CHANAKYA
DEFENCE DIALOGUE™

REFORM TO TRANSFORM
SASHAKT, SURAKSHIT AUR VIKSIT BHARAT
सशक्त, सुरक्षित और विकसित भारत

27-28 NOV 2025 | NEW DELHI



As India moves steadfastly in its pursuit of Viksit Bharat @2047, the Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2025 serves as a key platform to drive meaningful conversations at the intersection of development, security and innovation. Inspired by the wisdom of India's renowned strategist Chanakya, this event unites global leaders, defence experts and policymakers to explore ways to establish geopolitical stability while keeping the focus on India. With various discussions centred around the evolving battlefield, technology and reform, this platform fosters bold ideas, encourages insightful dialogue and generates practical solutions for paving the way for a Sashakt, Surakshit aur Viksit Bharat.

SESSIONS

VENUE : ZORAWAR HALL, MANEKSHAW CENTRE

DATE	TIME (Hr)	SESSION
27th NOV 2025 (DAY 1)	1215 - 1340	SESSION - I Op SINDOOR : A Sovereign Strategic Victory
	1455 - 1610	SESSION - II Changing Status Quo : Vitalising Defence Reforms
	1655 - 1810	SESSION - III Civil Military Fusion : Drivers for Change

DATE	TIME (Hr)	SESSION
28th NOV 2025 (DAY 2)	1230 - 1345	SESSION - IV Battlefield Equalisers : Transforming Technologies for Future Wars
	1510 - 1625	SESSION - V Raksha Vivartan : Transforming into an Integrated, Agile and Modern Force (Military Implications and Lesson Learnt)


DAY
1
27 Nov 2025

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

27th November 2025

Timing	Session/ Topic	Remarks
0830-0915	Arrival of Delegates & Registration	To be seated by 0930
	Inaugural Session	
1030	**Arrival of Hon'ble President of India**	**Received by COAS**
1030-1116	Welcome Address	DG CLAWS
	Screening of CDD Movie	
	Keynote Address	**COAS**
	Special Address by Chief Guest	**Hon'ble President of India**
1120	**Departure of Hon'ble President of India**	
1120-1150	**High Tea**	
1155-1210	**Special Address** Bharat: A Timeless Legacy & Secure Future @2047	**Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog**
1215-1340	**Session 1 - Op SINDOOR: A Sovereign Strategic Victory**	
	Opening Remarks by Chair	**Ms Palki Sharma, Managing Editor, Firstpost & Network18**
	• Redefining Global War on Terrorism	• Mr Peter Knoope, Director, Center for Counter Terrorism, The Hague
	• Escalation Dominance: Setting Strategic Benchmark	• Ms Carice Witte, Founder Signal Group, Israel
	• Deterring Terrorism in South Asia	• Dr Hideaki Shinoda, Tokyo University
	• New Power Dynamics: Relevance of International Rules Based Order and India's Strategic Responses	• Shri Alok Joshi, Chairman NSAB
1340-1430	**Lunch**	
	Special Session	
1435-1450	**Special Address** Re-imagining Defence Reforms for Resilient National Security	**Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, IAS, Defence Secretary**
1455-1610	**Session 2 - Changing Status Quo: Vitalising Defence Reforms**	
	Opening Remarks by Chair	• **Amb Ajay Bisaria**
	• Future Warfare: Assessing Global Trends in Defence Transformation	• Dr Adrian Haack, Director KAS, Germany
	• Swadeshikaran se Sashaktikaran: Empowering Defence Production & Innovations	• Shri Baba Kalyani, Padma Bhushan, Chairman & MD of Bharat Forge Ltd
	• Refining Systems and Processes: Breaking Barriers in Def Ecosystem	• Shri Manoj Jain, CMD BEL
1610-1630	**Running Tea**	
1635-1650	**Special Address** Leveraging Technology for Strategic Superiority	**Prof K Vijay Raghavan, Former Principal Scientific Adviser, Govt of India**
1655-1810	**Session 3 - Civil Military Fusion: Drivers for Change**	
	Opening Remarks by Chair	• **Shri Sanjay Mitra, IAS, Former Defence Secretary**
	• Redefining War: Impulses for Transformation	• Prof M W Kitzen, Faculty of Military Science, Netherlands Defence Academy
	• Stronger Together: Merging Capabilities for Emerging Challenges	• Lt Gen VG Khandare, PVSM, AVSM, SM (Retd), Former Principal Advisor MoD
	• Forging the Future: Roadmap for Civil Military Fusion in R&D	• Shri Ankit Mehta, CEO, ideaForge Technology
1815-1830	**Special Address** • Future Wars: Strategic Posturing Through Military Power	**CDS**
1845-2030	**Cocktails**	**Manekshaw Centre** (By Invite)

CHIEF GUEST



Smt Droupadi Murmu

Hon'ble President of India

KEYNOTE ADDRESS



Gen Upendra Dwivedi, PVSM, AVSM

Chief of The Army Staff

WELCOME ADDRESS

27 November 2025 | DAY 1



Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd)

Director General, CLAWS

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Future Wars : Strategic Posturing Through Military Power



Gen Anil Chauhan, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM

Chief of Defence Staff

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Re-imagining Defence Reforms for Resilient National Security



Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh, IAS

Defence Secretary

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Bharat: A Timeless Legacy and Secure Future @2047



Shri BVR Subrahmanyam

CEO, NITI Aayog

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Leveraging Technology for Strategic Superiority



Prof K Vijay Raghavan

Former Principal Scientific Advisor
Government of India

SESSION - I

Op SINDOOR:
A Sovereign Strategic Victory

This session analyses Operation SINDOOR as a defining moment in India's assertion of sovereignty amid complex cross-border threats and a changing regional order. Op SINDOOR highlighted India's ability to deter, disrupt, and shape outcomes with precision, achieving escalation dominance without full-scale conflict and marked a shift from reactive crisis management to proactive security shaping through intelligence, political will and calibrated military force. Discussions will examine hybrid threats, South Asia's security dynamics, broader implications for regional stability, emerging powers and responsible escalation management.

SESSION - I

Op SINDOOR: A Sovereign Strategic Victory



Ms. Palki Sharma
Managing Editor,
Firstpost & Network18

Ms Palki Sharma, award-winning journalist and Managing Editor at Firstpost, Network18, has over 20 years' experience. She leads a major international news project, having reported globally and interviewed world leaders, gaining recognition for her pandemic coverage. Previously Managing Editor at WION, she hosted Gravitas, led the WION Global Summit, and held roles at ITV, CNN-IBN, Doordarshan News, and Hindustan Times.



Mr Peter Knoope
Former Director
Center for Counter Terrorism, Hague

Mr Peter Knoope is an independent expert with over 35 years' experience in diplomacy and international cooperation. A fellow of four institutions on human security, conflict prevention, peacebuilding and justice, he has advised on conflict resolution and gender-focused approaches in Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa. He founded the International Centre for Counterterrorism and was the Deputy Director at the Dutch Ministry of Justice.



Ms Carice Witte
Founder and Executive Director
SIGNAL Group

Ms Carice Witte is founder and Executive Director of SIGNAL Group and an authority on China and China–Israel affairs. She has published widely, delivered over 1,500 briefings, and established Israel's annual China policy conference and Track II dialogues. Her research focuses on China's global governance role and Middle East strategy. She serves on the Israel Council on Foreign Affairs board.



Prof Hideaki Shinoda
Professor,
Graduate School of Global Studies,
Tokyo University of Foreign Studies

Prof Hideaki Shinoda is a Japanese scholar of international peacebuilding and global governance with over 30 years' experience. He worked on refugee relief in Iran, Djibouti, and Thailand and with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia. Holding an MA from Waseda University and a PhD from LSE, he teaches at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and directs the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center.



Shri Alok Joshi, IPS (Retd)
Chairman, NSAB

Shri Alok Joshi, a security analyst and retired IPS officer from the Haryana cadre (1976), has served as R&AW Chief, NTRO Chairman, and is now head of the NSAB. A JNU graduate with a political science postgraduate degree, he rose through key intelligence roles, including Joint Director of IB (2005), Special Secretary of R&AW (2010) and Secretary of R&AW (2012).

SESSION - II

Changing Status Quo: Vitalising Defence Reforms

This session examines how the evolving character of warfare demands bold and future-focused defence reforms. With emerging technologies reshaping the battlespace, militaries must move from incremental upgrades to continuous and anticipatory modernisation. Discussions will explore reforms to strengthen India's defence ecosystem, including Swadeshikaran to boost indigenous production, industrial resilience and capability alignment with national priorities. The session will also address systemic barriers, procedural bottlenecks, transparency, rapid technology absorption and agile government-industry R&D integration to guide the development of a resilient, adaptive and future-ready defence architecture.

SESSION - II

Changing Status Quo: Vitalising Defence Reforms



Amb Ajay Bisaria
Former Diplomat

Ambassador Ajay Bisaria is a corporate advisor, commentator, author and former diplomat. With over 30 years in the Indian Foreign Service, he served as ambassador to Canada, Pakistan and Poland & Lithuania, held roles at the World Bank and in embassies at Berlin and Moscow. He has also been a key aide in the PMO during Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's term as Prime Minister. He is a Distinguished Fellow at the Observer Research Foundation.



Dr Adrian Haack
Director
KAS (Germany)

Dr Adrian Haack is the Resident Representative to India of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. A member of the Christian Democratic Union since 2006, he has served as speaker of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group and has authored a book "Between Supranational Claim and National Biography" in 2016. He has also completed basic military service in the German Army.



Shri Baba Kalyani
Padma Bhushan
Chairman & Managing Director
Bharat Forge Limited

Shri B N Kalyani, Chairman and MD of Bharat Forge Limited, shapes India's industrial and economic landscape. A Padma Bhushan awardee, he co-chairs international business forums, serves on the PM's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council, and the World Economic Forum. He founded the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers. He has received honours from Japan, France, Germany, Sweden, and the US.



Shri Manoj Jain
Chairman & Managing Director
Bharat Electronics Limited

Shri Manoj Jain became Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Electronics Limited in June 2024. With an illustrious career spanning over three decades,he was the General Manager in Electronics Warfare And Avionics, SBU (Bangalore Complex) before being elevated to the appointment of Director(R&D) in September 2022. He also held the additional charge of Director(Bangalore Complex) since August 2023. He has received multiple R&D and defence-related awards, published technical papers, applied for patents, and delivered talks to defence users and DRDOs.

SESSION - III

Civil Military Fusion: Drivers for Change

Session 3 examines civil-military fusion as a driver for transforming national security architecture. With modern warfare blurring civilian and military domains, India's armed forces can enhance capabilities by leveraging industry, academia and tech innovators. Panellists will explore global trends reshaping war fighting and the alignment of defence requirements with private-sector strengths to boost resilience, dual-use innovation and collaborative advantage. The session will also outline a roadmap for R&D partnerships, accelerating development cycles, reducing duplication and institutionalising interoperability to build a unified future-ready security architecture.

SESSION - III

Civil Military Fusion: Drivers for Change



Shri Sanjay Mitra, former Defence Secretary of India and Chief Secretary of West Bengal, has over 30 years' experience in public administration, infrastructure and national security. He is presently Professor of Practice at School of Public Policy, IIT Delhi focusing on governance, defence indigenisation and science and technology. He is recognised for expertise in reforms, decentralisation, technology transfer and sustainable defence R&D.

Shri Sanjay Mitra, IAS (Retd)
Former Defence Secretary

Prof Kitzen holds the chair in Irregular Warfare and Special Operations at the Netherlands Defence Academy, leading its War Studies Department. A professor by special appointment at Leiden University, he regularly conducts lectures internationally at various military institutes and staff colleges. He has conducted research at the University of Amsterdam and Oxford's Changing Character of War Centre, with field work in Afghanistan and the Sahel. He has also been involved in pre-deployment training and advice to various nations.



Prof M W Kitzen
Faculty of Military Science,
Netherlands Defence Academy



Lt Gen Vinod G. Khandare, PVSM, AVSM, SM (Retd), was the Principal Advisor in the Ministry of Defence. He retired from active military service in 2018. He served as Military Advisor to the NSCS from 2018-2021, He specialises in conventional and sub-conventional operations, counter-terrorism, information warfare and peacekeeping operations.

Lt Gen VG Khandare
PVSM, AVSM, SM (Retd)
Former Principal Advisor MoD

Shri Ankit Mehta, CEO and Co-Founder of ideaForge Technology, leads India's top defence-and-civil drone company. An IIT Bombay Mechanical Engineering graduate, he co-founded ideaForge in 2007. Under his leadership the company was ranked 3rd globally amongst dual-use drone makers (Drone industry Insights, 2022). He has received many awards which include ET 40 Under Forty, CNBC-TV18, Marico Innovation Foundation and IIT Bombay's Young Alumni Achiever Award.



Shri Ankit Mehta
CEO
IdeaForge Technology


DAY
2
28 Nov 2025

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

28th November 2025

Timing	Session/ Topic	Remarks
0930-1015	Arrival of Delegates & Registration	To be seated by 1030
	Special Session	
1100	**Arrival of Hon'ble RM**	**Received by COAS**
1100-1115	Unveiling of Initiatives by Hon'ble RM	Green Initiative & Digitisation Initiative
1116-1121	Welcome Address and Screening of CDD Movie	DG CLAWS
1121-1136	**Special Address**: Defence Reforms for a Sashakt, Surakshit aur Viksit Bharat	**Hon'ble RM**
1136-1137	**Felicitation of Hon'ble RM**	**By COAS**
1137-1200	**High Tea & Group Photograph**	
1200	**Departure of Hon'ble RM**	
1210-1225	**Special Address** Resilient National Security@2047: The New Normal	**Amb D. B. Venkatesh Varma, Member NSAB**
1230-1345	**Session 4 - Battlefield Equalisers: Transforming Technologies for Future Wars**	
	Opening Remarks by Chair	**Dr Arvind Gupta, Head and Co-founder of Digital India Foundation**
	• Disrupt or Get Disrupted: Embracing Emerging Technologies (AI, Autonomous Systems, Hypersonic and Robotics)	• Shri Anshuman Tripathi, Member Empowered Committee on High-Tech Manufacturing (Former Member NSAB)
	• Fireproofing: Cyber Security & Digital Infrastructure Reforms	• Prof Greg Austin, ANU, Australia
	• Capacity Building in Critical Defence Technology: An International Perspective	• Dr Cho Choong Jae, Director, Korean Institute for International Economic Policy
1345-1445	**Lunch**	
1450-1505	**Special Address** Redefining Strategies: Conventional Wars Through Prism of Technology	**Amb Pankaj Saran, Former Dy NSA**
1510-1625	**Session 5 - Raksha Vivartan: Transforming into an Integrated, Agile & Modern Force (Military Implications and Lesson Learnt)**	
	Opening Remarks by Chair	• **Lt Gen Raj Shukla, PVSM, YSM, SM (Retd), Member UPSC**
	• Resilient Security: Perspective from Island Nations	• Dr Athaullah Ahmed Rasheed, Maldives National University, Maldives
	• Operational and Organisational Agility: Enhancing Jointness through Adaptive Structures	• Admiral Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd), Former CNS
	• Social Media as Strategic Territory: Capturing Attention to Control Reality	• Dr Sanjana Y Hattotuwa, Special Advisor, ICT4Peace Foundation, Sri Lanka
	Concluding Session	
1630-1640	**Closing Address**	**VCOAS**
1640-1645	**Vote of Thanks**	**DG CLAWS**
1645-1715	**Running Tea**	
1715 Onwards	Dispersal	

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Defence Reforms for a Sashakt, Surakshit aur Viksit Bharat



Shri Rajnath Singh

Hon'ble Raksha Mantri

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Resilient National Security @2047: The New Normal



Amb D B Venkatesh Varma

Member
National Security Advisory Board (NSAB)

SPECIAL ADDRESS

Redefining Strategies: Conventional Wars Through Prism of Technology



Amb Pankaj Saran

Former Deputy National Security Adviser

SESSION - IV

Battlefield Equalisers: Transforming Technologies for Future Wars

This session examines how technological disruption is reshaping warfare, with AI, autonomous systems, hypersonics, advanced robotics, space and cyber tools compressing decision cycles and shifting military advantage. Global innovators will discuss integrating these capabilities into force structures and operational concepts. The session will emphasise "fireproofing" defence networks through cybersecurity reforms, resilient infrastructure and protected data systems, alongside international collaboration in R&D, technology partnerships and skills development. It highlights how disruptive technologies, secure cyber networks and capacity-building form the foundations of future military advantage.

SESSION - IV

Battlefield Equalisers: Transforming Technologies for Future Wars



Dr Arvind Gupta, head and co-founder of Digital India Foundation, shapes policy on digital inclusion, AI ethics, supply-chain security and emerging technology governance. He is a technology entrepreneur with over 30 years' leadership in digital media, payments, analytics and the data economy in India and Silicon Valley. He is also a former CEO of MyGov and serves on advisory and investment committees for national digital and financial initiatives.

Dr Arvind Gupta
Head and Co-Founder,
Digital India Foundation



Shri Anshuman Tripathi is a member of the Government of India's empowered committee on hi-tech manufacturing and also a former NSAB member. His current research focuses on cognitive warfare. He builds global entrepreneurial ecosystems in semiconductors, cyber-physical systems and aerospace & defence. He has helped showcase 100 startups at the 2017 Paris Air Show, has advised the US government's startup seed fund, mentored the IAF's Meharbaba Drone competition and was instrumental in setting up electronic system forensic labs at national level. He also serves on the board of SBI's private equity subsidiary SBI Ventures Ltd.

Shri Anshuman Tripathi
Member, Empowered Committee
on High-Tech Manufacturing
(Former Member NSAB)



Professor Greg Austin, co-founder and Company Director of the Social Cyber Institute has extensive experience in cyber policy and global security. He was Senior Fellow at IISS, leading the Program on Cyber Power and Future Conflict (2019-23) and Professor of Cyber Security, Strategy and Diplomacy at UNSW Canberra (2016-21). He consults for defence and foreign affairs departments and is adjunct professor at the Australia-China Relations Institute, UTS.

Prof Greg Austin
Adjunct Professor
University of Technology, Sydney



Dr Cho Choong Jae has been Director of the Delhi Office of the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy since 2022. Formerly Deputy President at KIP, he led the Centre for Area Studies and was a research fellow at Daewoo and Lotte Economic Research Institutes. He advises South Asian policy initiatives, serves on academic boards. He has taught the Indian economy as adjunct professor at Sogang University and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

Dr Cho Choong Jae
Director Delhi Office,
Korea Institute for International
Economic Policy (KIEP)

SESSION - V

Raksha Vivartan: Transforming into an Integrated, Agile and Modern Force (Military Implications and Lesson Learnt)

This session examines Raksha Vivartan, highlighting the shift from service-centric forces to joint, responsive and multi-domain capabilities. Drawing lessons from island nations, it explores operational and organisational agility, breaking legacy silos, adaptive command structures and leaders who operate across land, sea, air, cyber, space, and the cognitive domain. The discussion will also address information warfare-social media, open-source intelligence, digital influence and narrative shaping-as decisive tools in modern conflict. The session aims to define defence transformation as a unified, swift, technologically attuned force for the 21st-century battle space.

SESSION - V

Raksha Vivartan: Transforming into an Integrated, Agile and Modern Force
(Military Implications and Lesson Learnt)



Lt Gen Raj Shukla
PVSM, YSM, SM (Retd)
Member UPSC

Lt Gen Raj Shukla, a Member of the Union Public Service Commission since July 2022, brings over 40 years' of Indian Army experience to civil-service governance. He commanded an Infantry Brigade in CI operations, a Division along the Line of Control and a Strike Corps on the western borders. As former GOC-in-C of Army Training Command, he led major initiatives to include professional military education, technological innovation, civil-military integration, and strategic capacity-building, authoring nearly 70 articles and delivering over 180 lectures.



Dr Athaulla Ahmed Rasheed
Maldives National University,
Maldives

Dr Athaulla A Rasheed is Head of the Centre for Security and Strategic Studies at Maldives National University. A former diplomat, he holds two PhDs in international and strategic studies and political science from the Australian National University and the University of Queensland. He is the author of Small States Maritime Security: The Indo-Pacific Strategy for Maldives (2025).



Admiral Karambir Singh
PVSM, AVSM (Retd)
Former Chief of the Naval Staff

Adm Karambir Singh, served as the 24th Chief of the Naval Staff, with over four decades of distinguished service in naval aviation, operations, and strategic leadership. He is now Chairman of the National Maritime Foundation and Distinguished Chair at the Naval War College, Goa. A Naval Aviator since 1981, he commanded INS Rana, INS Delhi and INS Vijaydurg. He has held senior appointments including Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command and Director General of Project Seabird.



Dr Sanjana Hattotuwa
Special Advisor
ICT4Peace Foundation
Sri Lanka

Dr Hattotuwa has over 20 years' experience in information disorders, specialising in social media strategy, digital security, activism and mixed-methods research. He founded Groundviews, Sri Lanka's first civic media website and served as Director of Research at The Disinformation Project (2021–24). He is Special Advisor at the ICT4Peace Foundation addressing human rights, democracy, electoral integrity and digital governance globally.

CLOSING ADDRESS



Lt Gen Pushpendra Pal Singh, AVSM, SM*

Vice Chief of Army Staff

VOTE OF THANKS



Lt Gen Dushyant Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd)

Director General, CLAWS

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