

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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French Carrier Strike Group Visits India

- The French Carrier Strike Group, led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle and comprising other French naval ships, is visiting India from 03 - 09 Jan 25 with port call in Goa and Kochi. This visit aims to enhance interoperability, foster mutual understanding, and strengthen collaboration between the French Navy and the Indian Navy.
- In Goa, the French Carrier Strike Group is hosting a series of engagements, including a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) at sea with the Indian Navy's Western Fleet. The harbour phase in Goa features professional exchanges, cross-deck visits, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges (SMEE), and social engagements. Rear Admiral Jacques Mallard, Commander of the French Navy Strike Group, along with Rear Admiral Hugues Laine and Commanding Officers of the French naval ships, will interact with Rear Admiral Ajay D Theophilus, Flag Officer Commanding Goa Naval Area.
- Simultaneously, French naval ships FS Forbin and FS Alsace, also part of the Carrier Strike Group, are visiting Kochi. The visit includes professional interactions, cross-deck visits, and SMEEs, with Commanding Officers of the French ships meeting the senior leadership of the Southern Naval Command.
- These engagements are part of a broader initiative to strengthen ties between India and France, reaffirming their shared commitment to constructive collaboration and mutual growth in the maritime domain.



Accident involving ALH MK-III Helicopter

- An ALH MK-III helicopter of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) met with an accident at Porbandar Airport Runway in Gujarat at about 1215 hrs on January 05, 2025. The ICG helicopter, with two pilots and one aircrew diver, was on a routine training sortie.
- Immediately after the incident, the crew were recovered and shifted to Government Hospital, Porbandar, where they were declared brought dead. The reasons leading to the incident are being investigated by a Board of Inquiry.
- The mortal remains of the crew viz. Commandant (JG) Saurabh, Deputy Commandant SK Yadav and Manoj Pradhan Navik will be cremated as per service traditions and honour.
- Engine type: Turboshaft
- Top speed: 282 km/h
- Manufacturer: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- Range: 660 km
- Introduced: 2002
- Weight: 2,502 kg



Goa Shipyard Ltd Launches Two Indigenous Fast Patrol Vessels

- Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) on Sunday concurrently launched two indigenously designed and constructed Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard.
- The launch marks a historic chapter in GSL's ambitious journey towards technological and operational excellence.
- Speaking at the launch, Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, CMD, GSL, highlighted the Shipyard's impressive growth trajectory, which has seen a remarkable 100 per cent increase in Gross Revenue, crossing the Rs 2,000 Crore threshold.
- GSL also launched two vessels of the same series in October 2024 as GSL is constructing a fleet of eight FPVs for the Indian Coast Guard, underscoring the shipyard's pivotal role in realising the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' in defence production.



IAF Chief Visits Lakshadweep Islands

- Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh carried out a comprehensive review of the overall combat readiness of the armed forces around the strategically-located Lakshadweep Islands during a two-day visit to the region that concluded on Sunday. Air Chief Marshal Singh interacted with the air warriors at Minicoy Island and Kavarati Island, besides visiting various military establishments and interacted with the troops of the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard.
- "During the interactions, the Chief of Air Staff underscored the need to stay ahead in the face of dynamic geo-political environment and also highlighted the IAF's pivotal role in addressing emerging contingencies," an official readout said.
- It said he also stressed on the importance of maintaining a high state of readiness at all times.
- "The Chief of Air Staff appreciated the professionalism of the forward deployed troops and exhorted them to be ever vigilant in safeguarding the security interests of the nation," the readout added.



Four People Killed, 32 Injured In Blast In Southwestern Pakistan

- Four people were killed and 32 injured when the banned separatist Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) outfit bombed a passenger bus in the restive Balochistan province of Pakistan on Saturday (January 4, 2025).
- The attack targeted a bus carrying paramilitary troops of the Frontier Corps (FC) as it traveled from Karachi to Turbat, about seven kilometers west of the city.

- "At least six people, including FC soldiers and civilians, were killed in a bomb attack on a bus," Rashid-ur-Rehman, a senior local police official, was quoted as saying by news agency AFP.
- The Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) claimed responsibility for the bombing. Jeeyand Baloch, the group's spokesperson, said the attack targeted a convoy of Pakistani army personnel.
- The BLA often claims responsibility for attacks on security forces and non-local Pakistanis, particularly those from Punjab, in Balochistan province.
- Pakistan has experienced an increase in attacks in recent months, especially in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. The military reported that in 2024 alone, 383 soldiers and 925 militants have been killed in various clashes.
- Balochistan, which borders Afghanistan and Iran, has faced decades of sectarian, ethnic, and separatist violence. Militants in the region have also targeted foreign-funded energy projects, accusing external groups of exploiting the area's natural resources while neglecting local residents.
- In November, separatists claimed responsibility for a bombing at Quetta's railway station that killed at least 26 people, including 14 soldiers. In August, the BLA carried out coordinated attacks involving dozens of assailants, killing at least 39 people, one of the highest tolls in recent years.



India's Coastline Expanded By Almost Half In Just Over Five Decades

- India's coastline expanded by almost half in just over five decades - from 7,516km in 1970 to 11,098km in 2023-24 - with states like Bengal, Gujarat and Goa adding significantly to their shoreline while Puducherry's shrunk by 10.4%,

according to an MHA report based on new terms of reference for measuring coastal accretion and erosion.

- Gujarat's recalculated coastline contributed the most to this growth, almost doubling from 1,214km in 1970 to 2,340km in the past 53 years.
- Bengal's was the highest increase in percentage terms during this period - up 357% from 157km to 721km. Nationally, the coastline increase compared to 1970 data stands at 47.6%. This major upward revision of coastline length across nine states and UTs is attributed primarily to using a new methodology to measure India's maritime parameter, as established by the National Maritime Security Coordinator.
- Unlike older methods that relied on straight-line distance measurements, the scientifically updated approach incorporates the measurement of complex coastal formations such as bays, estuaries, inlets, and other geomorphological features.
- According to experts, this refined methodology provides a more precise representation of the true length of the coastline, capturing its dynamic and heterogeneous characteristics. Coastline data from 1970, as reported by the National Hydrographic Office and Survey of India, was based on the measurement techniques and technologies available at the time.
- While Gujarat retains its position as the state with the longest coastline, Tamil Nadu, with a revised length of 1,068km (previously 906km), has overtaken Andhra Pradesh (1,053km), based on the new survey.
- Puducherry's coastline - including Karaikal, Yanam, and Mahe - contracted by 4.9km, marking a departure from the upward revision elsewhere.
- Kerala reported the smallest increase, adding 30km (5%) to its coastline. The data cited in the MHA report are still under review. India's coastline spans the mainland and several islands, bordered by the Bay of Bengal to the east, the Indian Ocean to the south, and the Arabian Sea to the west.
- Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, TN, AP, Odisha, and Bengal, and four UTs - Daman & Diu, Lakshadweep, Puducherry, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands - constitute the country's maritime economy and biodiversity.
- AP has been developing new ports such as Ramayapatnam, Krishnapatnam, and Kakinada Gateway, all of which are expected to boost economic activity, employment, logistics, industrialisation, and urbanisation.

NEW PARAMETERS

- While earlier method relied on straight-line distance, new one **factors in complex coastal formations such as bays, estuaries and inlets**
- Tamil Nadu's coast, with a revised length of 1,068km, has overtaken Andhra (1,053km)
- **Puducherry's coastline shrinks 4.9km**, a departure from general upward revision

✳️ Andhra Pradesh may soon lose its position as the state with the second longest coastline in India to Tamil Nadu.

India's coastline has expanded from 7,516 km in 1970 to 11,098 km in 2024.

(MHA report)



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which shipyard launched two indigenously designed and constructed Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard?

- A. Cochin Shipyard Limited
- B. Goa Shipyard Limited
- C. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- D. Hindustan Shipyard Limited

ANSWER: B

2. What are the names of the two Fast Patrol Vessels launched by Goa Shipyard Limited?

- A. Arjun and Akshay
- B. Amulya and Akshay
- C. Vikram and Amulya
- D. Akshay and Surya

ANSWER: B

3. By how much has India's coastline expanded nationally compared to 1970 data?

- A. 35.4%
- B. 47.6%
- C. 50.8%
- D. 42.9%

ANSWER: B

4. Which state contributed the most to India's coastline growth in absolute terms, doubling its coastline over the past 53 years?

- A. Bengal
- B. Goa
- C. Gujarat
- D. Odisha

ANSWER: C

5. What type of exercise did the French Carrier Strike Group conduct with the Indian Navy's Western Fleet in Goa?

- A. Milan
- B. PASSEX
- C. Varuna

D. JIMEX

ANSWER: B

6. INS Taragiri Is Manufactured By

- A. CSL
- B. MDL
- C. GRSE
- D. None

ANSWER: B

7. INS Taragiri Is Made Under__ Project.

- A. P75 I
- B. P17A
- C. P15B
- D. None

ANSWER: B

8. Ex SURYA KIRAN Conducted b/w India &

- A. Bhutan
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. UAE
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: D

9. European ASRAAM Stands For

- A. Advanced Short Range Air Missile
- B. Advanced Short Ring Air-to-Air Missile
- C. Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile
- D. None

ANSWER: C

10. Marine Engineering Training Establishment of the Indian Navy located at

- A. Noida
- B. Kochi
- C. Pune
- D. Wayanad

ANSWER: C

11. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Western Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Jabalpur
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

12. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

13. India Purchased C 130 J from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

14. College of Military Engineering (CME) Is Located At

- A. Pune
- B. Kamptee
- C. Mumbai
- D. Noida

ANSWER: A

15. Which Country Ranked Third Highest In The World Defence Expenditure?

- A. Australia
- B. USA
- C. France
- D. Bharat

ANSWER: D

16. Regimental Center Of PUNJAB REGIMENT Is In

- A. Balasore, Odisha
- B. Chennai, T.N.

- C. Trombay, M.H.
- D. Ramgarh Cantonment, Jharkhand

ANSWER: D

17. India Purchased IAI Searcher UAV from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Israel

ANSWER: D

18. KHARTOUM Is The Capital Of

- A. Spain
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Suriname
- D. Sudan

ANSWER: D

19. HELINA Missile Has A Maximum Range Of

- A. 7 kilometres
- B. 8 kilometres
- C. 9 kilometres
- D. 10 kilometres

ANSWER: A

20. Joint Exercises B/w The India And France Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. GARUDA

ANSWER: D