

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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ISRO Commissions Advanced Landing Gear Test Facility

- A state-of-the-art Landing Gear Drop Test Facility is commissioned at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), Thiruvananthapuram towards the testing and qualification of the deployable Landing Gear system for ISRO's winged body Reusable Launch Vehicle – Pushpak.
- ISRO is developing Pushpak with a deployable Landing Gear towards the **RLV-Orbital Re-entry Experiment** (RLV-OREX), wherein the Pushpak vehicle will be launched to orbit in an ascent vehicle. Subsequently, after a few orbits, Pushpak will re-enter the atmosphere and land on a runway using the deployable Landing Gear system.
- The Landing Gear Drop facility has the capability to test various types of landing gears, such as telescopic, articulated and semi-articulated types and has several key features such as an adjustable drop mass up to 2000 kg to simulate various aircrafts and airport altitudes and adjustable drop height.
- The test rig is capable of simulating landing velocities up to **360 km/hr (100 m/s)** with adjustable wheel spin speeds up to **5000 rpm**.
- The test setup also allows simulation of various landing sink rates, up to **4.8 m/s**. Different runway conditions such as asphalt, concrete, dry, wet and icy surfaces can also be simulated.



EXERCISE DUSTLIK-VI

- The **6th edition of India- Uzbekistan** Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI commenced today, at **Foreign Training Node, Aundh (Pune)**. The Exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 16 to 28 Apr 2025.
- Indian contingent comprising of 60 personnel is being represented by a Battalion of **JAT Regiment and IAF**. The Uzbekistan contingent is being represented by personnel from Uzbekistan Army.
- Joint Exercise DUSTLIK -VI is an annual training event conducted alternatively in India and Uzbekistan. Last edition was conducted in Termez District, Uzbekistan in April 2024.
- The theme of the exercise will be based on the theme of Joint Multi Domain Sub Conventional operations in Semi-Urban Scenario. It will focus on responding to a terrorist action involving the capture of a defined territory.



Birth Anniversary Celebrations of The Marshal Of The IAF

- On 15 April 2025, to commemorate the 106th Birth Anniversary of the Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh Padma Vibhushan, DFC, a bust was unveiled at Astha, Senior Citizen Home, Tughlakabad, Delhi by Air Mshl Vijay Kumar Garg, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command and Air Mshl Jagjeet Singh (Retd) Senior Vice President Air Force Association.
- The audience was reminded of his strategic brilliance and unflinching resolve shown as the **Chief of the Air Staff during 1965 war**.
- Under his leadership, the Indian Air Force provided the decisive close air support to pulverise the Pakistani Armoured thrust in the Akhnoor sector which changed the course of the war in India's favour.
- He is the only Five-star officer of the IAF, who is an institution by himself and shall remain a guiding beacon to follow for generations to come.



Meghayan-25

- The 3rd edition of the Indian Navy's Meteorological and Oceanological Symposium - Meghayan 25 – was held on 14 Apr 25, to commemorate the formation of the **World Meteorological Organisation** and celebrating WMO Day 2025.
- The seminar was organised to align with this year's **WMO Day theme - 'Closing the Early Warning Gap Together'**.
- The symposium also saw the revival of its professional Meteorological and Oceanological journal after a gap of almost 10 years. The 10th edition of "**Sagarmanthan**" was launched during Meghayan 25.



IAF's Plan For 40 Additional Rafale Jets

- The Indian Air Force is poised to significantly expand its Rafale fighter jet fleet with 40 additional aircraft from France through a government-to-government

deal, coinciding with the Indian Navy's imminent acquisition of 26 Rafale-M fighters.

- The Cabinet Committee on Security recently cleared the Navy's ₹63,000-crore deal for 26 Rafale-M jets, with the signing expected during the French Defence Minister's visit to India in late April 2025, marking a significant milestone in India's military modernization efforts.
- The Indian Navy's forthcoming deal for 26 Rafale-M fighter jets, worth approximately ₹63,000 crore (\$7.4 billion), represents the first major fighter jet upgrade for the country's naval forces.
- This comprehensive package includes 22 single-seater and four twin-seater variants, along with Meteor air-to-air missiles, Exocet anti-ship missiles, and SCALP cruise missiles.
- The IAF currently operates with only 31 fighter squadrons against a sanctioned strength of 42.5, creating an urgent need for fleet expansion and modernization.
- HAL is working to deliver 97 indigenous **TEJAS MK-1A jets** by 2030, the production pace and scale cannot fully address the IAF's immediate requirements.
- While the formal announcement of the IAF's 40 additional Rafales remains pending, the momentum clearly favours Dassault's fighter over alternatives like the **F-15EX, Eurofighter Typhoon, and SAAB Gripen-E** that were theoretically still in contention under the original MRFA framework.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How many additional Rafale fighter jets is the Indian Air Force planning to acquire from France?

- A. 26
- B. 40
- C. 36
- D. 60

ANSWER: B

2. What is the estimated cost of the Indian Navy's deal for 26 Rafale-M jets?

- A. ₹35,000 crore
- B. ₹50,000 crore
- C. ₹63,000 crore
- D. ₹70,000 crore

ANSWER: C

3. What was the theme of WMO Day 2025 commemorated during Meghayon 25?

- A. Early Warning for All
- B. Climate Action Together
- C. Closing the Early Warning Gap Together
- D. Unified Weather Response

ANSWER: C

4. Which Indian military leader's 106th Birth Anniversary was commemorated on 15 April 2025?

- A. Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa
- B. Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh
- C. General Bipin Rawat
- D. Admiral R. K. Dhowan

ANSWER: B

5. Where is the 6th edition of the India-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK-VI being held in April 2025?

- A. Termez, Uzbekistan
- B. Jaisalmer, India

- C. Aundh, Pune
- D. Hyderabad, India

ANSWER: C

6. Varuna Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. Drone
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

7. Varuna Has Been Developed By The____.

- A. Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited
- B. DRDO
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. HAL

ANSWER: A

8. Ex 'KONKAN, INDRADHANUSH' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. UK

ANSWER: D

9. __Is India's Border Guarding Organisation On Its Border With Pakistan And Bangladesh.

- A. SSB
- B. ITBP
- C. BSF
- D. None

ANSWER: C

10. Eastern Region (E) Of ICG Is Located At

- A. Chennai
- B. Mumbai
- C. Kolkata
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. Priyadarshini-class Patrol Vessels Is Manufactured By

- A. CSL
- B. MDL
- C. GRSE
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. Indian Navy Founded On

- A.** 26 January 1945
- B.** 26 January 1950
- C.** 26 January 1960
- D.** 26 January 1970

ANSWER: B

13. With Which Nation India Holds 2+2 Dialogue?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Japan
- C. USA
- D. Both B & C

ANSWER: D

14. DRDO Lakshya Is A

- A. Fighter Jet
- B. Ship
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

ANSWER: D

15. Exercise Samudra Shakti Conducted B/w Indonesia &

- A. India
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

16. Captain Rank of Indian Navy Equivalent to Which rank of IAF?

- A. Flying Officer

- B. Flight Lieutenant
- C. Group Captain
- D. None

ANSWER: C

17. Brussels Is The Capital Of

- A. Belgium
- B. Belize
- C. Benin
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

18. "Jungle Nama" Book Is Written By

- A. Jhumpa Lahiri
- B. Amitav Ghosh
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Nirupama Rao

ANSWER: B

19. Rapid Action Force Hq Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Lucknow
- C. Surat
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: D

20. War Cry Of SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY Is

- A. Garud ka hun bol pyare
- B. Everywhere
- C. Raja Ramachandra ki jai
- D. Jo bole So Nihal, sat sri akal

ANSWER: D