

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 28 March 2025

### Bilateral Exercise – INDRA 2025

- The **14th edition** of the **Indian - Russia** bilateral naval **exercise INDRA**, a cornerstone of the enduring maritime partnership between India and Russia, is set to take place off **Chennai** from 28 Mar to 02 Apr 25.
- Since its inception in 2003, Exercise INDRA epitomises the long-term strategic relationship between the two Navies.
- The exercise will see participation of Russian Federation Naval Ships **Pechanga, Rezkiy and Aldar Tsydenzhapov** along with **INS Rana, Kuthar** and Maritime patrol aircraft **P8I**.



### MoD inks Two Contracts Worth Rs 62,700 crore with HAL

- Ministry of Defence on March 28, 2025, signed two contracts with HAL for supply of **156 LCH Prachand**, along with training and other associated equipment worth Rs. 62,700 crore, excluding taxes.

- The first contract is for supply of 66 LCHs to the IAF and second is for supply of 90 LCHs to the Indian Army.
- The supply of these Helicopters shall commence from the third year and will be spread over the next five years. The contracts will enhance the combat capability of Armed Forces at high altitudes.
- This helicopter has a large number of components designed & manufactured in India and it is planned to achieve an overall indigenous content of over 65% during the execution of this procurement.
- MoD also signed a contract with **Metrea Management for Wet Leasing** of one **Flight Refuelling Aircraft (FRA)** for providing Air to Air refuelling training to pilots of IAF and Indian Navy. Metrea will provide FRA (KC135 Aircraft) within six months which will be the first FRA to be wet leased by IAF.



## CDS Gen Anil Chauhan Inaugurates Techkriti 2025

- CDS General Anil Chauhan, inaugurated Techkriti 2025, Asia's largest intercollegiate technical and entrepreneurial festival, at IIT Kanpur.
- CDS gave insights on the need for advancement and modernisation in the Indian Armed Forces and shared his perspectives on preparing for emerging challenges of Future Wars, specifically in the Cyber, Artificial Intelligence, Quantum and Cognitive domains.

- Techkriti 2025 promises to be a remarkable celebration of technology, entrepreneurship and collaboration, pushing the boundaries of discovery and innovation.
- A special segment, 'Rakshakriti', a dedicated Defence Expo to showcase the cutting-edge defence technology, was a key feature of Techkriti 2025.



## Indian Army Signs Procurement Deal with Ashok Leyland

- In a bid to enhance the combat force regeneration capability of the Indian Army, the MoD has signed a contract worth **Rs 168.09 Crore** with M/s Ashok Leyland Defence Systems Ltd for **54 Heavy Recovery Vehicles (HRV)**.
- The newly procured HRVs will play a crucial role in the recovery of disabled, stranded and damaged military vehicles across challenging terrains, including high-altitude and desert environments.
- The integration of these advanced HRVs is expected to significantly improve recovery operations, ensuring higher mission success rates and operational readiness, the release added.



## 72 Division of Mountain Strike Corps Being Raised In Ladakh

- The Indian Army is raising the 72 Infantry Division under the Leh-based 14 Corps, also known as the **Fire and Fury Corps**, to reinforce security in Eastern Ladakh.
- This move is part of a broader strategy to bolster defences along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China, particularly after the 2020 Galwan Valley clash.
- The 72 Infantry Division was approved in 2017 for the 17 Mountain Strike Corps (MSC) and was initially planned to be based in Pathankot for operations in Eastern Ladakh. At that time, the MSC only had one division, the 59 Division, which focused on areas under Eastern Command.
- The headquarters of the 72 Division is being established with an initial complement of **25 officers, 30 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs), and 112 Jawans**. This is not an expansion of manpower but a reorganisation of existing resources.
- A brigade headquarters has already been deployed in Eastern Ladakh, while other elements are undergoing specialized training for high-altitude warfare.

• Major reorganisation and redeployment of troops • New division to boost strategic deterrence



# New Army division to defend Eastern Ladakh

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE Indian Army is in the process of raising a division-level formation to be permanently positioned in the sensitive Eastern Ladakh area, sources told this newspaper. This will be in addition to the 3 Division, which is responsible for the entire Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Terming it a major re-ORBAT move, sources said the new formation will be called 72 Division. ORBAT means 'order of battle' and Re-ORBAT is reorganising and redeployment of existing troops.

In the Army, a division comprises 10,000-15,000 combat troops and 8,000 support elements, commanded by a Major General, and made up of 3 to 4 brigades. A brigade has a troop size of 3,500-4,000 with a Brigadier as commander.

"The headquarters are being raised; one Brigade headquarter is already deployed in Eastern Ladakh and has begun functioning," sources said. The larger elements of the formation are being trained in the western parts of the country "to synchronise the personnel, equipment and organisation as per specific tasking," sources added.

The 72 Division will be permanently placed under the Leh-based 14 Fire & Fury Corps, which was raised in September 1999 after the Kargil war. The Corps handles some of the most sensitive frontiers and battlefields in the world.

The area that will be under the control of the 72 Division is currently being taken care of by the counter insurgency wing called 'Uniform Force'. Its elements, in lesser numbers, were

moved as an ad-hoc arrangement to fill the gap. The Uniform Force will soon move back to its old location in Reasi, Jammu Division.

The Army's decision to raise a permanent division in Eastern Ladakh is important as the situation along the 832-km LAC remains sensitive, which calls for constant vigil and strategic preparedness.

A standoff took place between Chinese and Indian troops in May 2020 at Finger-4 near Pangong Lake, followed by a deadly clash in June in Galwan valley. After several rounds of talks, Indian and Chinese troops completed their disengagement in the Depsang and Demchok areas of Ladakh in October last year, following which patrolling resumed. However, the troops from both sides remain in the vicinity of the LAC.

## 72 DIVISION TO GUARD LADAKH

The new division is in process of getting raised. The headquarters are being raised with one of its brigade headquarters already deployed in Eastern Ladakh and it has begun functioning

The new permanent Army division being raised in Eastern Ladakh under the Northern Command is called 72 Division. This is in addition to the 3 Division, responsible for entire LAC

## UNIFORM FORCE TO MOVE BACK

In an ad-hoc decision, Jammu Division-based counter terrorism unit Uniform Force was moved to the Line of Actual Control. It will now go back to Jammu



Sources



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Indian Army is raising the 72 Infantry Division under which corps?

- A. 17 Mountain Strike Corps
- B. 14 Corps (Fire and Fury Corps)
- C. 33 Corps
- D. 4 Corps

ANSWER: B

2. Where was the 72 Infantry Division initially planned to be based?

- A. Leh
- B. Pathankot
- C. Tawang
- D. Sikkim

ANSWER: B

3. How many Heavy Recovery Vehicles (HRVs) has the MoD contracted M/s Ashok Leyland Ltd to supply?

- A. 50
- B. 54
- C. 60

D. 72

**ANSWER: B**

**4. How many Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) is HAL supplying to the Indian Armed Forces?**

A. 120

B. 156

C. 180

D. 200

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Where will the 14th edition of the India-Russia naval exercise INDRA be conducted?**

A. Visakhapatnam

B. Chennai

C. Kochi

D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Which event did Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan inaugurate at IIT Kanpur?**

A. Techkriti 2025

B. Aero India 2025

C. DefExpo 2025

D. Synergy 2025

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Naib Subedar Jeremy Lalrinnunga is related with**

A. Table Tennis

B. Cricket

C. Boxing

D. Weightlifting

**ANSWER: D**

**8. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port is located At**

A. Paradip

B. Cochin

- C. Kolkata
- D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: D**

**9. 'Iron Beam' new laser-based air defence system Made By**

- A. USA
- B. UK
- C. Israel
- D. Russia

**ANSWER: C**

**10. First Submarine Developed Under P-75 Is**

- A. INS Kalvari
- B. INS Khanderi
- C. INS Karanj
- D. INS Vela

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Who Wrote The Book New Dimensions Of India's Foreign Policy?**

- A. Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- B. Abdul Kalam Azad
- C. Amit Chaudhuri
- D. Raghuram Rajan

**ANSWER: A**

**12. Mechanical Training Institute (MTI) Of IAF Is In**

- A. Yelahanka, Bengaluru
- B. Jalahalli, Bengaluru
- C. Tambaram Chennai
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Central Statistical Organization Hq Is In**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Ex SHAKTI, Ex VARUNA, GARUDA India conducted with**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**15. Yaounde Is The Capital Of**

- A. Cameroon
- B. Canada
- C. UAE
- D. Burundi

**ANSWER: A**

**16. "The Oath of the Vayuputras" Book Is Written By**

- A. Amish Tripathi
- B. Issac Newton
- C. Mahashweta Devi
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

**ANSWER: A**

**17. SITMEX Ex Is Done Among**

- A. India, Singapore, and Thailand
- B. India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- C. Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Commander Rank of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is**

- A. Wing Commander
- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Group Captain
- D. Flying Officer

**ANSWER: A**

**19. INS Visakhapatnam (D66) Manufactured By**

- A. GRSE
- B. MDL



- C. CSL
- D. Boeing

**ANSWER: B**

**20. War Cry of the BIHAR REGIMENT**

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge
- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

**ANSWER: C**