



INDIAN MILITARY HERITAGE FESTIVAL - 2026

Day 1- 30 Oct 2026

S.No	Time (hrs)	Auditorium	Seminar 1
1.1	0900-0940	REGISTRATION	
1.2	0945-0955	Exhibition Inauguration by Chief Guest	
1.3	1000-1035	INAUGURAL SESSION 1005-1010 hrs: National Song & National Anthem 1010-1015 hrs: Welcome Address by V Adm Sanjay Jasjit Singh, SYSM, PVSM, AVSM, NM, PhD (Retd), DG, USI 1015-1035 hrs: Special Address by Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM & Bar (Retd), Hon'ble Governor of Bihar	
1.4	1040-1135	SPECIAL SESSION: MILITARY HISTORY OF GARHWAL RIFLES Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM & Bar (Retd), Hon'ble Governor of Bihar Gen NS Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of the Defence Staff Lt Gen Dinesh Rana, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, SM, PhD; Colonel of the Regiment Garhwal Rifles Moderator: Maj Gen Gajinder Singh Chandel, AVSM, PhD (Retd)	
1.5	1140-1155	TEA BREAK	
1.6	1200-1245	GARHWAL RIFLES – ROLE & CONTRIBUTIONS Lt Gen Mohan Bhandari, PVSM, AVSM*, PhD (Retd) Maj Gen Arjun Muthanna, SM – <i>The Garhwalis in Op Pawan (Sri Lanka) IPKF</i> (Sabre and Quill, 2025) Devesh Joshi – <i>Garhwal Aur Pratham Vishwayudh</i> , (Winsar Publishing Co., 2024) Moderator: Col Sunil Kotnala (Retd)	SAPPERS: SIEGES AND FRONTLINES ACROSS CENTURIES OF COMBAT Lt Gen Vikas Rohella, AVSM, SM** (E-in-C) Col Ashwin Baindur (Retd) Col Christopher John Rego (Retd) Moderator: Maj Gen Pawan Anand, AVSM (Retd)

1.7	1250-1330	OP SAFED SAGAR Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, VM (Retd) Kushal Srivastav Antara Srivastav Moderator: Sqn Ldr Rana TS Chhina, MBE - Director, CMHCS	RE-EXAMINING INDIA'S MILITARY HISTORY: WARS OF THE INDIAN ARMY IN RETROSPECT 1947–1999 Col Mandeep Singh (Retd) – <i>The Indian Army at War 1947–99</i> (Osprey Publications, 2025) Lt Col Kulvinder Singh (Retd) – <i>Guns of Longewala: The Untold Story of Indo-Pak War of 1971</i> (Sabre and Quill, 2023) Moderator: Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh, VSM (Retd)
1.8	1335-1430	LUNCH BREAK	
1.9	1435-1520	WAR MEMOIRS & MEMORIES Vishal Batra – <i>Yeh Dil Maange More: Remembering Captain Vikram Batra, My Brother</i> (Penguin Veer, 2026) Col Kaushal Kashyap, SC, <i>Only Fools Fight Fair</i> (Monks & Warriors, 2026) Moderator: Sandeep Unnithan	SHARED LEGACIES: THE BRITISH INDIAN MILITARY HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP Dr Tejpal Ralmill (Community Historian) Dr Peter Johnston (IWM) Dr George Hay (CWGC) Moderator: Prof Gavin Rand (University of Greenwich)
1.10	1525-1625	THE SILENT SENTINELS: LOVE, LOSS AND RESILIENCE BEYOND THE UNIFORM Ambreen Zaidi – <i>The Silent Warrior: Damayanti V. Tambay – Arjun Awardee...</i> (Prabhat Prakashan, 2025) Meghna Girish – <i>Finding New Meaning: A Mother's Journey After an Unspeakable Loss</i> (Sabre and Quill, 2025) Geetika Lidder – <i>I Am a Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Lidder</i> (Roli Books, 2025) Moderator: Aditi Prasad (Times now)	DOCTORS AT WAR: TESTIMONY, DUTY, AND THE ETHICS OF MILITARY MEDICINE Lt Gen Balakrishnan Jayan <i>My Pak Diary: 16 April -16 August 2025</i> (Op Sindoor) (Sabre and Quill, 2025). <i>Commandant's Diary: Care During COVID Pandemic - A Military Dental Hospital</i> (Sabre and Quill, 2024). Col Arup Ratan Basu, PhD (Retd). <i>The Kargil War Surgeon's Testimony</i> (Bloomsbury India, 2025). Moderator: Surg V Adm Arti Sarin, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)
1.11	1630-1655	TEA BREAK	
1.12	1700-1730	INDIA AND WORLD WAR II: RESHAPING OF THE WORLD ORDER A Talk by Shri MJ Akbar, Former Minister of State for External Affairs	
1.13	1735-1800	FIRESIDE CHAT: THE INDIAN ARMY AND NATION-BUILDING: LEGACY, VALUES AND CONTINUITY Lt Gen Sandeep Jain, AVSM, SM, Vice Chief of the Army Staff in conversation with Lt Gen Rakesh Kapoor, AVSM, VSM (Retd)	

Evening Reception and Networking Dinner (by Invitation only) from 1930 – 2130h at USI Lawns



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Day 2- 31 Oct 2026

S.No.	TIME (hrs)	AUDITORIUM	SEMINAR HALL 1
2.1	0915-0940	REGISTRATION	
2.2	0945-1030	FUTURE READY NAVY Welcome Address by DG USI Address by the Chief of the Naval Staff Book Release: Capt NS Mohan Ram, VSM (Retd) – <i>A Builder's Navy: The Long Road to Self-sufficiency in Warship Design</i> (Sabre & Quill, 2026) Cmde Pramod R Kulkarni, PhD (Retd), <i>Warship Design and its Management: A Systems Engineering Perspective</i>, Routledge, 2026. Somi Tandon: <i>My Journey to the South Block and Beyond (Life Story of a Smalltown Girl Who Broke the Glass Ceiling...)</i>, Munshiram Manoharlal Publishers, 2026.	
2.3	1035-1050	TEA BREAK	
2.4	1055-1210	INDIAN NAVY'S INDIGENISATION JOURNEY - PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE V Adm B Sivakumar, AVSM, VSM, Chief of Materiel – On and Over the Horizon R Adm Sujit Baxi, DG, Warship Design Bureau – Indigenous Warship Design – Contours, Changes & Challenges Cmde AP Golaya, VSM, PhD – Significance of iDEX SPRINT and the Rise of MSME Defence Startups Capt NS Mohan Ram, VSM (Retd) Cmde Pramod R Kulkarni, PhD (Retd), <i>Warship Design and its Management: A Systems Engineering Perspective</i>, Routledge, 2026. Moderator: Cmde Srikanth B Kesnur, VSM, PhD (Retd)	
2.5	1215-1300	1946 – 1971: UPRISING TO RISEN Vice Adm Anup Singh, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd) Cdr Vipin Sharma (Retd) Swaroop Anand Sandeep Unnithan Moderator: Cmde Srikanth Kesnur, VSM, PhD (Retd)	PORTS, POWER, AND THE LONG HISTORY OF INDIAN MARITIME AMBITION Cmde Abhay Singh (Retd) - <i>The Making of India's Seapower</i> Cdr Kalesh Mohanan - <i>Anchored in Legacy, Steered by Innovation: 75 Glorious Years of the Indian Navy</i> (Routledge, 2026) Suraj Palavalsa - <i>Operationalising Project Mausam: Building India's Maritime Consciousness & Regional Leadership</i> (NMF, 2025) Moderator: Capt (IN) Sarbjeet S Parmar (Retd)
2.6	1305 – 1355	LUNCH BREAK	

2.7	1400 - 1445	THE INDIAN AIR FORCE ACROSS A CENTURY OF AIR POWER Anchit Gupta - <i>RAF India to Vayu Bhawan - India's Air Headquarters over the last century</i> (White Falcon Publishing, 2024) Mayank Zade- <i>Second to One: Diamond Lessons from the 1965 Air War</i> (Sabre & Quill Nov 2025) Vishnu Som – <i>THE SKY WARRIORS: Operation Sindoor Unveiled</i> (Juggernaut, 2026) Moderator: Air Mshl AK Bharti, SYSM, AVSM, VM (Retd)	MILITARY HISTORIES OF INDIA: FROM PRINCELY STATES TO NATION-BUILDING Lt Gen G S Katoch, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), <i>A Kashmir knight and the last 50 years of the princely state of J&K</i> (Sabre & Quill, 2025). Sarabjit Singh, <i>A Century in Stirrups: Three generation of Indian Cavalry Men</i> (Sabre & Quill, 2026). Col DPK Pillay, SC (Retd) <i>India at War: Empires, Battles and the Making of a Nation</i> (Penguin Random House India, 2026). Moderator: Col Mandeep Singh
2.8	1450-1535	THE INDIAN AIR FORCE AND THE NEW FRONTIER OF SPACE Gp Capt Shubhanshu Shukla, AC – <i>The Second Orbit: Belief of a Man...Dream of 1.4 Billion Hearts</i> (Vintage Books, 2026) Moderator: Air Mshl Rajeev Sachdeva, AVSM, PhD (Retd)	
2.9	1540 - 1630	JOINT SESSION: 25 YEARS OF INSTITUTIONALISING JOINTMANSHIP - HQ IDS AND THE ANDAMAN & NICOBAR COMMAND (ANC): ROAD COVERED AND THE WAY AHEAD Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VM - CISC - (Chief Guest) Air Mshl BR Krishna, PVSM, AVSM, SC (Retd) - (Former CISC) V Adm AK Singh, PVSM, AVSM, NM (Retd) – (Former CINCAN) Lt Gen Rajeshwar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd) – (Former CISC & CINCAN) Moderator: Lt Gen Ajai Singh, PVSM, AVSM (Retd)	
2.10	1635-1655	TEA BREAK	
2.11	1700 - 1745	WOMEN OFFICERS – TACKING AHEAD, BREAKING BARRIERS Conversation with women officers of all three Services, who participated in India's global sailing expedition, named SamudraPradakshina and Navika Sagar Parikrama Lt Col Anuja Varudkar Lt Cdr Dilna K, Wg Cdr Vibha Singh Moderator: Barkha Dutt	
2.12	1750-1815	CLOSING ADDRESS General N.S. Raja Subramani, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM - Chief of the Defence Staff	
2.13	1820 - 1830	VOTE OF THANKS by Sqn Ldr RTS Chhina, Director CMHCS	
2.14	1835	NATIONAL SONG & NATIONAL ANTHEM	