

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Samudra Pradakshina

- A tri-services all women Circumnavigation Sailing Expedition, “Samudra Pradakshina” from Mumbai to Seychelles and back was flagged off on April 7, 2025 by Lt Gen AK Ramesh, Commandant, College of Military Engineering (CME) from the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Colaba, Mumbai.
- The expedition, featuring an all-women 12-member crew from the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, embarks on a challenging 55-day voyage covering 4,000 nautical miles from Mumbai to Seychelles and back aboard the IASV Triveni.
- This pioneering initiative highlights the indomitable spirit of Nari Shakti and aims to promote gender parity in maritime endeavours. The expedition serves as a preparatory phase for an even more ambitious circumnavigation sailing expedition planned for 2026.



Rs 2,385 crore contract inked with BEL

- Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with BEL Bengaluru for the acquisition of Electronic Warfare Suites and aircraft modification kits as well as their installation on **Mi-17 V5 helicopters**, along with associated equipment, for the Indian Air Force at an overall cost of Rs 2,385.36 crore.
- The contract, under Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) category, was inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on April 07, 2025.
- The Suite for Mi-17 V5 is a significant leap forward in developing indigenous EW capabilities, making the country Aatmanirbhar in consonance with the Make-in-India initiative.



Indian Army To Deploy Three Indigenous Next-Gen Air Defense Systems

- These include the Indo-Israeli MRSAM (Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile), the indigenously developed QRSAM (Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile), and the VSHORADS (Very Short-Range Air Defence System).
- The Indian Army's Eastern and Southern Commands, under DRDO guidance, successfully conducted four operational flight tests of the MR-SAM system on April 3 and 4 from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast.

- According to The Times of India, the Army operationalized its first 'Abhra' MR-SAM regiment in February 2023 under the 33 Corps, tasked with defending the frontier with China in Sikkim and the strategically vital Siliguri Corridor.
- It's likely that the Army variant of the MRSAM will eventually be integrated with the ballistic missile defense system being developed by the DRDO.
- The colocation of S-400 IADS and MRSAM squadrons at the IAF base in Adampur may aim to integrate the IAF MRSAM variant with the S-400 system.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy (IN) MRSAM variants both have a 70 km range, while the Indian Army (IA) variant is reported to have a shorter 50 km range.



Chinese Airfield Plan In Bangladesh

- Recent reports of a potential Chinese-backed airbase in Bangladesh's Lalmonirhat district have sparked security concerns in New Delhi, particularly regarding vulnerabilities to India's strategically crucial Chicken's Neck corridor.
- While questions remain about the veracity of these claims, the reported location's proximity to India's narrow north-eastern corridor and coinciding diplomatic shifts in Bangladesh's foreign relations with China and Pakistan have heightened Indian strategic anxiety.
- In late 2024, reports emerged claiming that Bangladesh planned to construct Asia's second-largest airbase in Lalmonirhat district with technical assistance from China.

- According to these reports, the Bangladesh Air Force had unveiled plans for an expansive 700-acre airbase designed to accommodate 70 fighter jets near the strategically significant **Chicken's Neck area**.
- The Chicken's Neck, formally known as the Siliguri Corridor, represents a critical geographic vulnerability for India. This narrow 60-kilometer long and 22-kilometer wide passage in West Bengal serves as the only land connection between India's northeastern states and the rest of the country.
- The corridor's strategic importance is magnified by its location, wedged between Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and proximity to Chinese territory.



31 Naxals surrender a day after Amit Shah's appeal

- A day after Union home minister Amit Shah appealed to surrender arms in Chhattisgarh, 31 Naxals, including five women, each carrying a bounty of ₹1 lakh, surrendered along with their weapons, in Dantewada and Narayanpur. Among them, 26 Naxalites, including three who carried bounties, surrendered before the police in Chhattisgarh's Dantewada district on Monday, police said.
- They said the surrendered Naxalites belonged to Janmilitia, Revolutionary Party Committee (RPC) and Janatana Sarkar wings of the Maoists and their frontal units like Dandakaranya Adivasi Kisan Majdoor Sangthan (DAKMS) and Chetna Natya Mandli (CNM).
- Of the surrendered cadres, Rajesh Kashyap was active as the Aamdai area Janmilitia commander and carried a reward of Rs 3 lakh, while Kosa Madvi, head of the Janatana Sarkar squad, and Chhotu Kunjam, a member of CNM, carried bounties of ₹1 lakh and ₹50,000 respectively, the official said.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Ministry of Defence signed a contract with which company for the acquisition of EW Suites for Mi-17 V5 helicopters?

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- B. Bharat Electronics Limited
- C. Bharat Dynamics Limited
- D. Larsen & Toubro

ANSWER: B

2. What is the estimated cost of the contract signed for Electronic Warfare Suites and aircraft modification kits for the Indian Air Force?

- A. Rs 1,875.25 crore
- B. Rs 2,100.75 crore
- C. Rs 2,385.36 crore
- D. Rs 2,589.00 crore

ANSWER: C

3. What is the name of the all-women tri-services sailing expedition flagged off from Mumbai in April 2025?

- A. Nari Shakti Yatra
- B. Triveni Sankalp
- C. Samudra Pradakshina
- D. Mahila Abhiyan

ANSWER: C

4. The 'Chicken's Neck' or Siliguri Corridor connects India's northeastern states with the rest of the country and is surrounded by which of the following?

- A. Bhutan, Nepal, China, and Myanmar
- B. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and China
- C. Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and proximity to China
- D. Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar

ANSWER: C

5. Act East Policy Was Launched In

- A. 2014
- B. 2015
- C. 2016
- D. 2017

ANSWER: A

6. India's first Human Space Mission Is

- A. Mangalyaan
- B. Gaganyaan
- C. Ushma
- D. Veg

ANSWER: B

7. Secretariat of ASEAN Is In

- A. Jakarta
- B. Dhaka
- C. New Delhi
- D. Doha

ANSWER: A

8. TED Stands For

- A. Technology Development Future
- B. Technology Development Fund
- C. Telegram Development Fund
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

9. Commander-in-Chief Of All Three-Armed Forces Is

- A. The President
- B. The PM

- C. CJI
- D. NSA

ANSWER: A

10. South-Western Air Command Hq Is In

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. New Delhi
- C. Prayagraj
- D. Nagpur

ANSWER: A

11. IAI Harop Developed By

- A. Iran
- B. India
- C. Israel
- D. Indonesia

ANSWER: C

12. Operation Poomalai Was Conducted By IAF In

- A. 1984
- B. 1987
- C. 1991
- D. 1999

ANSWER: B

13. CHM Full Form Is

- A. Company Havildar Major
- B. Company Havildar Monitor
- C. Company Havildar Mega
- D. None

ANSWER: A

14. GOC In Indian Army Stands For

- A. General Officer Command
- B. General Officer Commanding
- C. General Offer Commanding
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

15. UNCED Stands For

- A. UN Conference on Essential and Development
- B. UN Control on Environment and Development
- C. UN Conference on Environment and Development
- D. UN Conference on Environment and Developed

ANSWER: C

16. "An Introduction to Dreamland" Book Is Written

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Raja Ram
- C. Leo Tolstoy
- D. George Bernard Shaw

ANSWER: A

17. Wassenaar Arrangement Works on Transfer Of

- A. conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies
- B. Wheat and Rice
- C. Space Technology
- D. High yielding seeds

ANSWER: A

18. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Hq Is In

- A. Nairobi, Kenya
- B. New York City, USA
- C. Rome, Italy
- D. Washington, DC, USA

ANSWER: A

19. Joint Exercises B/w The India and UK Is Called:

- A. KONKAN
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

20. CISF Comes Under Which Ministry?

- A. MHA
- B. MOD
- C. MEA

D. None of the above

ANSWER: A