

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0'

- The **Centre for Joint Warfare Studies** under the aegis of HQ IDS Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with Pentagon Press, successfully hosted the second edition of the Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0' at Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi.
- This year's theme was '**Securing India's Rise through Defence Reforms**'.
- The event brought together distinguished experts from the Armed Forces, strategic policymakers, industry leaders, and domain specialists to deliberate on critical issues affecting India's national security.
- The event focused on charting a strategic roadmap for its national security, diplomacy and development. It also covered the progress made on adoption of niche technologies, enhancing multi-domain and cross-domain operational capabilities to include land, air, sea, cyber and space.



SARAS MK-2

- India's aerospace industry is witnessing significant momentum in developing indigenous passenger aircraft, with the SARAS MK-2 at the forefront of this ambitious endeavour.
- This 19-seater aircraft, designed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) and manufactured with support from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), represents a critical milestone in India's aviation self-reliance journey.
- The SARAS aircraft program represents one of India's earliest attempts at developing an indigenous passenger aircraft. The journey began with the original 14-seater SARAS prototype making its first flight in 2004.
- The Indian Air Force has already confirmed an initial order of 15 SARAS MK-2 aircraft, providing an important early customer that will help establish the program's viability.



Army Facing Shortage of Over 1 Lakh Personnel

- The Indian Army is currently grappling with a significant manpower shortage of over one lakh personnel amidst escalating tensions along the borders with Pakistan and China.
- The Ministry of Defence recently disclosed this information to the Parliamentary Standing Committee, highlighting the critical gap between the Army's actual and sanctioned strength.

- While the current strength of the Indian Army stands at 12.48 lakh, it falls short of its sanctioned strength by more than one lakh personnel.
- This includes a deficit of 92,410 Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), representing a 7.72% shortfall. Additionally, as of July 2024, the officer cadre is facing a 16.71% shortage, with only 42,095 officers available against a sanctioned strength of 50,538.
- This shortage comes at a time when over 50,000 troops are stationed along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh to counter threats from China, while an additional 15,000 troops have been deployed in Jammu following a rise in terror incidents.
- Although the Agnipath scheme has been introduced to address these gaps by recruiting 40,000 Agniveers annually since 2022, the backlog created during the pandemic remains substantial.



Apollo Micro reloads with ₹75 cr in fresh DRDO orders

- Apollo Micro Systems Ltd (AMSL), a Hyderabad-headquartered defence and aerospace company, has received a fresh round of orders worth ₹75.2 crore. The announcement came via an official exchange filing on 15th April.
- The company stated, "We are pleased to inform you that the Company, in the ordinary course of its business, has received orders worth Rs. 7.52 crores from DRDO, PSU and a private company and has also been declared the Lowest Bidder for orders worth Rs. 11.48 crores from DRDO & PSU."
- Apollo Micro Systems is actively partnering with major players in India's defence ecosystem. It recently signed an agreement with Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE) to explore opportunities in defence and related sectors.



AUKUS Nuclear Submarine Sale Under Scrutiny

- The sale of nuclear-powered submarines to Australia under the AUKUS treaty faces new doubts as U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs take hold, and amid concern in Washington that providing the subs to Canberra may reduce deterrence to China.
- Whether the United States can boost submarine production to meet U.S. Navy targets is key to whether Australia can buy three Virginia-class submarines starting in 2032, Defence Minister Richard Marles said last month, after talks with his U.S. counterpart, Pete Hegseth.
- Australia faces a previously unreported 2025 deadline to pay the United States \$2 billion to assist with improving its submarine shipyards. The Trump administration has asked for more funding, Marles said in March.
- Consternation is growing in Washington that Australia's reluctance to even discuss using the attack submarines against China means that transferring them out of the U.S. fleet to Australia would hurt deterrence efforts in the Indo Pacific, according to experts and documents.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Where was the second edition of the Defence Literature Festival 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0' held?**

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
- D. Pune

ANSWER: C

2. **What was the theme of 'Kalam & Kavach 2.0' Defence Literature Festival?**

- A. Atmanirbhar Bharat in Defence
- B. Defence Innovations for the Future
- C. Securing India's Rise through Defence Reforms
- D. Building India's Global Defence Image

ANSWER: C

3. **Which indigenous aircraft is being developed as part of India's aviation self-reliance initiative?**

- A. Tejas MK-1
- B. SARAS MK-2
- C. Rustom-II
- D. Hansa NG

ANSWER: B

4. How much worth of orders did Apollo Micro Systems Ltd receive recently, as announced on 15th April?

- A. ₹60 crore
- B. ₹85.6 crore
- C. ₹75.2 crore
- D. ₹95 crore

ANSWER: C

5. Which organization signed a deal with the Indian government for the acquisition of 14 FPVs for the ICG?

- A. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- B. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

ANSWER: A

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

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

ANSWER: C

7. RIMPAC Stands For

- A. Rim of the Pacific Exercise
- B. Rim of the Perfect Exercise
- C. Rim of the Pacific Economy
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

8. Which is a UAV?

- A. INS Hansa
- B. INS Parundu
- C. Chetak
- D. Rustom

ANSWER: C

9. INS Ranjit Is A

- A.** Destroyer
- B.** OPV
- C.** Submarine
- D.** Tank

ANSWER: A

10. Which Country Is Not The Member Of G-7?

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

ANSWER: A

11. Berlin Is The Capital Of

- A. France
- B. Qatar
- C. Germany
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

12. "Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI" Book Is Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Vinod Rai
- D. Anurag Thakur

ANSWER: C

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

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

ANSWER: A

14. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By

- A. USA
- B. Sweden

- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

15. India Purchased C 130 J from

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

ANSWER: A

16. Ex KHANJAR Conducted B/W India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Kyrgyzstan

ANSWER: D

17. OPEC Hq Is In

- A. Vienna
- B. New York
- C. Chennai
- D. Abu Dhabi

ANSWER: A

18. Gangtok Is The Capital Of

- A. Sikkim
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Tripura

ANSWER: A

19. What Is The Full Form Of JCB?

- A. Joseph Cyril Bamford
- B. Joseph Cyrus Bamford
- C. Joseph Cyril Bofors
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

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

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

ANSWER: D