

Monthly Defence Current Affairs

April 2024

Sadanand Vasant Takes Over As NIA chief

- Sadanand Vasant Date, who bravely fought terrorists during the 26/11 Mumbai attack, on Sunday took over the reins of the National Investigation Agency, according to an official statement. Date, a 1990 batch Indian Police Service officer of Maharashtra cadre, succeeded **Dinkar Gupta**, who superannuated.
- Before joining the NIA, Date was serving as the chief of Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Maharashtra. He has held several important positions in Maharashtra, including those of Police Commissioner of Mira-Bhayandar Vasai-Virar, Joint Commissioner Law and order, and Joint Commissioner Crime Branch Mumbai, said the statement issued by the NIA.



METOC Seminar Meghayan 2024

- The **World Meteorological Day** is commemorated every year on 23rd March. It marks the origin of **World Meteorological Organization** (WMO) on 23 Mar 1950 and signifies the invaluable contribution and essential role of the meteorologists in this field.
- As part of the World Meteorological Day celebrations, a METOC (**Meteorological and Oceanographic**) seminar **'Meghayan-24'** was conducted by School of

Naval Oceanology & Meteorology and Indian Naval Meteorological Analysis Centre (INMAC) at Southern Naval Command on 28 Mar 24.

- The seminar was based on the **theme** *'*At the Frontline of Climate Action'** as promulgated by WMO for the year 2024.



First Hovercraft Maintenance Unit of Gujrat

- Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane visited the **Indian Coast Guard** facilities in the Northwest Region on March 28-29, 2024. During the visit, he inaugurated the infrastructure for the **Hovercraft Maintenance Unit (HMU)** at **Okha**.
- The Hovercraft Maintenance Unit will help in the maintenance of the hovercrafts, which are used for surveillance purposes in 50 different islands in the Area of Responsibility. These hovercrafts are based at Okha and Jakhau and are equipped with advanced instruments and devices.
- They are powered by diesel engines and have a range of over 100 nautical miles. The opening of the HMU will help in the timely delivery of technical support and maintenance services to the hovercrafts.
- A hovercraft, also known as an air-cushion vehicle or ACV, is an amphibious craft capable of travelling over land, water, mud, ice, and various other surfaces. Hovercraft use blowers to produce a large volume of air below the hull, or air cushion, that is slightly above atmospheric pressure.



Defence Exports Touch Record Rs 21,083 crore in FY 2023-24

- Defence exports have touched a record **Rs 21,083 crore** (approx. US\$ 2.63 Billion) in the FY 2023-24, a growth of 32.5% over the last fiscal when the figure was Rs 15,920 crore. The recent figures indicate that the defence exports have grown by 31 times in the last 10 years as compared to FY 2013-14.
- The defence Industry, including the private sector and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), have made tremendous efforts in achieving the highest-ever defence exports. The private sector and the DPSUs have contributed about 60% and 40% respectively.
- In addition, there has been a rise in the number of export authorisations issued to the defence exporters during FY 2023-24. From 1,414 export authorisations in FY 2022-23, the number jumped to 1,507 in FY 2023-24.



Rajnath Singh (मोदी का परिवार) ✨

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India's defence exports have reached to the level of Rs.21,083 Crore in the financial year... [Show more](#)

1:52 PM · Apr 1, 2024



HAL Delivers Two Dornier 228 Planes To Guyana

- HAL has delivered two Dornier 228 planes to the Guyana Defence Force, the country's **President Mohamed Irfaan Ali** said on Monday. He shared the information along with photographs of the delivered aircraft in a post on X.
- The development comes more than a year after the Guyanese president and his delegation had visited an HAL facility in India. Months later, a delegation from the HAL had visited and met President Ali, as a follow-up to his visit to India in early 2023.



Rising Sun Brahmos Warriors Showcases Long-range Targeting Capabilities

- In a breathtaking display of precision and strength of the Indian Army's conventional deterrence, the Rising Sun missile specialists displayed their long-range targeting capabilities, Eastern Command, Indian Army, said.
- The Rising Sun BrahMos warriors showcased their capability as a formidable force for peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

- With the calculated strike hitting its mark precisely, this event serves as a poignant reminder of India's steadfast dedication to defending its sovereignty and fostering regional stability.
- The BrahMos is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarines, ships, fighter aircraft or TEL. It is a joint venture between the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Russian Federation's NPO Mashinostroyeniya, who together have formed BrahMos Aerospace.



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Mumbai First Tri-service Common Defence Station

- The Armed Forces are planning to turn **Mumbai into the first “tri-service common defence station”** in the country for the **Army, Navy and the IAF** — a step aimed at achieving jointness among the three services ahead of the creation of **integrated theatre commands**.
- Discussions to this effect are under way in the top military hierarchy and a decision is likely to be taken soon, officials said.
- Currently, there are no common defence stations in India. The **Andaman and Nicobar command** is a full-fledged command raised as a **tri-service command in 2001**. Other efforts to bring in jointness among the services—such as inter-service postings—were brought in last year.
- A common defence station would mean that **all facilities of the Army, Navy, IAF will be combined** — including **logistics, infrastructure, repair and maintenance as well as stores and supplies**— so that they could be optimised and brought under a common lead service.



Exercise 'Sagar Kavach'

- A two-day exercise involving all maritime security agencies of the country was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands from April 1-2. During the exercise, validation of the effectiveness of coastal security mechanisms while dealing with asymmetric threats emanating from the sea was undertaken, they said.
- Assets of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Police, fisheries, customs and other security agencies were engaged in the coastal security exercise -- Sagar Kavach 01/24.
- The exercise witnessed enhanced preparedness, response mechanism, surveillance capabilities and coordination between the coastal security stakeholders, the officials said.



Maritime Partnership Exercise India Japan

- The Indian Navy said on Wednesday that its P8I aircraft have reached in Atsugi, Japan for bilateral anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and subject matter expert exchange with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF).
- The interactions with the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF) included cross-ship visits, a professional exchange of ideas, a Joint Yoga Camp, and a coordination meeting for the **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)**.
- The visit of **INS Kadmatt** to Japan was aimed at further bolstering maritime cooperation between India and Japan.
- India and Japan share '**Special Strategic and Global Partnership**'. Friendship between the two countries has a long history rooted in spiritual affinity and strong cultural and civilizational ties.



New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-prime Successfully Flight-tested

- Strategic Forces Command (SFC), along with DRDO conducted the successful flight-test of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha at around 1900 hrs on April 03, 2024.
- The test met all the trial objectives validating its reliable performance, as confirmed from the data captured by a number of range sensors deployed at

different locations, including two downrange ships placed at the terminal point. The launch was witnessed by the Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of Strategic Forces Command and senior officials from DRDO & the Indian Army.

- Agni-P or Agni-Prime is a two-stage, surface to surface, canister-launched, road mobile and solid-fueled medium-range ballistic missile being developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation as the sixth missile in the Agni series.
- **Manufacturer:** Bharat Dynamics Limited
- **Operational range:** 1,000–2,000 kilometres (620–1,240 mi)



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Pan India Emergency Landing Facility Activation

- As part of the **exercise Gagan Shakti-24**, IAF aircraft recently operated from the Emergency Landing Facility in the northern sector in Kashmir valley. A large number of troops were airlifted and subsequently air landed utilising **Chinook, Mi-17 V5 and ALH Mk-III helicopters** by night.
- IAF also plans to practise similar drills in coordination with administration of State Governments for activation of ELF's in other sectors. Various IAF fixed and rotary wing platforms will carry out coordinated landing and operations at these ELF, requiring good planning and coordination with civil administration employing **Whole-of-the-Nation-Approach (WNA)**.



Akashteer Control and Reporting Systems

- In a significant move towards enhancing India's defence capabilities and technology absorption, the induction of 'Akashteer Command and Control Systems' has commenced in the Indian Army's Corps of Army Air Defence.
- The deployment of Akashteer begins with the flagging off of the first batch of Control Centres from BEL Ghaziabad on April 4, 2024.
- The project developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative is poised to significantly enhance the operational efficiency and integration of the Army's air defence mechanisms.
- The Akashteer Project is a cutting-edge initiative designed to automate Air Defence Control and Reporting processes by digitising the entire process.
- It is highlighted that the Indian Army has declared the year 2024 as the "**Year of Tech Absorption**" and undertaking various initiatives to induct niche technology and systems in its inventory.



Philippines Hold Joint Naval Drills With US, Japan, Australia

- The Philippines hold joint naval drills with the United States, Japan and Australia, two diplomatic sources told AFP, as the four countries deepen military ties to counter China's expanding influence in the Asia-Pacific region.
- The exercise held in the disputed South China Sea -- which Beijing claims almost entirely -- days before US President Joe Biden is due to hold the first trilateral summit with the leaders of the Philippines and Japan.
- Described by the Philippine military as a visit aimed at strengthening military relations with partner nations, the presence of the Australian vessel underscores the collaborative efforts to address escalating tensions in the region.
- China's increasing assertiveness in asserting its claims over disputed waters has raised concerns among neighboring countries, including the Philippines and Japan, as well as self-ruled Taiwan.





IAF Receives First Indigenous Crash Fire Tender

- The Indian Air Force said it had recently received the delivery of the first indigenously designed and developed Crash Fire Tender (CFT).
- Manufactured by a Noida-based Indian MSME firm, against a contract worth Rs 291 Cr, the Indian manufacturer ensured the delivery of the CFT within 14 months of contract signing.
- The Indian Air Force is promoting indigenisation and has procured many made-in-India items to meet its operational requirements.
- Promoting Make in India in Defence sector has been one of the key focus areas of the Narendra Modi government and multiple steps have been taken in this direction.



Two Indian Navy Warships Being Built In Russia

- 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.
- 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.



India Receives Fresh Batch Of Iгла-S Air Defence System From Russia

- The Indian Army has received the first batch of 24 Russia-made **Iгла-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.
- 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 Iгла-S as part of emergency procurement in 2021, this is a larger order.
- 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.



Empowering India's Defence: The ASMI Revolution

- Amidst growing expectation, India gears up to equip its Special Forces with the indigenous **ASMI pistol**, a groundbreaking development in the nation's defence industry.
- **Lokesh Machine Limited** has secured the contract to supply 550 units of the 9x19mm Submachine Pistol "ASMI" to the Special Forces of the Indian Army, emerging victorious over competitors PLR Systems and Jindal Defence.
- The mastermind behind this revolutionary pistol is **Col Prasad Bansod** from the Infantry School, Mhow, supported by the DRDO Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE) in Pune.
- With an estimated production cost of under **Rs 50,000 per unit**, ASMI holds promise not only for domestic security forces but also for potential export

markets, reflecting India's strides towards self-sufficiency in defence manufacturing.

- Sporting an 8-inch barrel and a high-capacity 33-round magazine, ASMI weighs under 2 kgs when empty, offering versatility with its full-length integral Picatinny rail and M-Lok slots for accessories.



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.



DRDO Starts Work To Set Up Test Centre In Bengal

- DRDO has started implementing a project in Junput village in West Bengal to build a small test centre for the country's weapon systems, officials said on Thursday. Junput, like Odisha's Chandipur which is known for its Integrated Test Range (ITR), is also situated by the Bay of Bengal.
- An additional operation area is required as the existing ITR at Chandipur near Balasore has become saturated with work related to testing.
- "As timely trials of weapon systems are of paramount importance, a plan is being implemented for an additional operation area at Junput near Digha, about 70 km from Chandipur," the DRDO official said.
- Junput is also 177 km from Kolkata and 40 km from Digha, a popular sea resort town.



Steel Cutting of First Fleet Support Ship For Indian Navy

- 'Steel Cutting' ceremony of first of the five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) was held at **Hindustan Shipyard Limited**, Visakhapatnam on 10 Apr 24, in presence of Shri Giridhar Aramane, Defence Secretary.
- Contract with HSL for acquisition of five Fleet Support Ships was signed in Aug 2023 and the ships are scheduled to be delivered to the Indian Navy, commencing mid-2027. On induction, the Fleet Support Ships will bolster the 'Blue Water' capabilities of the Indian Navy through replenishment of fleet ships at sea.
- The ships, with more than 40,000 tonnes displacement will carry and deliver fuel, water, ammunition and stores enabling prolonged operations without returning to harbour, thus enhancing the Fleet's strategic reach and mobility.



Big Achievement For Command Hospital, Pune

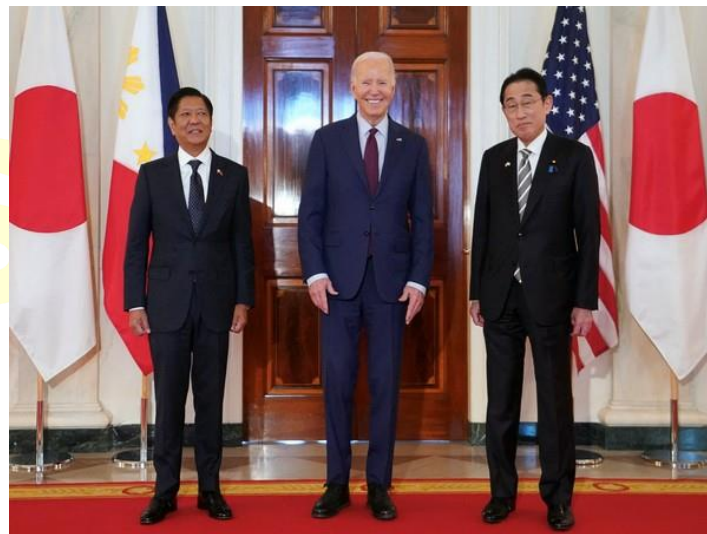
- Department of Ear, Nose & Throat at **Command Hospital (Southern Command)** in Pune has conducted two piezoelectric Bone Conduction Hearing Implants (BCI) in a 7-year old male child suffering from congenital external and middle ear anomalies with severe degree of hearing loss and one adult with Single Sided Deafness, becoming the first gov hospital across the country to procure and conduct the successful **piezoelectric bone conduction hearing implants**.
- The ENT department of Command Hospital (Southern Command) is a designated Neurotology centre of the AFMS. The dept. has been providing Implantable hearing solutions to dependent clientele for a number of years.
- Active piezoelectric bone conduction hearing implant system is an implantable medical electronic device for hearing impaired patients [conductive loss (including aural atresia), mixed hearing loss and single sided deafness]. The cost of the equipment has always been a concern, making its outreach limited.



Biden Hosts Philippines Counterpart, Japan PM For First Ever Trilateral Meeting Amid China Tensions

- US President Joe Biden hosted the Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida for the first-ever trilateral summit between the three countries and said that the US commitments to the defence of Japan and the Philippines remain "ironclad".
- The meeting, which came amid separate territorial disputes involving Japan, the Philippines and China, saw the US President commit to standing in protection of both countries.

- Japan and the Philippines both have separate territorial disputes with China, in the former's case the **Senkaku Islands** in the East China Sea and in the latter's areas of the South China Sea.



Sikkim: Army Conducts Anti-tank Guided Missile Firing At Super-high-altitude

- Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army conducted a training exercise, involving the firing of anti-tank guided missiles at a super high-altitude area of 17000 feet in Sikkim on Thursday, Defence PRO, Guwahati informed.
- Missile-firing detachments from mechanised and infantry units of the entire Eastern Command participated in the training exercise.

- The exercise encompassed comprehensive continuity training and live firing from different platforms on moving as well as static targets depicting battlefield conditions, the release stated.
- The ATGM system's performance in high-altitude environments reaffirms the aim of 'Ek Missile Ek Tank' and showcases the accuracy and effectiveness of the ATGM system in super-high-altitude terrain, the released stated further.



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HAL Bags Biggest-ever Indigenous Military Hardware Order

- In the largest ever order for indigenous military hardware placed by the Indian govt, a Rs 65,000 crore tender has been issued by the Defence ministry to HAL for made-in-India 97 LCA Mark 1A fighter jets.
- LCA Mark 1A is the advanced version of Tejas aircraft.
- According to news agency ANI, the tender was issued by recently and HAL has been given three months to respond to it.
- The LCA Mark 1A boasts of more advanced avionics and radars than the initial 40 LCAs that the IAF will get. According to official statements, local content in the new LCA Mark 1As will be more than 65 percent.



Successful Trials of Indigenous MPATGM

- Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile Weapon System, indigenously designed and developed by DRDO has been field evaluated in different flight configurations several times with the objective of proving the technology with high superiority.
- The system consisted of the MPATGM, Launcher, Target Acquisition System, and the Fire Control Unit. The Warhead Flight Trials were successfully conducted at the Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan on April 13, 2024. Missile performance and warhead performance were found to be remarkable.



Naval Investiture Ceremony 2024

- Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff presented Gallantry and Distinguished Service awards to Naval personnel on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India at an impressive Naval Investiture Ceremony held at INS Hansa, Goa on 14 April 2024.
- A total of 35 personnel were conferred with various awards during the ceremony, which included **Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) to Cdr Manish Singh Karki, Cdr Kaustab Banerjee, Lt Cdr Panneerselvam Vishnu Prasanna and Lt Cdr Bhaskar.**
- CNS also presented the **Lt VK Jain Memorial Gold Medal** for pioneering research in the field of Weapon Improvement and Electrical Engineering, as well as the **Capt Ravi Dhir Memorial Gold Medal for promoting Flight Safety.**
- The CNS Trophy for **Best Green Practices 2023** was awarded to **Naval Dockyard, Mumbai and INS Valsura** in the **industrial and non-industrial categories respectively.**
- The CNS also awarded Unit Citations to Naval units for their outstanding service over the past year. The recipients were Indian Naval Ships Teg, Kolkata, Karmuk, Sumedha, Sumitra and Sharda, submarine INS Sindhukesari, flight squadron INAS 550 and shore establishments Chilka, Circars, Eksila, Dronacharya and Naval Ship Repair Yard (Karwar).




IAF In Operation Meghdoot

- Meghdoot was launched on **13 April 1984**, when the Indian Army and IAF advanced to the Siachen glacier to secure the heights dominating the Northern Ladakh region.
- The operation involved the airlifting of Indian Army soldiers by the IAF and dropping them on the glacial peaks. Although the operation began in 1984, IAF helicopters were already operating in the Siachen Glacier since 1978, flying the Chetak helicopters which was the first IAF helicopter to land in the Glacier in October 1978.
- The main characters the Army's higher echelons involved in the operation were then Army Chief Gen AS Vaidya, the Director General Military Operations Lt Gen CN Somanna, the GOC-in-C Northern Command Lt Gen ML Chibber, the Chief of Staff Northern Command Lt Gen Narinjan Singh Cheema, GOC 15 Corps Lt Gen PN Hoon, GOC 3 Div Maj Gen Shiv Sharma, MGS Northern Command Maj Gen Amarjit Singh, Commander 102 Infantry Brigade Brigadier Jal Master and Commander 26 Sector Brigadier V Channa.
- A special mention must be made of the DGMO, Lt Gen Somanna. Commissioned into the Brigade of Guards in December, 1949, Lt Gen Somanna is often forgotten in popular retellings of the Siachen story, but was among the most important planners.



WORLD'S HIGHEST BATTLEFIELD

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in the eastern Karakoram range in the Himalayas • Middle of PoK and Chinese Occupied Kashmir <p>5,753 m Above sea-level at its head</p>		
<p>-50 °C Lowest temperature</p>	<p>1,000 cm Average winter snowfall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian Army has been controlling the area since occupying it in 1984

Exercise Dustlik 2024

- The Indian Army participated for the **5th edition** of India- Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK. The Exercise conducted from 15th to 28th April 2024 at **Termez, the Republic of Uzbekistan**.
- Exercise DUSTLIK is a yearly event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan. Last edition was conducted at **Pithoragarh (India) in February 2023**.
- The Indian Armed Forces contingent comprising 60 personnel is being represented by 45 personnel from the Indian Army, majorly from a Battalion of the JAT Regiment, and 15 personnel from the Indian Air Force.
- The Uzbekistan contingent comprising approximately 100 personnel, from Uzbekistan Army and Air Force, will be represented by personnel from Southern Operational Command, part of South-West Military District.



SPACE, A Premier Testing & Evaluation Hub For Sonar Systems For Indian Navy

- A state-of-the-art Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence (R&D) and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat at Underwater Acoustic Research Facility, Kulamavu in Idukki, Kerala on April 17, 2024.
- The SPACE marks a milestone in naval technology advancement. It will consist of two distinct assemblages - a platform which floats on the water surface, and a submersible platform which can be lowered to any depth upto 100 m using winch systems.
- Upon completion of operations, the submersible platform can be winched up and docked with the floating platform.
- The SPACE will mainly be utilised for evaluation of complete sonar system, allowing for quick deployment and easy recovery of scientific packages such as sensors and transducers. It will be suitable for survey, sampling, and data collection of air, surface, mid-water, and reservoir floor parameters using modern scientific instrumentation.



Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile Successfully Flight-Tested by DRDO

- DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR)**, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on April 18, 2024.
- During the test, all subsystems performed as per expectation. The missile performance was monitored by several Range Sensors like Radar, **Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS)** and Telemetry deployed by ITR at different locations to ensure complete coverage of the flight path. The flight of the missile was also monitored from the Su-30-Mk-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO for the successful flight test of the missile. He said that the successful development of indigenous long-range subsonic cruise missiles powered by indigenous propulsion is a major milestone. Chairman of DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat congratulated the entire team of DRDO on the successful conduct of the ITCM launch.



Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi appointed as next Indian Navy Chief

- The government has appointed Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi as the next Chief of the Indian Navy. Tripathi is presently the Vice Chief of Navy Staff after having done multiple important assignments in his around 40-year-long vast career and he will assume his new office on April 30.

- Prior to taking over as Vice Chief of the Naval Staff, VAdm Dinesh K Tripathi served as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command.
- An alumnus of Sainik School Rewa and National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, he was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1985.



India Delivers Brahmos Supersonic Cruise Missiles To Philippines

- India delivered the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines on Friday, as part of the USD 375 million deal between the two sides signed in 2022.
- The Indian Air Force sent its American origin C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft with the missiles to the Philippines to deliver the weapon system to the Philippines' Marine Corps, according to the defence sources.
- The Philippines is taking delivery of the missile systems at a time when tensions between them and China have escalated owing to frequent clashes in the South China Sea. The three batteries of the BrahMos missile system would be deployed by the Philippines in their coastal areas to guard against any threat in the region.



DRDO Hands Over First Batch of Indigenous Leading-Edge Actuators & Airbrake Control Module to HAL

- DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency has handed over the first batch of the indigenous Leading-Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module to HAL, marking a significant leap towards self-reliance in aeronautical technologies.
- The HAL, Lucknow has already made preparations for the production of these units for the current 83 LCA Tejas Mk1A order.
- The Secondary Flight Control of LCA-Tejas, comprising Leading Edge Slats and Airbrakes, now boasts state-of-the-art Servo-Valve based electro-hydraulic servo actuators and control modules.



Andhra-cadre IPS Officer Nalin Prabhat Is New Counter-terror Force Chief

- Nalin Prabhat, a 1992 batch IPS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre, has been appointed as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- "Nalin Prabhat, presently working as an Additional Director General in the CRPF, has been appointed as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG) in Level-16 of the pay matrix from the date of joining the post and up to August 31, 2028, i.e., date of his superannuation or until further orders, whichever is earlier," read the official order.
- The Central government has also appointed Sapna Tewari, an Odisha cadre IPS officer of 1992 batch, as the Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB).
- "Sapna Tewari, Additional Director, Intelligence Bureau, has been appointed as the Special Director (Level-16 in the pay matrix), IB, on 'in-situ' basis by temporarily upgrading the post of Additional Director held by the officer for a tenure of two years from the date of assumption of charge up to the date of her superannuation, i.e., April 30, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," the order read.



Exercise Poorvi Lehar 2024

- Indian Navy conducted Exercise Poorvi Lehar on East Coast under the Operational Control of The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command.
- The exercise aimed at validation of procedures towards assessment of Indian Navy's preparedness to meet Maritime Security challenges in the region. The successful conclusion of XPOL 2024, reaffirms Indian Navy's resolve to meet growing security challenges in the maritime domain.



Army Progressing Rs 6800 Cr Desi Shoulder-fired Missile Projects For China, Pakistan Borders

- Amid shortages in the inventory of shoulder-fired missiles to tackle aerial threats on borders with China and Pakistan, the Indian Army is progressing two cases worth over **Rs 6,800 crore** for developing Very Short-Range Air Defence Systems indigenously.
- The Army has plans of developing and buying over **500 launchers** and around **3000 missiles** from indigenous routes.
- "At present, there is a Rs 4800 crore project in which a public sector unit headquartered in Hyderabad and a private sector Pune-based firm have been engaged for developing a laser beam riding VSHORADS which would be used by the forces to protect the borders to provide protection from enemy drones, fighter aircraft and choppers," defence forces' officials
- The project would be for developing 200 launchers and 1200 missiles for supplying to the Indian Army and Air Force and the lead in the project is the Indian Army which is the biggest user of these missiles, they said.



AFMS & IIT Delhi ink MoU for Collaborative Research & Training

- Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaborative research and training with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on 22 April 2024.
- The scope of this MoU includes undertaking research and innovation to develop novel medical devices and focus on solving health issues specific to serving soldiers in varied terrains.

- On this occasion, DGAFMS Lt Gen Daljit Singh informed that AFMS is dedicated to provide the highest level of medical care to soldiers and collaboration with institutes of national importance like IIT is a significant step towards this commitment. Director IIT Delhi Prof Rangan Banerjee commented that this MoU is full of possibilities for research and training beneficial to the nation and the Armed Forces.



INSV Tarini Returns Triumphant After Historic Transoceanic Expedition

- The Indian Naval Sailing Vessel (INSV) Tarini has returned triumphant to her base port at Goa on 21 Apr 24 after a historic transoceanic expedition of nearly two months duration.
- The expedition was undertaken in double-handed mode by Lt Cdr Dilna K and Lt Cdr Roopa A, women officers of the Indian Navy. Their exceptional journey marks a historic milestone as they become the first from India to accomplish such a feat.
- The expedition was Flagged off from Goa by renowned circumnavigator and their mentor Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd) on 28 Feb 24. After 22 days of navigating

through the unpredictable elements of the Indian Ocean, INSV Tarini arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius, on 21 Mar 24.



Rashtriya Raksha University Signs MoU With French Starburst Aerospace

- Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) and Starburst Aerospace of France on Monday entered into a MoU to advance aerospace, defence, and homeland security innovation.
- The MoU includes the creation of a venture capital fund of 100 million euros for aerospace, defence and security technology and provides export promotion support for Indian start-ups to explore international markets, the RRU said in a release.
- The partnership between Starburst and RRU is a reflection of the progress in the India-France Strategic Partnership in defence and space, it said.
- RRU and Starburst will work together to advance a vibrant security and defence ecosystem in India, facilitating enterprise creation and nurturing the rapid growth of innovative start-ups in the region, it said.



Global Defence Budget Jumps To Record High Of \$2440bn

- Global military expenditure has reached a record high of \$2440bn (£1970bn) after the largest annual rise in government spending on arms in over a decade, according to a report.
- For the first time, analysts at the thinktank recorded a rise in military outlay in all five geographical regions: Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania and the Americas.
- The two largest spenders – the **United States (37%)** and **China (12%)** – made up around half of global military spending, increasing their expenditure by **2.3% and 6%** respectively.
- The US government spent **9.4%** more on “research, development, test and evaluation” than in 2022 as Washington sought to stay at the forefront of technological developments.
- **Russia, India, Saudi Arabia and the UK** – the largest spender in central and western Europe after a **7.9%** year-on-year increase – follow in Sipri’s league table.



DRDO Develops Lightest Bullet Proof Jacket

- DRDO's Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment, Kanpur has successfully developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket in the country for protection against **7.62 x 54 R API (Level 6 of BIS 17051) ammunition.**
- Recently, this bullet proof jacket was successfully tested at TBRL, Chandigarh as per BIS 17051-2018. This jacket is based upon new design approach, where novel material along with new processes have been used.
- The front Hard Armour Panel (HAP) of this jacket defeats multiple hits (06 shots) of 7.62 x 54 R API (Sniper rounds) in both ICW (In-conjunction with) and Standalone design. The ergonomically designed front HAP is made up of monolithic ceramic plate with polymer backing which enhances the wearability and comfort during the operation.



Successful Test Of New Version Of Medium-range Ballistic Missile

- A successful launch of the new variant of a Medium-Range Ballistic Missile was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command on April 23, 2024. The user launch has proven the operational capability of the Command and validated new technologies.
- The Strategic Forces Command, sometimes called Strategic Nuclear Command, forms part of India's Nuclear Command Authority. It is responsible for the management and administration of the country's tactical and strategic nuclear weapons stockpile. It was created on 4 January 2003 by the Vajpayee Government.
- It is the responsibility of the Strategic Forces Command to operationalize the directives of the NCA under the leadership of a Commander-in-Chief who is a three-star rank officer. It will have the sole responsibility of initiating the process of delivering nuclear weapons and warheads, after acquiring explicit approval from the NCA. The exact selection of the target area shall be decided by the SFC through a calibrated, cumulative process involving various levels of decision-making, and with formal approval by the NCA.



India Successfully Tests New 250 Km Strike Range Air-launched Ballistic Missile

- The IAF has successfully carried out a test firing of a new version of an air-launched medium-range ballistic missile that is capable of hitting targets at a distance exceeding 250 km.
- The missile, also referred to as ROCKS or Crystal Maze 2, originated from Israel and underwent a test launch from a Su-30 MKI fighter jet in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands last week.
- CM-2 represents a new generation extended stand-off range air-to-surface missile, designed to strike high-value stationary and relocatable targets in GPS-denied environments, like the one India faced during the Kargil War.



World Border Security Congress

- A two-member Indian Coast Guard delegation led by Additional Director General S Paramesh participated in the World Border Security Congress 2024 being conducted in Istanbul, Turkiye.
- The event was conducted from April 24-26 in Istanbul.
- The Indian Coast Guard presented a maritime perspective to the Congress on "Maritime Border Challenges" and discussed potential solutions.
- Bilateral relations have been strengthened by the exchange of visits of leaders of both countries in recent times. Moreover, there have been exchanges of parliamentary delegations between the two countries.
- The Members of Parliament have also been interacting with each other at multilateral parliamentary conferences.



SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting in Kazakhstan

- Defence Secretary Shri Giridhar Aramane participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan on April 26, 2024.

- During the meeting, a protocol was signed by the Defence Ministers of all SCO Member States. A Joint Communique was issued after the meeting, in which the SCO Defence Ministers agreed, amongst other initiatives, to developing the idea of **‘One Earth, One Family, One Future’**.
- At the meeting, the Defence Secretary reiterated India’s steadfast commitment towards maintaining peace, stability and security in the SCO region. He emphasised the need to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism in all its forms for prosperity and development of the SCO Member States.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who Takes Over As NIA Chief?

- A. Sadanand Vasant Date
- B. Dinkar Gupta
- C. Dinesh Gupta
- D. None

ANSWER: A

2. Op Sankalp Is Running By

- A. IAF
- B. NSG
- C. Indian Army
- D. Indian Navy

ANSWER: D

3. METOC SEMINAR 'MEGHAYAN 2024' Conducted By

- A. IAF
- B. NSG
- C. Indian Army
- D. Indian Navy

ANSWER: D

4. To which country did Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) deliver two Dornier 228 planes?

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Maldives
- C. Guyana
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: C

5. How much did India's defence exports reach in the Financial Year (FY) 2023-24?

- A. Rs 15,920 crore
- B. Rs 21,083 crore
- C. Rs 25,000 crore
- D. Rs 30,000 crore

ANSWER: B

6. Which of the Following Are Members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization:

Pakistan

India

Turkmenistan

Turkey

Belarus

Which of the given above is/are Correct?

- A. 1, 2 & 5 only
- B. 3, 4 & 5 Only
- C. 1 & 2 Only
- D. All Are Members

ANSWER: C

10. Which country is not a founding member of the SCO?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. India
- D. Kazakhstan

ANSWER: C

11. Where was exercise Kavach conducted involving all maritime security agencies of India?

- A. Andaman Islands
- B. Lakshadweep Islands
- C. Nicobar Islands
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: B

12. Where did the Indian Navy's P8I aircraft reach for bilateral ASW MPX?

- A. Yokosuka, Japan
- B. Atsugi, Japan
- C. Tokyo, Japan
- D. Osaka, Japan

ANSWER: B

13. Where was the successful flight-test of New Generation Ballistic Missile Agni-Prime conducted?

- A. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island
- B. Agra, UP
- C. Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- D. Thumba, Kerala

ANSWER: A

14. What is the name of the command and control systems recently inducted into Army Air Defence?

- A. Akash Prithvi Systems
- B. Akash Deep Systems
- C. Akash Neel Systems
- D. Akashteer Command and Control Systems

ANSWER: D

15. Igla-S Is A

- A. ATGM
- B. MANPAD
- C. Submarine
- D. Rifle

ANSWER: B

16. ASMI Pistol Designed By

- A. Col Prasad Bansod
- B. Col Prakash Bansod
- C. Col Manpreet Singh
- D. None

ANSWER: A

17. Which Indian Army corps conducted a training exercise involving the firing of ATGMs in Sikkim?

- A. Trishul Corps
- B. Brahmastra Corps
- C. Trishakti Corps
- D. Garud Corps

ANSWER: C

18. What is the significance of the Rs 65,000 crore tender issued by the Defence ministry to HAL?

- A. It is for importing fighter jets.
- B. It is for making tanks.
- C. It is for indigenous 97 LCA Mark 1A fighter jets.
- D. It is for naval vessels.

ANSWER: C

19. Which country provided the Indian Army with the portable Igla-S Air defence system?

- A. Russia
- B. China
- C. United States

D. France

ANSWER: A

20. Where was the bilateral Tri-Service HADR Amphibious Ex Tiger Triumph 2024, held?

A. Visakhapatnam

B. Pune

C. Chandipur

D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

21. Which naval units received Unit Citations for their outstanding service over the past year?

A. Indian Naval Ships Teg, Kolkata, and Karmuk

B. Indian Naval Ships Sumedha, Sumitra, and Sharda

C. Indian Naval Ships Teg, Kolkata, and Sumedha

D. Indian Naval Ships Karmuk, Sumitra, and Sharda

ANSWER: A

22. What system was field evaluated several times by DRDO?

A. Surface-to-air missile system

B. Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System

C. Submarine-launched ballistic missile system

D. Aircraft carrier system

ANSWER: B

23. When was Meghdoot launched?

A. 13 April 1984

B. 13 April 1994

C. 13 April 2004

D. 13 April 2014

ANSWER: A

24. Which submarine received Unit Citations for its outstanding service?

A. INS Sindhukesari

B. INS Sindhuraj

C. INS Sindhukirti

D. INS Sindhuvir

ANSWER: A

25. Which Naval units received Unit Citations for their outstanding service?

- A. Indian Naval Ships Teg, Kolkata, and Karmuk
- B. Indian Naval Ships Sumedha, Sumitra, and Sharda
- C. Both A and B
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

26. Where is the 5th edition of the India-Uzbekistan joint military Exercise DUSTLIK scheduled to be conducted?

- A. New Delhi, India
- B. Termez, Uzbekistan
- C. Pithoragarh, India
- D. Tashkent, Uzbekistan

ANSWER: B

27. Where was the Submersible Platform for Acoustic Characterisation and Evaluation (SPACE) inaugurated?

- A. Bengaluru, Karnataka
- B. Kulamavu, Kerala
- C. Idukki, Kerala
- D. New Delhi, India

ANSWER: C

28. How much is the value of the tender issued by the Indian Defence Ministry to HAL?

- A. Rs 65 crore
- B. Rs 65,000 crore
- C. Rs 97 crore
- D. Rs 97,000 crore

ANSWER: B

29. What is LCA Mark 1A in relation to the Tejas aircraft?

- A. It is the basic version
- B. It is the prototype
- C. It is the advanced version

D. It is a different model

ANSWER: C

30. Who has been appointed as the next Chief of the Indian Navy?

A. Vice Admiral Dinesh Tripathi

B. Admiral Karambir Singh

C. Vice Admiral Amit Tripathi

D. None

ANSWER: A

31. With which institute did the AFMS sign a MoU for collaborative research and training?

A. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi

B. Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore

C. Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur

D. Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad

ANSWER: C

32. What was delivered to the Philippines as part of the USD 375 million deal signed in 2022?

A. Tanks

B. Fighter jets

C. Supersonic cruise missiles

D. Submarines

ANSWER: C

33. What did DRDO's Aeronautical Development Agency hand over to HAL?

A. Fighter aircraft

B. Helicopters

C. Leading Edge Actuators and Airbrake Control Module

D. Radar systems

ANSWER: C

34. Who has been appointed as the Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau (IB)?

A. Nalin Prabhat

B. Sapna Tewari

- C. An Odisha cadre IPS officer
- D. Director General of the National Security Guard

ANSWER: B

35. Which country is planning to test the Astra Mark-2 air-to-air missile with a 130 km range?

- A. India
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. United States

ANSWER: A

36. From which state did DRDO successfully test-fire the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile?

- A. Andaman Nicobar
- B. Odisha
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: B

37. Ex 'Poorvi Prahar' Is A

- A. Domestic Ex
- E. Bilateral Ex
- F. Multilateral Ex
- G. All of the above

ANSWER: A

38. Which organization signed a contract with CSL for the supply of gas turbines and auxiliaries for the Indian Navy's NGMV project?

- A. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- B. Bharat Electronics Limited
- C. Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd
- D. Indian Space Research Organisation

ANSWER: C

39. In which state is DRDO setting up a new test centre for weapon systems?

- A. Odisha
- B. West Bengal
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Maharashtra

ANSWER: B

40. Which organization conducted a seminar the theme "Year of Technology Absorption - Empowering the Soldier"?

- A. Indian Navy
- B. Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)
- C. Indian Air Force
- D. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

ANSWER: C

