

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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New Vice Chief of The Air Staff

- Air Marshal SP Dharkar retired as Vice Chief of the Air Staff on 30 April 2025, on superannuation from the Indian Air Force (IAF), after completion of 40 years of illustrious service to the nation.
- Air Marshal Dharkar was commissioned on 14 June 1985 as a Flying Pilot in the fighter stream of IAF and flew more than 3600 hours on different aircraft of the IAF.
- He is a Qualified Flying Instructor, Fighter Strike Leader and an Instrument Rating Instructor and Examiner. He is an alumnus of **NDA, Defence Services Staff College, India and Army War College, USA.**



Appointment of CISC

- Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit assumed the appointment of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CISC) at Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff in New Delhi on May 01, 2025.

- He succeeds Lt Gen JP Mathew who superannuated on April 30, 2025.
- In a distinguished career spanning close to four decades, the Air Marshal has held a variety of Command, Staff & Instructional appointments, and has been conferred with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal & Vayu Sena Medal for his services.



Appointment of Indian Army's Northern Command

- Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma assumed the appointment of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command.
- A highly decorated officer, Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma is an alumnus of NDA, Khadakwasla, Indian Military Academy, Dehradun and Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.
- He was commissioned into the MADRAS Regiment in December 1987. He is qualified on Higher Command Course and has also attended course at National Defence College, New Delhi.
- The General Officer has a rich operational experience. He commanded an Infantry Battalion, Brigade and Division along the Line of Control and has Commanded a Strike Corps in the Western Sector.



US Approves \$131 Million Military Hardware Supply To India

- The United States has formally approved the supply of critical military hardware and logistic support assets to India, valued at approximately \$131 million.
- This move, cleared by the Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) under the Pentagon, reflects the deepening strategic partnership between the two nations and aligns with broader US foreign policy objectives in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The DSCA has delivered the required certification for the proposed military supplies and notified the US Congress, a standard procedure for foreign military sales.
- The proposed military package is routed through the "foreign military sale" mechanism and is directly linked to the **Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) program**, a key initiative under the Quad framework involving the **US, India, Australia, and Japan**.
- The principal contractor for the supply is Hawkeye 360, based in Herndon, Virginia, a company specialising in space-based radio frequency data analytics for maritime domain awareness.



Army, Air Force versions of ALH Dhruv choppers cleared for operations

- After being grounded for over three months, the Army and Air Force versions of the ALH Dhruv have been cleared for operations based on the recommendations of Defect Investigation Committee.
- The Indian Navy and the Indian Coast Guard versions of the choppers will continue to be on the ground as the investigations are still continuing.
- Engine type: Turboshaft
- Top speed: 282 km/h
- Manufacturer: Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- Range: 660 km
- Weight: 2,502 kg
- Introduced: March 2002



US and Ukraine Strike Landmark Deal

- The United States and Ukraine Wednesday finalised a sweeping new agreement that will give Washington access to Ukraine's vast reserves of critical minerals and natural resources, as Kyiv looks to secure future American support in its war against Russia.
- The pact, known as the United States-Ukraine Reinvestment Fund, marks a significant shift in the economic partnership between the two countries. Though details of the fund's structure remain sparse, US officials described it as a mechanism that will allow America to tap into Ukraine's valuable rare earth minerals — including titanium, uranium, and lithium — while also attracting global investment to rebuild the war-torn nation.
- "This agreement signals clearly to Russia that the Trump administration is committed to a peace process centered on a free, sovereign, and prosperous Ukraine over the long term," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement following the signing ceremony.
- The announcement comes at a critical juncture in the three-year war, as President Donald Trump, who returned to office this year, has expressed growing frustration with the slow progress toward ending the conflict. Trump, who has criticized Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for failing to make concessions, said on Wednesday that the new deal ensures the US will "get more from Ukraine than it contributed."



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the name of the new agreement between the United States and Ukraine regarding critical minerals and resources?

- A. Ukraine Freedom Pact
- B. Strategic Resources Agreement
- C. United States-Ukraine Reinvestment Fund
- D. Ukraine Reconstruction Initiative

ANSWER: C

2. Who has assumed the position of General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Northern Command?

- A. Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma
- B. Lieutenant General Rajeev Sharma
- C. Air Marshal SP Dharkar
- D. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

ANSWER: A

3. What is the approximate value of military hardware and logistic support assets approved by the US for India?

- A. \$200 million
- B. \$100 million
- C. \$131 million
- D. \$75 million

ANSWER: C

4. 'Konkan – Naval Exercise' Conducted b/w India

- A. Singapore
- B. Oman
- C. Indonesia
- D. United Kingdom

ANSWER: D

5. Armenia-Azerbaijan War in 21st Century Fought In

- A. 2019
- B. 2020
- C. 2021
- D. 2022

ANSWER: B

6. Madagascar Is Located In

- A. Indian Ocean
- B. Arabian Sea
- C. South China Sea
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

7. World Report on Health of Refugee and Migrants is released by which of the following organisation?

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. United Nations Human Rights Commission
- C. World Bank
- D. World Health Organisation

ANSWER: D

8. Who is known as India's missile woman?

- A. Dr. Aditi Pant
- B. Dr. Indira Hinduja
- C. Dr. Tessy Thomas
- D. Koneru Humpy

ANSWER: C

9. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'?

- A. Andaman and Nicobar
- B. Nicobar and Sumatra
- C. Maldives and Lakshadweep
- D. Sumatra and Java

ANSWER: A

10. SEPECAT Jaguar Is A

- A. Fighter Jet
- B. Ship
- C. Tank
- D. None

ANSWER: A

11. Transport Aircraft of IAF Is

- A. C-17 Globemaster
- B. Tejas
- C. Apache
- D. Illyushin 78

ANSWER: A

12. War Cry Of RAJPUTANA RIFLES Is

- A. Garud ka hun bol pyare
- B. Everywhere
- C. Raja Ramachandra ki jai
- D. Charge and Attack

ANSWER: C

13. Joint Exercises B/w The India And USA Is Called:

- A. Surya Kiran
- B. Vajra Prahar
- C. Yudha Abhyas
- D. Both B & C

ANSWER: D

14. LEMOA Stands For

- A. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement
- B. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Appeal
- C. Logistics Extra Memorandum of Agreement
- D. All are correct.

ANSWER: A

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

- A. Flying Officer
- B. Flight Lieutenant
- C. Group Captain
- D. None

ANSWER: C

16. Heron TP Drone Is Made By

- A. Brazil
- B. India

- C. Israel
- D. USA

ANSWER: C

17. Kampala Is The Capital Of

- A. Uganda
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Tuvalu

ANSWER: A

18. "The Battle of Belonging" Book Is Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: A

19. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Oman Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. AL NAGAH

ANSWER: D

20. "Naam Namak Nishaan" Is The Motto Of

- A. THE GRENADIERS
- B. Rajputana Rifles
- C. Gorkha
- D. None

ANSWER: A