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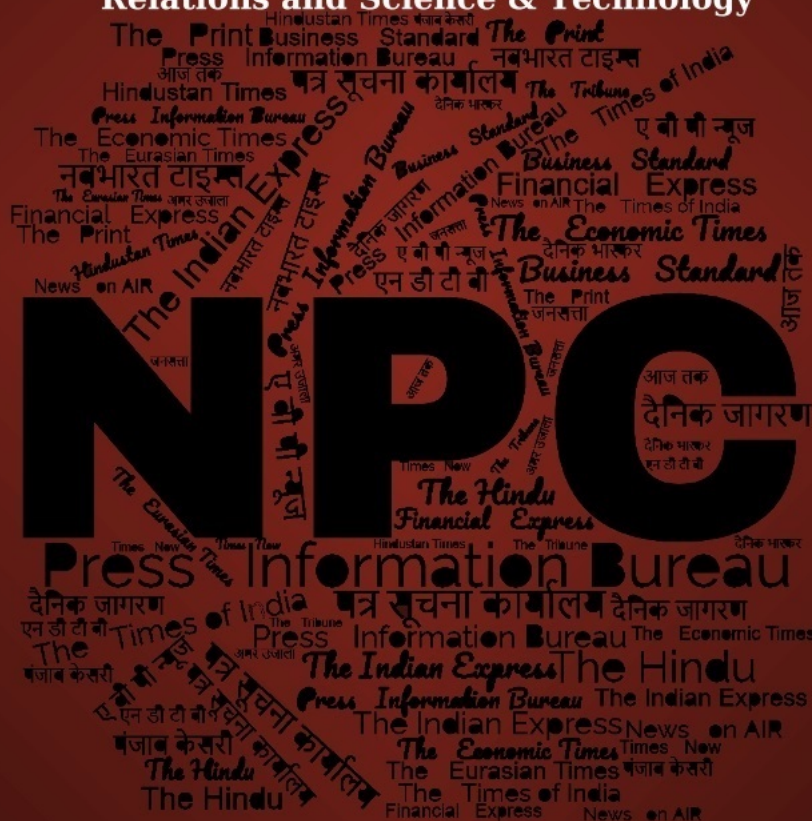
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Defence News

Women's inclusion in armed forces a priority, says Rajnath

Source: The Hindu, Dt. 04 Aug 2025

Women's inclusion in armed forces a priority, says Rajnath

Officials highlight expanding opportunities for women across all three armed services; as per data, women make up 13.4% of IAF, 6.85% of Army, 6% of Navy, with numbers rising steadily since 2005

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The parliamentary consultative committee on Defence, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was briefed on the representation of women in the armed forces.

Mr. Singh spoke on the government's commitment to provide maximum representation to women in the forces.

As per the data from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), women form 13.4% of the Indian Air force workforce – the highest among all three services – while they make up 6.85% of the Army's workforce and 6% of the Navy's.

In 2024, there were a total of 1,735 women in the Army, 1,614 in the Air Force, and 674 in the Navy.



According to data, 13.4% women constitute the Indian Air force workforce, the highest among all three services. EMMANUAL YOGINI

In 2005, the figures were 767, 574, and 154, respectively.

Twelve branches in the Army are open to women officers, including combat. In the Navy, all branches are open for women officers except submarines. All

branches of the Air Force are open for women officers.

More to come

Asked about women's representation in the armed forces, a senior Defence Ministry official said that

they were opening more and more branches for women for all categories. Women are eligible for various roles, including technical and non-technical positions, and can join through different entry schemes. Most of the defence training institutes and academies have been opened for women.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi of the Indian Army, who led the Operation Sindoor briefing along with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh of the Air Force, have become an inspiration for women aiming to join the armed forces.

Another senior defence officer said that women in the armed forces are doing remarkably well and their number is only going to increase in the future as the forces adopt a more gender neutral approach.

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CENJOWS to Launch First Annual Trident Lecture Series in New Delhi

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 03 Aug 2025

To mark its Foundation Day, the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS) will inaugurate the first Annual Trident Lecture Series (ATLS) at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt on August 05, 2025. Anchored on the theme 'Dominating the Future Battlespace', Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan will deliver the inaugural lecture, setting the tone for deliberations on the evolving character of warfare,

technological transformations and the imperative for seamless joint force integration in an increasingly contested strategic environment.

A major highlight of the event will be the release of 'General Bipin Rawat Paper' on 'Manned-Unmanned Teaming', paying tribute to India's first CDS whose vision continues to shape discourse on jointness, force modernisation and integrated doctrines. The programme will also feature addresses by senior military leadership on various topics, including 'Imbibing Indian Heritage Statecraft in Future Warfighting' by the Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff & 'Urgency in Tri-Services Reforms' by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2152132>

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GEN UPENDRA DWIVEDI, CHIEF OF THE ARMY STAFF INAUGURATES 'AGNISHODH' RESEARCH CELL AT IIT MADRAS TO BOOST SELF-RELIANCE IN DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

Source: Press Information Bureau, Dt. 03 Aug 2025

In a landmark step towards Atmanirbharta in defence technology, the Indian Army has joined hands with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras to establish 'Agnishodh', the Indian Army Research Cell (IARC) on the IIT Madras campus. The research facility was formally inaugurated today by General Upendra Dwivedi, Chief of the Army Staff (COAS), during his two-day visit to Chennai.

The initiative is part of the Indian Army's broader transformation framework, guided by the Five Pillars of Transformation articulated by the COAS. Agnishodh specifically advances one of the pillars, Modernisation and Technology Infusion and represents the Indian Army's drive to seamlessly integrate academic research with real-time operational applications.

Addressing a gathering at IIT Madras on the theme "*Operation Sindoor – A New Chapter in India's Fight Against Terrorism*," General Upendra Dwivedi described the operation as a landmark, intelligence-driven response that redefined India's counter-terrorism doctrine. He noted that the 88-hour operation was unprecedented in scale, range, depth, and strategic impact, and was executed across the DIME spectrum. Highlighting the evolving nature of warfare, he underscored that Indian Armed Forces are prepared for fifth-generation conflicts driven by non-contact warfare, strategic tempo, and psychological dominance. Emphasising Indian Army's commitment to self-reliance under "*Swadeshikaran Se Sashaktikaran*," he outlined key collaborations under national technology missions such as INDIAai, Chip-to-Startup, and Project QuILA, with MCTE Mhow as a strategic partner. He appreciated the projects undertaken by Indian Army Cells at IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, and IISc Bengaluru by harnessing academic innovations. Lauding IIT Madras for its excellence in defence research, he said initiatives like *Project SAMBHAV* and additive manufacturing partnerships with Army Base Workshops are setting new benchmarks. He concluded by stating that *AGNISHODH*, the new IITM-Indian Army Research Centre, would transform academic excellence into battlefield innovation, powering India's journey towards *Viksit Bharat 2047*.

The Agnishodh collaboration will further extend into the IIT Madras Research Park, working alongside entities such as the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Development Centre (AMTDC) and Pravartak Technologies Foundation. This will serve as a unique platform to convert lab-scale innovations into field-ready technologies.

Additionally, Agnishodh will play a vital role in upskilling military personnel in key emerging areas including additive manufacturing, cybersecurity, quantum computing, wireless communication, and unmanned aerial systems building a tech-empowered human resource base within the Armed Forces.

General Upendra Dwivedi also visited the Officers Training Academy (OTA), where he was briefed on the academy's infrastructure, modern training methodologies, and initiatives undertaken to prepare future military leaders for contemporary challenges. He lauded the efforts of the instructional staff in fostering excellence and instilling core military values among cadets. During his address, the COAS highlighted the transformative journey of the Indian Army, underlining the changing character of warfare marked by grey zone conflicts, technological democratisation and need for integrated responses. Reflecting on Operation SINDOOR, he stated that the tri-services offensive showcased India's ability to deliver precise, punitive and coordinated action, compelling Pakistan to seek a ceasefire within 88 hours. He emphasised that future conflicts would demand a blend of conventional strength and modern capabilities, where "boots must share space with bots." He reiterated Indian Army's commitment to its 'Decade of Transformation' through various reforms.

The COAS also interacted with a gathering of veterans, acknowledging their enduring contribution to the nation and the Armed Forces. On the occasion, he felicitated four distinguished ex-servicemen with Veteran Achievers Awards, honouring their selfless service and continued commitment to nation-building.

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2152204>

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Operation Sindoor unprecedented in scale : Army Chief

Source: *The Hindu*, Dt. 05 Aug 2025

Operation Sindoor unprecedented in scale: Army chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi has lauded Operation Sindoor as a pivotal, intelligence-driven mission that redefined India's counter-terrorism approach, showcasing the armed forces' capability to address evolving warfare challenges and readiness for fifth-generation conflicts.

He was inaugurating a research facility, Agnishodh, a joint project of the Indian Army Research Cell (IARC) and the IIT, Madras on the campus of the latter on Monday for self-reliance in defence technology.

Addressing a gathering at the IIT on the theme "Operation Sindoor - A new chapter in India's fight against terrorism", General Dwivedi described the operation as a landmark, intelligence-driven response that redefined India's counter-terrorism doctrine.

He noted that the 88-hour operation was unprecedented in scale, range, depth, and strategic impact, and was executed across the DIME spectrum. Highlighting the evolving nature of warfare, he underscored that the Indian armed forces are prepared for fifth-generation conflicts driven by non-contact warfare, strategic tempo, and psychological dominance.



General Upendra Dwivedi

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SAIL supplies special grade steel for INS Ajay, INS Nistar

Source: The Pioneer, Dt. 04 Aug 2025



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भारत - फिलीपींस का अभ्यास, चीन नाराज

Source: The Navbharat Times, Dt. 05 Aug 2025



India- Philippines naval drill in south china sea angers Beijing

Source: The Tribune, Dt. 02 Aug 2025

India-Philippines naval drill in South China Sea angers Beijing

President Marcos kicks off Delhi visit, to hold talks with Modi today

AJAY BANERJEE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4

The Indian and Philippine navies today concluded a two-day maritime exercise in the South China Sea — a move that has drawn sharp criticism from Beijing. China accused the Philippines of “rallying an external force” in disputed waters and conducted a maritime patrol of its own in response.

China is embroiled in territorial disputes with five countries, including the Philippines, over demarcation of boundaries in the hydrocarbon-rich South China Sea.

On August 1, the Indian Navy had announced that the bilateral exercise would focus on joint manoeuvres and communication protocols to enhance preparedness, build mutual trust and strengthen operational synergy in the maritime domain.

Officials in New Delhi today confirmed that the exercise took place in the “West Philippine Sea” — a term used by Manila to assert its claims in parts of the South China Sea and challenge China’s sweeping sovereignty assertions. Indian Navy warships INS Delhi, INS Shakti and INS Kilan participated in the drill.

Reacting strongly, China’s state-run *Global Times* quoted Senior Colonel Tian Junli,



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Philippines President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr during a meeting in New Delhi. PTI

EXERCISE UNDERMINES REGIONAL PEACE

“The Philippines has been rallying an external country (India) to interfere in the South China Sea by organising so-called joint patrols, which undermine regional peace and stability.”

Senior Col Tian Junli, SPOKESPERSON, PLA SOUTHERN THEATRE COMMAND

spokesperson for the PLA Southern Theatre Command, as saying: “The Philippines has been rallying an external country (India) to interfere in the South China Sea by organising so-called joint patrols, which undermine regional peace and stability.”

Tian added that China’s Southern Theatre Command forces remain on high alert to “resolutely defend national sovereignty and maritime rights and interests”.

The India-Philippines naval exercise comes just a day ahead of a scheduled bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr, who arrived in New Delhi today on a four-day state visit. The two leaders are set to meet on August 5 at Hyderabad House, where both sides are expected to sign several MoUs and agreements.

President Marcos Jr met External Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar upon arrival. “Delighted to call on President Marcos of the Philippines this evening in Delhi at the start of his state visit,” Jaishankar said in a post on X.

This is President Marcos Jr’s first official visit to India, and it comes at a time when both nations are seeking to strengthen bilateral ties amid growing Chinese influence in South Asia. He will also meet President Droupadi Murmu and hold discussions with the Union Health Minister.

The Philippines, which is locked in a long-standing maritime standoff with China, procured the BrahMos missile system from India in 2022 and is now exploring further defence acquisitions. Among those under consideration is the Indian-made Akash air defence system, which demonstrated its capabilities during a skirmish with Pakistan. Manila has already deployed the land-based version of BrahMos, designed to strike naval targets.

Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, General Romeo Brawner Jr, was quoted in local media as saying, “We are, in fact, ordering more equipment and weapon systems from India.”

He added that Indian defence hardware is not only of high quality, but also more cost-effective than alternatives from other nations.

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The Tribune
The Statesman
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The Hindu
The Economic Times
Press Information Bureau
The Indian Express
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