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**Press Information Bureau**  
Government of India

**Ministry of Defence**

*Sun, 07 Apr 2024*

## **Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan to Chair Maiden ‘Parivartan Chintan’, a Tri-Service Conference on Jointness & Integration**

Parivartan Chintan, a pioneering Tri-Service Conference aimed at generating new and fresh ideas, initiatives and reforms to propel Jointness and Integration efforts, is being held in New Delhi on 08 Apr 2024. A day long discussions will be chaired by Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan.

With the Indian Armed Forces having embarked on a major transformative change in their quest to be ready for the envisaged future wars, initiatives are being undertaken to promote Jointness and Integration as structures are modified to enable Tri- Service multi domain operations.

The ‘Chintan’ will be the first ever conference of the Heads of all Tri- Services Institutions, the Department of Military Affairs, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff and the three Services, with officers from varied service brackets, through their diverse understanding and experience, recommending measures to achieve the desired “Joint and Integrated” end state with celerity.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2017350>



**Press Information Bureau**  
Government of India

**Ministry of Defence**

*Fri, 05 Apr 2024*

## **CDS Gen Anil Chauhan Underscores Need for Military Leaders to Adapt to Changing Character of War**

**Chief of Defence Staff addresses officers undergoing 79th Staff Course at DSSC, Wellington**

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan has highlighted the need for Military Leaders to adapt to the changing character of war and underscored the importance of inter services synergy. He was addressing Future Leaders of the Indian Armed Forces at Defence Services Staff College,

Wellington on 05 April 2024. In his address, the CDS dwelled on the transformative reforms undertaken in the Indian military in the backdrop of emerging security challenges. The CDS was briefed by the Commandant on the ongoing training activities at the College wherein due emphasis was laid on fostering jointmanship and inter services awareness, which was well appreciated.

The 79th Staff Course is presently underway at the College. The course is of 45 weeks duration. The present course comprises of 476 student officers to include 36 students from 26 Friendly Foreign Countries. For the first time, eight Women Officers are also participating in the course.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2017266>



**Press Information Bureau**  
**Government of India**

**Ministry of Defence**

*Sat, 06 Apr 2024*

## **INS Sharda Awarded on the Spot Unit Citation for Anti Piracy Operations**

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, during his visit to Southern Naval Command, Kochi, awarded 'On the Spot Unit Citation' to INS Sharda for successful conduct of anti-piracy operations. The ship was involved in the safe release of all 19 crew members (11 Iranian & 08 Pakistani) of Iranian fishing vessel Omari which was held hostage by pirates off East coast of Somalia. The ship was tasked to investigate the Iranian fishing vessel Omari that was likely hijacked by pirates. Based on surveillance inputs of naval RPA, the ship intercepted the vessel and maintained a covert trail throughout the night. During early morning hours of 02 Feb 24, the ship's integral helo and subsequently Prahar team was launched. The aggressive posture of ship coerced the pirates to safely release the crew and boat. The swift and decisive actions of the ship resulted in rescue of hijacked fishing vessel and its crew from Somali pirates. The relentless effort of the ship, mission deployed for anti-piracy operations saved precious lives at sea upholding Indian Navy's resolve to enhancing security and safety of seafarers in the Indian Ocean Region.

The CNS interacted with Team Sharda and commended them for responding to piracy attack with alacrity leading to safe and successful conduct of operations at sea under challenging conditions. During his address, he complimented the professional approach of crew which resulted in recognition and acclaim of Indian Navy as the preferred security partner in the region.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2017331>

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

*Sun, 07 Apr 2024*

## **IAF Conducts Landing Drills of Fighter Aircraft on Agra e-Way**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on Saturday conducted a special landing exercise of fighter aircraft on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Unnao. The special landing drill was conducted as part of IAF's Mission Gagan Shakti-2024 exercise.

Through this exercise, the aircraft operations showcased the growing infrastructure prowess of India. The aim of the exercise was real time coordination, deployment and employment of air power in a short and intense battle scenario. The series of landings took place close to Bangarmau in Unnao district, where a 3-km concrete stretch was specially prepared for such operations. About 15 fighter planes were seen practising special landing, touching the Expressway and then taking off again. Apart from the Army and the administration officials, a large number of common people were also seen standing on either side of the Expressway to witness the spectacular display of the fighter aircraft. All these fighter jets traced the location of the air strip and went to Bakshi Talab Lucknow Air Force station.

The exercise started at around 1:30 pm on Saturday in which 6 Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter planes passed close to the runway of the airstrip with a loud roaring noise and turned towards Lucknow. After this, four Mirage 2000 fighter planes roared over the air strip and again the same planes returned and passed over the air strip one by one.

Finally, five AN-32 aircrafts took turns taking off from 10 feet above the runway. From the officials' pandal, information with regard to aircraft features were provided by the announcers to the audience through loudspeakers. This exercise will continue on Sunday also, and the remaining fighter aircraft are likely to participate in it. Locals from nearby villages, who had assembled in huge numbers to watch the exercise as part of Gagan Shakti Exercise 2024, were prevented 500 metres before the site. Arrangements were made on the site for a Mobile Air Traffic Control, Radar Control, Meteorological Facility, Aerospace Safety and Security Control. Moreover, to deal with any situation, crash, firefighting, rescue and medical teams were positioned. The IAF sought assistance from the state government authorities for temporary closure of the Expressway and other matters like crowd control, etc. A large number of police personnel were stationed along the stretch to ensure smooth conduct of operations.

Over the past few years, IAF has been increasing its efforts to utilise certain straight stretches of National Highways for emergency landings. Such highway stretches are planned to be used in emergencies, if an active airport is not available for some reason. These operations increase the flexibility in the use of air power. In addition, use of transport aircraft for quick insertion of forces for human assistance and disaster relief into civil areas and special forces in case of contingencies has been validated.

Arvind Kumar, Circle Officer Bangarmau, said the nodal officer for the fighter aircraft practice program, throughout the exercise kept removing the spectators from the service road along with the help of police force. Sub-divisional magistrate Namrata Singh took care of the security arrangements by patrolling around the pandal and the service road.

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kanpur/iaf-conducts-landing-drills-of-fighter-aircraft-on-agra-e-way/articleshow/109098186.cms>

# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Sun, 07 Apr 2024

## **Two Indian Navy Warships Being Built in Russia, to be Commissioned by Year-end**

Two Indian Navy warships being built in Russia are likely to be commissioned by the end of this year, after getting delayed due to the Russia-Ukraine war there.

The first warship would be known as INS Tushil, while the other one would be INS Tamal after commissioning.

The stealth frigates are being built as part of the Tushil class warships, which are follow-ons of the six warships of the Talwar class and its follow on frigates.

A team of the Indian Navy, including personnel from the Chief of Material Directorate, had recently visited the shipyard in Russia, where the frigates are being built and inspected the project, the defence officials told ANI.

The work is now progressing at a good pace and the first warship has also been launched for sea trials, which are being carried out by the Russian Navy.

The two warships are expected to be commissioned by August and December this year, respectively, they said.

The ongoing conflict in that region created many issues for the project, including the fitment of the Ukrainian engine on the frigate being built in Russia.

Moreover, the workforce from Indian naval shipyards was sent there to fit the engines on the warship, the officials said. The first ship is now undergoing trials in Russian waters and is expected to be ready soon for delivery to the Indian Navy for acceptance trials.

Additionally, the Indian team is expected to be there soon.

The other two warships of the series being built with Russian support at Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) in India, are also moving ahead.

The GSL is expected to launch the first warship for trials in the near future and the delivery is planned to be completed by the middle of 2026.

Furthermore, the GSL has expanded its facilities and received supplies for the warships.

The project to build the warships in the Russian and Indian shipyards was cleared during the tenure of the late Manohar Parrikar as Defence Minister.

The work on the project was also delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, when almost all the military programmes were facing supply chain issues.

The two warships being built in Russia are expected to be the last Indian surface vessels to be built in foreign shipyards, as the Indian Navy's present and future leadership is promoting self reliance in defence and giving jobs to Indian shipyards and workers.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/two-indian-navy-warships-being-built-in-russia-to-be-commissioned-by-year-end/articleshow/109108842.cms>

# ThePrint

*Mon, 08 Apr 2024*

## **India Receives Fresh Batch of Igla-S Air Defence System from Russia, to be Deployed at LAC**

The Indian Army has received the first batch of 24 Russia-made Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), along with 100 missiles, as part of a larger deal which will see the rest being made in India, ThePrint has learnt.

The system is being procured to shore up Indian Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) capabilities.

Sources in the defence establishment said that while the Army did induct a very small number (24 launchers and 216 missiles) of Igla-S as part of emergency procurement in 2021, this is a larger order. The Igla-S system consists of a single launcher and a missile. India signed the contract with Russia in November last year for 120 launchers and 400 missiles.

While the first batch has come from Russia, the rest of these systems will be made in India through Transfer of Technology (ToT) from Russia by an Indian company.

The Igla-S systems are under procurement for the new authorised air defence formations for high mountainous terrain along the northern border. Sources said one regiment has received these systems, and a few more will get them as deliveries take shape.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for VSHORADs was issued in 2010 under the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, after which the selection process began.

Later in 2018, Russia's Rosoboronexport-manufactured Igla-S won a competitive bid as the lowest bidder (L1) over France's MBDA-manufactured infrared homing short-range air defence system Mistral and Sweden's SAAB-manufactured RBS 70 NG.

At the time, the other two contenders sent protest letters to the Indian Ministry of Defence and alleged rigging as they felt the Russian system failed to meet technical requirements.

MANPADS are portable surface-to-air missile systems and air defence units in high mountainous regions use MANPADS to neutralise low-altitude aerial threats such as aircraft, drones, and missiles.

The Indian Army already operates the Igla-1M systems, which need urgent replacement.

In 2012, then Army staff chief General (retd.) V.K. Singh wrote to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh that nearly 97 percent of the air defence was obsolete. The letter said the existing air defence systems failed at "effectively protecting against enemy air attacks".

The order for Igla-S would fulfil the current requirement of the Army for such systems.

Once that happens, the Army will replace the older Igla systems with advanced laser-beam riding and infrared VSHORADS. The contract for the same is likely to be finalised soon.

In February this year, the Defence Research and Development Organisation conducted two flight tests of indigenous VSHORADS missiles from a ground-based portable launcher.

<https://theprint.in/defence/india-receives-fresh-batch-of-igla-s-air-defence-system-from-russia-to-be-deployed-at-lac/2031688/>

## **Business Standard**

*Fri, 05 Apr 2024*

### **Indian Army Plans Aggressor Red Team, Test-bed Units in Modernisation Drive**

Senior commanders will explore the feasibility of setting up a new organisation that will function as an "adversarial force" to enhance the Indian Army's combat capabilities in the face of future security challenges.

The proposed adversarial force is similar to the concept of an opposing force followed by some foreign militaries, which calls for a military unit that is tasked with representing an enemy force during training exercises and war games. A number of air forces also employ aggressor squadrons for the same purpose.

"To ensure realistic wargaming and training, the feasibility of creating a tailor-made organisation to function as an adversarial force will be explored," said an official release from the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Thursday.

To ensure the induction and absorption of niche technologies for the development of futuristic capabilities, with a focus on 'Atmanirbharta' (self-reliance), the Army's top brass also decided to bring in organisational and procedural transformations in the 1.2-million-strong force.

At the Army Commanders' conference in Delhi, the commanders decided to revise the Indian Army's human resource management policy to facilitate the absorption of niche technology with matching training infrastructure "The revised policy will be more innovative towards meeting the requirements of a technology-enabled, future-ready Indian Army," the MoD statement said.

The conference concluded in Delhi on Tuesday, while calling for a greater impetus to the ongoing transformation in the forces. The biannual event was held in a hybrid format. It commenced with a virtual session chaired by Army Chief General Manoj Pande on March 28. This was followed by in-person discussions on April 1 and 2. The conference was also addressed by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar, and Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.

It was also decided that to become self-reliant while still developing futuristic capabilities, the innovation potential of the Army Design Bureau will be augmented. Separate cells of the bureau are also being established at command headquarters.

"This is aimed at empowering Command Headquarters, formations and unit commanders in facilitating greater outreach to the industry and identification and trials of niche technology," said the release.

The MoD said that to further bolster the initiative, the option of creating a separate fund head will be explored. Test-bed brigades or formations will also be nominated to ensure greater efficiency and continuity in weapons trials and the finalisation of their reports.

"To ensure lifetime support (for defence equipment), future procurements will include aspects catering for holistic sustenance requirements during the contract finalisation stage," it said.

In January, Army Chief General Manoj Pande had said that the Army Design Bureau is involved in close to 350 design, research and development projects, which will involve a cost of about Rs 1.8 trillion. These projects are being pursued with the help of about 450 industries, including the Defence Research and Development Organisation. General Pande had pointed out that almost 100 per cent of the Army's procurements in the future would be through the indigenous route, adding that this was also the case last year.

The Indian Army will be observing 2024 as the "Year of Technology Absorption" as it tries to transform into a more modern force built on home-grown weapons and systems.

During the conference, the Army's commanders also decided to explore more opportunities to collaborate with other ministries to optimally utilise resources and create synergy with the aim of enhanced capability building and infrastructure development in border areas.

During the two-day deliberations in Delhi, the Army leadership brainstormed on a wide array of security-related issues, including the ongoing transformation initiatives, leveraging technology and



innovation for developing capabilities, enhancing operational preparedness, and addressing emerging security issues.

The commanders also discussed the current and emerging security landscape, contemporary subjects affecting the Army, and human resource management aspects affecting serving personnel, their families and the veteran community.

"The necessity to align the training with technological advancements to harness the innovation potential of the Indian defence industry was also emphasised," the MoD release said, adding, "The senior leadership reviewed the progress made on the ongoing transformative initiatives and future thrust areas were identified. The commanders expressed their satisfaction with the steady pace of achieving 'Atmanirbharta' in line with the national resolve."

In his address at the conference on Tuesday, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh reaffirmed the nation's trust in the Indian Army.

Singh called on the Army's leadership to constantly review doctrinal, structural, and organisational reforms to meet future challenges.

He also called on the leadership to invest in human capital by adhering to the traditions and principles of mutual respect, loyalty, and discipline.

[https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/indian-army-plans-aggressor-red-team-test-bed-units-in-modernisation-drive-124040500979\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/indian-army-plans-aggressor-red-team-test-bed-units-in-modernisation-drive-124040500979_1.html)

## THE ECONOMIC TIMES

Sun, 07 Apr 2024

### **Israel Prepared to Handle any Iran Scenario, Defence Chief Says**

Israel's defence minister said on Sunday that the country was ready to handle any scenario after Iran threatened to retaliate for the killing of Iranian generals on April 1.

An Iranian official said on Sunday that Israeli embassies were not safe, and a semi-official news agency published a graphic showing weapons that it said would be capable of striking Israel.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant's office made the statement about preparedness after he held an "operational situation assessment" with senior military officers.

"Upon completing the assessment, Minister Gallant emphasized that the defense establishment has completed preparations for responses in the event of any scenario that may develop vis-a-vis Iran," his office said.

Iran has threatened to respond to a suspected Israeli strike in Damascus that killed seven Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps members, among them a senior commander.

A senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader, Yahya Rahim Safavi, said on Sunday that none of Israel's embassies were safe anymore and that Tehran viewed confrontation with Israel as a "legitimate and legal right."

Iran's semi-official ISNA news agency published a graphic on Sunday that it said showcased nine different types of Iranian missiles it says are capable of hitting Israel. Israel has not confirmed it was behind the strike on Damascus. Its leaders have said in more general terms that they are

operating against Iran, which backs militant groups Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both of which have been in combat with Israel for the past six months.

The United States is also on high alert and preparing for a possible attack by Iran targeting Israeli or American assets in the region.

Israel, Argentine and U.S. authorities have blamed Iran for being behind the 1994 deadly bombing of a Jewish centre in Argentina's capital, which killed 85 people and for which Tehran denied any involvement.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/israel-prepared-to-handle-any-iran-scenario-defence-chief-says/articleshow/109111506.cms>

## Business Standard

Sat, 06 Apr 2024

### US, Japan, Oz and Philippines to Stage Military Drills in S China Sea

The United States, Japan, Australia and the Philippines will hold their first joint naval exercises, including anti-submarine warfare training, in a show of force Sunday in the South China Sea where Beijing's aggressive actions to assert its territorial claims have caused alarm.

The four treaty allies and security partners are holding the exercises to safeguard the rule of law that is the foundation for a peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific region and uphold freedom of navigation and overflight, they said in a joint statement issued by their defence chiefs Saturday.

China was not mentioned by name in the statement, but the four countries reaffirmed their stance that a 2016 international arbitration ruling, which invalidated China's expansive claims on historical grounds, was final and legally binding.

China has refused to participate in the arbitration, rejected the ruling and continues to defy it. The Philippines brought its disputes with China to international arbitration in 2013 after a tense sea standoff.

There was no immediate comment by China.

Last year, the Chinese Foreign Ministry warned against military exercises involving the United States and its allies in the disputed waters harming its security and territorial interests.

"We stand with all nations in safeguarding the international order based on the rule of law that is the foundation for a peaceful and stable Indo-Pacific region, the four nations said but did not provide specific details of the military drills, called the Maritime Cooperative Activity.

Japan said in a statement, issued by its embassy in Manila, that it would deploy its destroyer, the JS Akebono, for the South China Sea exercises, which would include anti-submarine warfare training and other military maneuvers.

"Japan believes that the issue concerning the South China Sea is directly related to the peace and stability of the region and is a legitimate concern of the international community including Japan, Australia, the Philippines, and the United States, Japan's Defence Minister Minoru Kihara said in the statement.

"Japan opposes any unilateral changes to the status quo by force, such attempts as well as any actions that increase tensions in the South China Sea, he said.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a separate statement the exercises underscore our shared commitment to ensuring that all countries are free to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows."

Australian Defence Minister Richard Marles said respect for national sovereignty and agreed rules and norms based on international law underpin the stability of our region.

Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. said the military drills on Sunday would be the first in a series of activities to build the Philippines' capacity for individual and collective self-defence."

Aside from China and the Philippines, the long-simmering disputes in the South China Sea, a key global trade route, also involve Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan. But skirmishes between Beijing and Manila have particularly flared since last year.

Washington lays no claims to the strategic seaway but has repeatedly warned that it's obligated to defend its longtime treaty ally the Philippines if Filipino forces, ships and aircraft come under an armed attack, including in the South China Sea.

China has warned the US not to intervene in the disputes, which have sparked fears of an escalation into a major conflict that could involve the two world powers.

Japan has separate territorial disputes with China over East China Sea islands. Increasing tensions in the disputed waters would be high on the agenda when President Joe Biden hosts his Japanese and Philippine counterparts in a summit at the White House next week.

In the latest hostilities last month, the Chinese coast guard used water cannons that injured a Filipino admiral and four of his navy personnel and heavily damaged their wooden supply boat near the Second Thomas Shoal.

The cannon blast was so strong it threw a crewman off the floor but he hit a wall instead of plunging into the sea, Philippine military officials said.

The Philippine government summoned a Chinese embassy diplomat in Manila to convey its strongest protest against China. Beijing accused the Philippine vessels of intruding into Chinese territorial waters, warning Manila not to play with fire and saying China would continue to take actions to defend its sovereignty.

[https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/us-japan-aus-philippines-to-stage-military-drills-in-south-china-sea-124040600246\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/external-affairs-defence-security/news/us-japan-aus-philippines-to-stage-military-drills-in-south-china-sea-124040600246_1.html)

## Science & Technology News



Mon, 08 Apr 2024

### **Total Solar Eclipse Today: ISRO's Aditya-L1 to Track Sun During 'Darkness'**

India's solar probe Aditya L1 will track the behaviour and rays of the Sun on Monday, April 8, during the total solar eclipse. During this time, the Sun will briefly get completely cloaked by the Moon, creating a moment of complete darkness in several countries.

During the total solar eclipse on April 8, the Sun, Moon and the Earth will align in a straight line, leading to darkness during the daytime as the Moon will block the Sun completely. The Sun will remain cloaked for a total of four minutes, during which its enigmatic outer layer will be illuminated.

Aditya L1, which is the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) maiden solar mission, is in a position to track the Sun during the total solar eclipse. This will help the ISRO further study the chromosphere and corona of the star.

Aditya-L1 reached the Lagrange Point 1 (L1 point) earlier this year on January 6, four months after it was launched. The mission is loaded with six instruments as it tracks and observes the Sun from the Lagrange Point, which is 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth.

Aditya L1 will use two of its six instruments to track the Sun during the solar eclipse. These two instruments are the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) and the Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT).

During this eclipse, the corona (outer layer) of the Sun will be briefly visible from Earth as the moon blocks the star. The corona, otherwise, is not visible from the Earth.

The Aditya L1 mission aims to deepen our understanding of the impact of solar phenomena, including the solar corona and photosphere. It also studies the impact of the solar winds and related radiations.

### **Total solar eclipse on April 8**

The total solar eclipse will happen when the Moon passes between the Sun and Earth, completely blocking the face of the Sun. The areas located in the middle of the moon's shadow will experience a moment of complete darkness during the daytime. During this time, the Sun's corona will be briefly visible from Earth.

The total eclipse will be visible from parts of North America, including Mexico, the United States and Canada. The major cities from where it will be visible are Dallas, Little Rock, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Buffalo and Burlington. The first solar eclipse of 2024 will not be visible from India.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/science/total-solar-eclipse-today-april-8-2024-isros-aditya-l1-to-track-the-sun-during-darkness-101712535333181.html>

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