

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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HAL Gets Over Rs 45,000-crore Defence Ministry Tender For 156 LCH

- In a big boost for Made in India in defence, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Monday said the Defence Ministry has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH).
- "In terms of Regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, we would like to inform that, Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued by the Ministry of Defence for the procurement of 156 Light Combat Helicopter (90 nos. for IA and 66 nos. for IAF)," the Bengaluru-based PSU stated in a regulatory filing on Monday.
- LCHs also known as the Prachand, is the world's only attack helicopter that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 meters (16,400 ft), which makes it ideal to operate in the high-altitude areas of the Siachen glacier and Eastern Ladakh.
- The HAL Prachand is an Indian multi-role light attack helicopter designed and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited under Project LCH. It has been ordered by the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army. Its flight ceiling is the highest among all attack helicopters.
- Engine type: Safran Ardiden
- Manufacturer: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- Top speed: 268 km/h
- Range: 700 km
- Weight: 2,250 kg



India's Nuclear Stockpile Crosses Pakistan For First Time In 25 years: SIPRI

- For the first time in 25 years, the Indian nuclear weapons stockpile has surpassed that of Pakistan, with a leading global tracker assessing that India now has 172 warheads, against 170 estimated to be with Pakistan.
- The latest report by arms tracker SIPRI also suggests that for the first time, China has put its nuclear weapons on high operational alert, mating warheads with delivery platforms like long-range missiles for short-notice strikes.
- Nine nuclear-armed nations including the **US, Russia, France, China, India and Pakistan**, continued to modernise their nuclear arsenals and several of them deployed new nuclear-capable weapon systems in 2023.
- In its analysis, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said China's nuclear arsenal increased from **410 warheads** in January 2023 to **500 in January 2024**, and it is expected to keep growing.



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iCET Meet: Doval, Sullivan focus on co-production, co-development, R&D

- NSA Ajit K Doval and US NSA Jake Sullivan set the vision for the next chapter of strategic technology partnership with a focus on co-production, co-development, and research and development (R&D) opportunities during the second iCET meeting held here on Monday.
- Under iCET, both countries have identified six areas of cooperation which would include co-development and co-production, that would gradually be expanded to QUAD, then to NATO, followed by Europe and the rest of the world.
- Under iCET, India is ready to share its core technologies with the US and expects Washington to do the same.
- It aims to promote collaboration in critical and emerging technology areas, including AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and wireless telecommunication.

Focus Areas of the Initiative

- AI research agency partnership.
- Defense industrial cooperation, defense technological cooperation, and defense startups.
- Innovation Ecosystems.
- Semiconductor ecosystem development.
- Cooperation on human spaceflight.
- Advancement in 5G and 6G technologies, and adoption of OpenRAN network technology in India.



'Surat' Next Major Combatant To Join The Indian Navy's Arsenal

- Constructed using cutting-edge technology, a naval ship named 'Surat' will be the next major combatant to join the Indian Navy's arsenal. The Navy in a post on X on Monday also shared some pictures of this new vessel.
- It has been a maritime tradition to christen ships, boats and other vessels after cities.
- Surat, a historic city in Gujarat, is known for its centuries-old storied past and is located near the western India's coastline.
- INS Surat is the fourth and last ship of the Visakhapatnam-class stealth guided-missile destroyers of the Indian Navy. Initially, the ship was speculated to be named after port city Porbandar but later it was changed to Surat. The other warships of this class are INS Visakhapatnam, INS Mormugao, INS Imphal.



Israel Defence Exports Hit Record \$13.1 Billion In 2023

- Israeli defence exports rose to a record \$13.1 billion in 2023, a government report said on Monday, citing hundreds of contracts signed at various defence firms.
- Some 36% of exports came from missile, rocket and air defence systems, followed by radar and electronic warfare, weapon stations and launchers at 11% each, with crewed aircraft and avionics at 9%, the Defence Ministry said.
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REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. According to a leading global tracker SIPRI, how many nuclear warheads does India currently have, surpassing Pakistan for the first time in 25 years?

- A. 150
- B. 160
- C. 172
- D. 180

ANSWER: C

2. What was the focus of the vision set by NSA Ajit K Doval and US NSA Jake Sullivan during the second iCET meeting?

- A. Increasing trade agreements
- B. Co-production, co-development, and R&D opportunities
- C. Enhancing military exercises
- D. Reducing tariffs on goods

ANSWER: B

3. How many Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) has the Defence Ministry issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for?

- A. 120
- B. 135
- C. 156
- D. 175

ANSWER: C

4. Air Commodore Rank of IAF Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?

- A. Brigadier
- B. Lt. Gen
- C. Captain
- D. Major General

ANSWER: A

5. International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Hq Is At

- A. London, United Kingdom
- B. Vienna, Austria
- C. Paris, France

D. Geneva, Switzerland

ANSWER: A

6. Chairman Of The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) Is

A. PM

B. NSA

C. CDS

D. Home Minister

ANSWER: A

7. CBI Hq Is In

A. New Delhi

B. Mumbai

C. Hyderabad

D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

8. ___ Is The Largest Defense Contractors in the World.

A. Lockheed Martin

B. Boeing

C. Raytheon Technologies

D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

9. "If you win, you need not have to explain...If you lose, you should not be there to explain!" Said By___

A. Winston Churchill

B. Adolf Hitler

C. Subhas Chandra Bose

D. Bhagat Singh

ANSWER: B

10. Air Marshal Rank Of IAF Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of Indian Army?

A. Brigadier

B. Lt. Gen

C. Captain

D. Major General

ANSWER: B

11. Current Secretary-General Of NATO Is__.

- A. Jens Stoltenberg
- B. Admiral Rob Bauer
- C. General Tod D. Wolters
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

12. "It Is Our Duty To Pay For Our Liberty With Our Own Blood." Said By__

- A. Pandit Nehru
- B. Mahatma Gandhi
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Bhagat Singh

ANSWER: C

13. 'The Communist Manifesto' Book Written By__.

- A. Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels
- B. Alexis
- C. Thomas Paine
- D. Niccolo Machiavelli

ANSWER: A

14. OPEC Hq Is In

- A. Budapest, Hungary
- B. New York, USA
- C. Luanda, Angola
- D. Vienna, Austria

ANSWER: D

15. IPCC Was Created By

- A. WMO & UNEP
- B. IMO & UNESCO
- C. IMF & WTO
- D. UNO & UNFCCC

ANSWER: A

16. Madagascar Is In

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean

- C. Black Sea
- D. Arctic Ocean

ANSWER: B

17. Which Is Not The Member Of SAARC?

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Myanmar
- C. India
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

18. With reference to MILAN Exercise, consider the following statements:

1. It is a multilateral Naval Exercise conducted by the members of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).
2. MILAN 2024 conducted in the East China Sea.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: D

19. Mitra Shakti Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & UK
- C. India & Sri Lanka
- D. India & Thailand

ANSWER: C

20. Varuna Ex Conducts B/W

- A. India & Indonesia
- B. India & UK
- C. India & France
- D. India & Thailand

ANSWER: C