICONIC NATIONAL FLAG** : Army erected the tallest "Iconic National Banner". The highest tricolour in the Doda district, which has been erected on a 100-foot pole, was unfurled by Maj Gen Ajay Kumar, GOC Delta Force.

❖ **EXERCISE DESERT FLAG VIII** is set to be organized from February 27 to March 17 this year. It is a multilateral air exercise involving the participation of UAE, France, Kuwait, Australia, the UK, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, the Republic of Korea, and the US

**FIRST EDITION OF NAVAL COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE OF 2023** commenced at sea aboard indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant; Navy Chief Admiral H Hari Kumar attend it. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh addressed 1st edition of Naval Commanders' Conference 2023 onboard India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, INS Vikrant.

❖ **INS SAHYADRI** Indian Navy's guided missile frigate INS Sahyadri joined two frontline warships of France in carrying out a two-day maritime partnership exercise in the Arabian Sea on March 11 and 12. Indian Navy's indigenously built guided missile frigate, INS Sahyadri participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Navy (FN) ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the Arabian Sea.

❖ The Defence Ministry has signed a contract of over 900 crore rupees for the Normal Refit of Sindhukirti Submarine at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam to achieve Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

❖ **BRAHMOS SUPERSONIC CRUISE MISSILES:** Indian Navy is going to place orders for acquiring more than 200 BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles which would be equipped on all the frontline warships of the maritime force. The Indo-Russian joint venture company has recently carried out test firings of the missile with a high level of indigenous content and is also going to equip the missile with an indigenous seeker too.



The BrahMos has been developed as a joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India and the Federal State Unitary Enterprise NPO Mashinostroyeniya (NPOM) of Russia as BrahMos Aerospace via an inter-government agreement. BRAHMOS is a universal long range supersonic cruise missile system that can be launched from land, sea and air. The system has been designed with two variants for Anti-Ship and Land-Attack roles. BrahMos is a two-stage missile with a solid propellant booster engine.

**Types :**

- Cruise missile
- Air-launched cruise missile
- Anti-ship missile
- Land-attack missile
- Surface-to-surface missile
- Submarine-launched cruise missile

❖ **TROPEX-23** : The Indian Navy's exercise, called the "Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise for 2023" (TROPEX-23), culminated in the Arabian Sea after running for four months from November 2022 to March 2023. The theatre-level exercise was conducted over a period of four months from November 2022 to March 2023. TROPEX-23 involving 70 ships, 6 submarines, over 75 aircraft.

TROPEX is being conducted in many phases to test Navy's transition from peacetime to hostilities. In the first phase, the Indian Navy had conducted coastal defence exercise 'Sea Vigil' along the entire coastline and Island territories of India on 12-13 January 2021. The exercise witnessed large-scale participation from Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police of 13 coastal States and Union Territories along with other stakeholders in the maritime domain..



❖ **MULTILATERAL EXERCISE LA PEROUSE** : On March 13 and 14, 2023, the Indian Ocean Area will host the third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse. The Royal Australian Navy, French Navy, Indian Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force, Royal Navy, and United States Navy will all have people, ships, and essential helicopters participating in this event. Every two years exercise La Perouse, an exercise run by the French Navy, aims to improve maritime domain awareness and maritime cooperation among the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region.

❖ **FUZE YDB-60:** The Indian Navy has received the first fully indigenized fuze YDB-60 for the underwater anti-submarine warfare rocket RGB-60. Fuze is part of the weapon or ammunition that initiates its function. In torpedoes, the function is to explode. Fuze may have electronic or mechanical parts. The range of RGB-60 is 300m to 5,500m.



❖ **Australian PM Anthony Albanese India visit:** A guard of honour was given to Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on indigenous INS Vikrant by Indian Navy in Mumbai. Albanese is on a 4-day visit to the country on 09 Mar 2023.

❖ Indian Navy ALH, on a routine sortie off Mumbai, met with an accident close to the coast on 08 Mar 2023. Three personnel on board made an emergency landing, and were rescued by a naval patrol aircraft.

❖ The Indian Navy has successfully undertaken Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) firing from INS Visakhapatnam validating capability to engage Anti Ship Missiles in 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Mar 2023. The MRSAM was jointly developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Israeli Aerospace Industries at Bharat Dynamics Limited.

❖ **HTT-40 BASIC TRAINER AIRCRAFT** : The Union Cabinet recently approved the procurement of 70 HTT-40 Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) at the cost of Rs. 6,828.36 crores. These aircraft will be supplied over a period of 6 years to address the Indian Air Force's shortage of basic trainer aircraft for the newly inducted pilots. This procurement is expected to provide direct jobs for over 1,500 personnel. It will also provide indirect employment opportunities for up to 3,000 people in more than 100 MSMEs. HTT-40 or Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 is a trainer aircraft developed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). It is being manufactured at facilities in Nashik and Bengaluru. It contains over 56 per cent of indigenous content.



❖ **54TH RAISING DAY CELEBRATIONS OF CISF** : Union Minister Amit Shah to take part in 54th Raising Day Celebrations of CISF at National Industrial Security Academy (NISA) in Hyderabad. The **National Industrial Security Academy** (commonly abbreviated as **NISA**) is an institution of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) for training in industrial security and disaster management. The academy is situated in a 237-acre (96 ha) campus at Hakimpet, Medchal-Malkajgiri District, on the outskirts of Hyderabad, Telangana. CISF established in 1990 in its present form, the academy imparts basic induction training to the directly recruited and promoted through departmental examinations assistant commandants and sub-inspectors, as well as provides professional and specialised courses for the personnel of CISF, other Central Armed Police Forces, state police, and public sector undertakings in India.



❖ **RESERVATION FOR AGNIVEER**: Centre declares 10% reservation for ex-Agniveers in vacancies within BSF.

❖ **84TH RAISING DAY CELEBRATIONS OF CRPF**: A team of 75 CRPF female bikers will embark on a 1,848 km-long journey from Delhi to the Naxal-affected area of Chhattisgarh as part of the International Women's Day celebrations. The journey will start on March 9 and end on March 25. CRPF will celebrate its 84th Raising Day celebrations in Jagdalpur on March 25.

The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** is a federal police organisation in India under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) of the Government of India. It is one among the Central Armed Police Forces. The CRPF's primary role lies in assisting the State/Union Territories in police operations to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency. It is composed of Central Reserve Police Force (Regular) and Central Reserve Police Force (Auxiliary). It came into existence as the Crown Representative's Police on 27 July 1939. After Indian independence, it became the Central Reserve Police Force on enactment of the CRPF Act on 28 December 1949. The mission of the Central Reserve Police Force shall be to enable the government to maintain Rule of Law, Public Order and Internal Security effectively and efficiently to preserve National Integrity & Promote Social Harmony and Development by upholding supremacy of the Constitution. The CRPF guarded the India-Pakistan Border until 1965, at which point the Border Security Force was created for that purpose.



**Director General, CRP :**  
**Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaisen, IPS,**

**CHINA ANNOUNCED ITS DEFENCE BUDGET FOR 2023.** China is the second biggest spender on defence next to the US whose defence budget for 2023 totalled USD 816 billion. From India's point of view, however, China's defence budget continued to be over three times higher. India's defence budget for 2023-24 amounted to Rs 5.94 lakh crore (about USD 72.6 billion).