



CNAWS-INDRAJAAL DIALOGUE ON NEW AGE WARFARE

Preparing India for the Future Battlefield

26 MARCH, 2026

O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

The character of warfare is undergoing a profound transformation. Rapid advances in artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, electronic warfare, and precision strike technologies are redefining how military forces operate and how conflicts are fought and resolved. The growing integration of digital technologies with military platforms has accelerated decision cycles and expanded the battlespace across multiple domains.

Modern military operations now extend across land, air, maritime, cyber, space, and the information domain, requiring deeper coordination between services and stronger collaboration between defence institutions, industry, and research communities.

Recent conflicts around the world have demonstrated the increasing role of network-centric operations, stand-off precision strike capabilities, unmanned systems, and influence operations in the information domain. These developments are reshaping strategic thinking and operational doctrines globally.

In this rapidly evolving security environment, there is an increasing need for informed discussions on the technological, operational, and strategic dimensions of modern warfare.

ABOUT THE DIALOGUE

The CNAWS – Indrajaa Dialogue on Modern Day Warfare seeks to provide a platform for examining the evolving nature of warfare and its implications for India's security ecosystem.

The event aims to bring together veterans from the Army, Navy, and Air Force, alongside defence industry professionals, strategic scholars, journalists, and technology experts to deliberate on emerging trends shaping modern conflict.

Through a series of expert perspectives, discussions, and interactive sessions, the dialogue will explore the intersection of technology, military strategy, and national security.



OBJECTIVES OF THE DIALOGUE

The dialogue aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Facilitate discussion on emerging trends in modern warfare
- Encourage interaction between military veterans, defence industry leaders, and researchers
- Examine technological drivers shaping future conflict environments
- Promote deeper understanding of joint and multi-domain operations
- Contribute to informed strategic discourse on India's evolving security challenges

KEY THEMES OF THE DIALOGUE

The dialogue will focus on several critical themes shaping contemporary and future warfare:

- Artificial intelligence and its role in military decision-making
- Network-centric warfare and integrated joint operations
- Stand-off precision strike systems and non-contact warfare
- Autonomous platforms and unmanned combat systems
- Information operations and cognitive warfare
- Multi-domain operational environments including cyber and space

These themes reflect the changing dynamics of conflict in an era where technology is increasingly influencing the strategic balance.



SCHEDULE

Time	Session
09:00 – 10:00	Arrival and Registration
10:00 – 10:30	Tea & Informal Interaction
10:30 – 10:50	Keynote Address by Lt General Rakesh Kapoor (Retd)
11:00 – 11:30	Session with Indrajaal CEO Kiran Raju on Industry Outlook & Future of Warfare
11:30 – 11:40	Q&A Session
11:40 – 12:00	CNAWS Launch Address by Prof. Col Shashank Ranjan (Retd) & Mohit Vashisth
12:00 – 12:20	Lecture by Lt. General AB Shivane (Retd) on Preparing for the Future Conflict in the Era of Multidomain Warfare
12:20 – 12:30	Q&A Session
12:30 – 12:50	Lecture by Lt General PJS Pannu (Retd) on Mosaic Warfare and Autonomous Wars
12:50 – 13:00	Q&A Session
13:00 – 13:45	Panel I: Artificial Intelligence, Network-Centric Warfare and the Future of Joint Operations <i>Moderator:</i> Captain Parmar (Retd) <i>Panellists:</i> Air Marshal GS Bedi (Retd), Commodore Anil Jai Singh (Retd), Brigadier Anshuman Narang (Retd)
13:45 – 14:00	Q&A Session
14:00 – 15:00	Lunch and Networking
15:00 – 15:45	Panel II: Non-Contact Warfare: Precision Strike, Stand-Off Weapons and Autonomous Systems <i>Moderator:</i> Wing Commander Dr Manoj (Retd) <i>Panellists:</i> Admiral Shekhar Sinha (Retd), Brigadier Arun Sahgal (Retd), Group Captain (Dr) Ajey Lele (Retd)
15:45 – 16:00	Q&A Session
16:00 – 16:15	High Tea
16:15 – 17:00	Panel III: Information and Cognitive Warfare: The Battle for Perception <i>Moderator:</i> Lt Colonel Umang Kohli (Retd) <i>Panellists:</i> Lt General D.P. Pandey (Retd), Col JS Sodhi (Retd), Sanjay Kundu, IPS (Retd), Major Parjanya Bhatt
17:00 – 17:15	Q&A Session
17:15 – 17:30	Lecture by Lt Colonel Umang Kohli (Retd) on Biological Warfare
17:30 – 17:45	Insights by Colonel Manik Anand on DAP 2026
17:45 – 18:00	Closing Remarks by Prof. Col Shashank Ranjan (Retd) - Director CNAWS

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

10:30 - 10:50

The keynote address will set the stage for the CNAWS–Indrajaal Dialogue on New Age Warfare by reflecting on the evolving nature of modern conflict and the strategic challenges facing contemporary militaries. Drawing upon extensive operational and leadership experience, Lt Gen Rakesh Kapoor (Retd.) will share his perspectives on the changing character of warfare, the growing role of technology and innovation, and the importance of strategic preparedness in an increasingly complex security environment. The address will provide valuable insights into the broader themes of the dialogue and help frame the discussions that follow.



Lt Gen Rakesh Kapoor (Retd)



SESSION BY INDRAJAAL & CNAWS

Industry Outlook & Future of Warfare

11:00 - 11:40

Rapid technological advancements and growing collaboration between industry and defence institutions are playing an increasingly important role in shaping the future of warfare. Emerging innovations in areas such as artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, sensor networks, and advanced defence technologies are transforming the way modern militaries operate. This session will provide an industry perspective on the evolving landscape of defence technologies and their potential impact on future military operations. It will also highlight the role of technological innovation, industry partnerships, and indigenous capability development in addressing emerging security challenges and supporting the evolving needs of modern armed forces.



Kiran Raju Penumacha - CEO Indrajaal

CNAWS Launch Address

11:40 - 12:00

The CNAWS–Indrajaal Dialogue on New Age Warfare will also mark the official launch of the Centre for New Age Warfare Studies (CNAWS). Established as a strategic consulting firm and think tank in the domain of national security, CNAWS seeks to contribute to informed discussions on emerging dimensions of warfare, technological transformation, and evolving global security challenges.

Founded by Prof Col Shashank Ranjan (Retd.), Nikita Vats, and Mohit Vashisth, the Centre aims to bring together practitioners, researchers, and policymakers to examine contemporary and future security issues.



Prof Col Shashank Ranjan (Retd)
Director & Co-Founder - CNAWS



Mohit Vashisth
Exec. Director & Founder - CNAWS

SPECIAL LECTURES

Lecture 1: Preparing for the Future Conflict in the Era of Multidomain Warfare

12:00 - 12:30

As warfare increasingly extends across land, air, sea, cyber, space, and the information domain, military operations are becoming more interconnected and technology-driven. This lecture will explore the evolving nature of multidomain warfare and its implications for future military preparedness. It will highlight the importance of joint operations, technological integration, and strategic adaptability in preparing armed forces to operate effectively in complex and rapidly changing conflict environments.



Lt. General AB Shivane (Retd.)

Lecture 2: Mosaic Warfare and Autonomous Wars

12:30 - 13:00

Advances in autonomous systems, artificial intelligence, and distributed military capabilities are reshaping the conduct of warfare. The concept of mosaic warfare emphasises the use of interconnected, adaptable, and networked systems to create flexible and resilient combat architectures. This lecture will explore how emerging technologies and autonomous platforms are influencing modern military strategies and operational concepts, and how armed forces can adapt to these evolving dynamics in future conflicts.



Lt. General Dr. PJS Pannu (Retd.)

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel 1: Artificial Intelligence, Network-Centric Warfare and the Future of Joint Operations

13:00 - 14:00

Modern warfare increasingly relies on integrated networks, real-time data flows, and advanced decision-support systems. Artificial intelligence, sensor networks, and space-based capabilities are transforming how military forces coordinate operations across multiple domains.

Network-centric warfare enables military platforms and units to share information in real time, improving situational awareness and enabling faster and more effective decision-making. The integration of artificial intelligence into these networks further enhances operational efficiency by assisting in data analysis, targeting, and battlefield management.

This panel will explore how AI-enabled systems and network-centric capabilities are shaping the future of joint operations across land, air, maritime, cyber, and space domains.

Key discussion areas

- AI-enabled battlefield decision-making
- Sensor-to-shooter networks and real-time targeting
- Integration of land, air, maritime, cyber and space capabilities
- Role of satellite communications, ISR and navigation systems
- Operating in contested electromagnetic environments

Panelists



Air Marshal G.S. Bedi (Retd.)



Commodore Anil Jai Singh (Retd.)



Brigadier Anshuman Narang (Retd.)

Moderator



Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar (Retd.)

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel 2: Precision Strike, Stand-Off Weapons and Autonomous Systems

15:00 - 16:00

Modern conflicts are increasingly characterised by the ability to engage adversaries from distance without direct force-on-force contact. Advances in long-range precision strike systems, stand-off weapons, and autonomous platforms are enabling militaries to shape the battlefield while minimising the exposure of their own forces.

Non-contact warfare represents a significant shift in military strategy where adversary capabilities can be degraded through long-range precision strikes, unmanned platforms, and integrated targeting systems. The development of cruise missiles, ballistic missiles, hypersonic systems, loitering munitions, and drone swarms has significantly expanded the range and effectiveness of stand-off strike capabilities.

This panel will examine how precision strike technologies, autonomous systems, and integrated targeting networks are redefining operational concepts across land, air, and maritime domains.

Key discussion areas

- Long-range precision strike capabilities
- Cruise missiles, ballistic missiles and hypersonic weapons
- Stand-off air-launched and naval strike systems
- Autonomous systems, drone warfare and loitering munitions
- Integration of sensors, targeting networks and precision strike platforms

Panelists



Admiral Shekhar Sinha (Retd)



Brigadier Arun Sahgal (Retd)



Group Captain (Dr) Ajey Lele (Retd.)

Moderator



Wing Commander (Dr) Manoj Kumar (Retd.)

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Panel 3: Information and Cognitive Warfare: The Battle for Perception

16:15 - 17:15

The modern battlespace extends beyond the physical domains into the information and cognitive sphere. Control of narratives, perception management, and influence operations have become critical components of strategic competition and conflict.

Information warfare involves the use of information operations, propaganda, cyber influence campaigns, and psychological operations to shape public perception and influence decision-making processes. Cognitive warfare, meanwhile, focuses on influencing how individuals and societies perceive information and interpret events.

In an era of digital communication and social media, the ability to influence narratives and counter disinformation has become a key element of national power.

This panel will explore how information warfare and cognitive operations are shaping contemporary conflicts and influencing political, military, and societal outcomes.

Key discussion areas

- Information operations and narrative warfare
- Psychological and cognitive influence campaigns
- Role of digital platforms and social media in conflict
- Countering disinformation and hybrid threats
- Strategic communication in modern warfare

Panelists



Lt Gen DP Pandey (Retd.)



Sanjay Kundu, IPS (Retd.)



Lt Colonel JS Sodhi (Retd)



Major Parjanya Bhatt

Moderator



Lt Colonel Umang Kohli (Retd.)

CONCLUDING LECTURES

Lecture 3: Biological Warfare

17:15 – 17:30

Biological threats have long been a concern in the domain of national and global security. With advances in biotechnology and the evolving nature of conflict, the risks associated with biological warfare and biosecurity have gained renewed attention. This lecture will examine the nature of biological threats, their potential implications for modern conflict, and the importance of preparedness, surveillance, and response mechanisms in mitigating such risks.



Lt Colonel Umang Kohli (Retd.)

Lecture 4: Insights on Defence Acquisition Procedure - 2026

17:30 – 17:50

Defence procurement plays a critical role in strengthening military capabilities and fostering indigenous defence innovation. The evolving framework of India's Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) reflects the country's efforts to streamline procurement processes, promote domestic manufacturing, and encourage greater participation from the private sector. This lecture will provide insights into the key features and implications of DAP 2026 and its significance for India's defence modernisation and strategic self-reliance.



Colonel Manik Anandh

ORGANISERS



Centre for New Age Warfare Studies (CNAWS)

The Centre for New Age Warfare Studies is a strategic research organisation focused on analysing emerging dimensions of warfare and national security. The organisation conducts research and dialogue on issues including disruptive technologies, hybrid warfare, intelligence analysis, and evolving global conflict trends.

Through research, discussions, and strategic engagement, CNAWS aims to contribute to informed debate on India's preparedness for future security challenges.

Website: <https://cnaws.in/>



ORGANISERS



Indrajaal

Indrajaal is an Indian defence technology company specialising in advanced counter-drone and airspace protection solutions. The company develops integrated systems that combine artificial intelligence, sensor fusion, radar technologies, and electronic warfare capabilities to detect, track, and neutralise aerial threats.

Its technologies are designed to protect critical infrastructure, urban centres, and strategic installations from emerging aerial threats, reflecting India's growing emphasis on indigenous defence innovation.

Website: <https://indrajaal.in/>

