

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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India To Seal ₹63,000-Crore Deal With France

- India is on the verge of finalizing a significant defence deal with France to acquire **26 Rafale M naval fighter jets** for its aircraft carriers. The deal is valued at approximately ₹63,000 crore and includes the purchase of 22 single-seater and four twin-seater Rafale M jets.
- It also encompasses a comprehensive support package covering fleet maintenance, logistical support, personnel training, and indigenous manufacturing components under offset obligations.
- The Rafale M jets are intended to replace the ageing MiG-29K fleet, enhancing the Indian Navy's air combat capabilities on its aircraft carriers, INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant.
- The Rafale-M is a naval variant of the Rafale fighter jet, specifically designed for aircraft carrier operations. It features reinforced landing gear, arrestor hooks, and a robust airframe to handle Short Take-Off But Arrested Recovery (STOBAR) operations on Indian carriers.
- Equipped with advanced avionics such as AESA radar and the Spectra electronic warfare suite, it supports long-range missiles like Meteor, Exocet, and SCALP. The aircraft has a combat range exceeding 1,850 km and can reach speeds of Mach 1.8.



Security Forces Dismantle 167 Bunkers in Manipur

- Security forces have destroyed as many as 167 bunkers used by miscreants in Manipur since governor Ajay Bhalla in late February called for a peaceful solution to the ethnic violence in the state.
- Security forces dismantled bunkers in Churachandpur, Imphal West, Imphal East, Jiribam, Senapati, Kangpokpi and Tamenglong after Union home minister Amit Shah set a March 8 deadline to open roads that were partially or totally closed since deadly ethnic clashes started nearly two years ago.
- According to CRPF, as many as 1,240 looted arms have been recovered following governor Bhalla's call to surrender arms and ammunition. Also, 12,677 pieces of ammunition, 405 grenades, 316 crude bombs and 19 improvised explosive devices have also been surrendered before the authorities.
- During the ethnic violence, Kuki leaders and people often travelled to Mizoram as they could not come to Imphal owing to hostilities between the Kukis and Meitis.



India Eager to Work with UAE for Defence Co-Production

- India is eager to work closely with the UAE for co-production and co-development of weapon systems and is keen to combine resources for innovation of future defence technologies, defence minister Rajnath Singh told

visiting crown prince of Dubai Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is also the deputy PM and defence minister of UAE.

- Expressing happiness on the current defence cooperation through institutional mechanisms, military exercises, exchange of training programmes etc, a need to scale up the defence cooperation was felt.
- Ministers acknowledged active participation from the two sides in each other's exhibitions & defence expos and welcomed **India-UAE Defence Partnership Forum** which has the potential to result in strategic Joint Ventures and co-production projects benefiting both countries.
- The Dubai government has announced the allocation of a plot of land for the establishment of a 100-bed "India-UAE Friendship Hospital" in Dubai focussed on affordable healthcare to the blue-collar Indian diaspora in the UAE. It is also recognition of the contribution of millions of Indians for the development and growth of Dubai.



Exercise SARVSHAKTI

- Exercise SARVSHAKTI represents a watershed moment in the Indian Army's technological evolution, demonstrating the successful implementation of Manned-Unmanned Teaming (MUM-T) for the first time in field conditions.
- Conducted by the **Trishakti Corps in Sikkim**, this exercise showcased seamless integration between human soldiers and autonomous systems, signalling India's growing capabilities in AI-driven warfare.
- The exercise highlighted how drones, robots, and advanced decision algorithms can augment soldier capabilities while maintaining human control of critical

battlefield decisions, creating a hybrid force multiplier with significant implications for India's future defence posture.

- The exercise featured various unmanned platforms including aerial drones, autonomous ground vehicles, and AI-powered decision support systems working in concert with conventional military units.



US to Take Back Panama Canal From Chinese Influence

- The United States will take back the Panama Canal from Chinese influence, U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said on Tuesday during a visit to the Central American nation.
- Hegseth, following talks with Panama's government, vowed to deepen security cooperation with Panama's forces and said China would not be allowed to "weaponize" the canal by using Chinese firms' commercial relationships for espionage.
- "Together, we will take back the Panama Canal from China's influence," Hegseth said, speaking at a pier renovated with U.S. assistance in Panama City. "China did not build this canal. China does not operate this canal and China will not weaponize this canal. Together with Panama in the lead, we will keep the canal secure and available for all nations." More than 40% of U.S. container traffic, valued at roughly \$270 billion a year, goes through the Panama Canal, accounting for more than two-thirds of vessels passing each day through the world's second-busiest interoceanic waterway.
- Hegseth is expected to get a close-up look at the Panama Canal later on Tuesday, the first full day of a rare visit to a nation still unsettled by Trump's threats to take back the canal.
- While Hegseth spoke about removing Chinese influence, Trump has spoken in broader terms and not ruled out using military force, if necessary.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the Kamikaze drone developed by the Indian Army for intelligence and surveillance roles?

- A. Trinetra
- B. Kharga
- C. Garuda
- D. Nirbhay

ANSWER: B

2. Which system, developed by Gurutvaa Systems, is designed to protect against illegal unmanned aerial systems (UAS)?

- A. Suraksha
- B. Dronaam
- C. Kavach
- D. Prahari

ANSWER: B

3. The Military Engineer Services (MES) is a construction agency of which Defence Force?

- A. Indian Army
- B. Indian Navy
- C. Indian Air Force
- D. Indian Coast Guard

ANSWER: A

4. What is 'Vigraha', with respect to the Indian Coast Guard?

- A. Offshore Patrol Vessel
- B. Submarine
- C. Destroyer
- D. Interceptor Boat

ANSWER: A

5. 'Cheetah' and 'Chetak' are the names of:

- A. Fighter aircrafts
- B. Helicopters
- C. Armoured vehicles

D. Infantry regiments

ANSWER: B

6. What is the highest commissioned rank awarded in the Navy?

A. Commodore

B. Captain

C. Wing Commander

D. Admiral

ANSWER: D

7. 'Varuna' is a multilateral Defence Exercise b/w India &

A. Japan

B. Sri Lanka

C. France

D. Australia

ANSWER: C

8. Super Hornet Is Made By

A. Dassault

B. Boeing

C. Airbus

D. HAL

ANSWER: B

9. Heron Is A

A. Tank

B. Rifle

C. UAV

D. Helicopter

ANSWER: C

10. Exercises B/w India And Nepal Lanka Is Called:

A. Vayu

B. SLINEX

C. Indra

D. Surya Kiran

ANSWER: D

11. AEW&CS Stands For

- A. Airborne Early Warning and Center System
- B. Airborne East Warning and Control System
- C. Airborne Early Warning and Control System
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent to which rank of Indian Navy?

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Commander
- D. Vice Admiral

ANSWER: D

13. 'CORPS' In Indian Army Headed By__

- A. General Officer Commanding (GOC)
- B. General Officer Commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C)
- C. Major General
- D. Brigadier

ANSWER: A

14. Which Is/Are The Combat Arms Of The Indian Army?

- A. Infantry
- B. The Armoured Corp
- C. The Mechanized Infantry
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

15. Bugatti Car Manufactured By

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Mexico
- D. USA

ANSWER: B

16. India Purchased Dragunov SVD from

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

ANSWER: D

17. Oslo Is The Capital Of

- A. Norway
- B. Palau
- C. Philippines
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

18. "Mind-Master" Book Is Written By

- A. Roopa Pai
- B. Neha J Hiranandani
- C. M Venkaiah Naidu
- D. Viswanathan Anand and Susan Ninan

ANSWER: D

19. Heckler & Koch MP5 Is A

- A. Submachine gun
- B. Machine pistol
- C. Sniper rifle
- D. Anti-material rifle

ANSWER: A

20. Lt Gen. Rank Of Indian Army Is To Which Rank Of IAF?

- A. Vice Admiral
- B. Air Commodore
- C. Commodore
- D. Air Marshal

ANSWER: D