

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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IAF To Get Pseudo Satellites

- The IAF is set to acquire advanced “**pseudo satellites**,” officially known as **High-Altitude Platform Systems (HAPS)**, while the Indian Army will induct a new batch of **Very Short-Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS)**.
- These acquisitions come against the backdrop of heightened tensions between India and Pakistan, following recent border skirmishes and a major terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has issued a Request for Information for three HAPS platforms for the IAF. These solar-powered, long-endurance UAVs are designed to operate at altitudes of **around 16–20 km**, well above commercial airliners and traditional drones but below low Earth orbit satellites.
- **Persistent Intelligence, Surveillance, And Reconnaissance (ISR)**: HAPS can provide continuous monitoring over sensitive areas, making them ideal for border surveillance and intelligence gathering.
- **Communication And Data Relay**: They act as airborne relays, linking ground stations and aircraft, and supporting other unmanned platforms.
- **Electronic Signals Interception**: The systems can intercept and relay adversary electronic signals, enhancing situational awareness.



India fast-tracks VSHORADS-NG missile deal

- Amid rising tensions on the western front, particularly after the Pahalgam terror attack, the Indian Army has moved to procure a fresh batch of man-portable air defence systems. These missiles are designed to intercept enemy aircraft, drones, helicopters, and fighter jets up to a **range of 6 km**.
- The Ministry of Defence, in coordination with the Army, on Friday released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for **48 launchers, 48 night-vision sights, 85 missiles**, and a **mobile missile testing station** under the Very Short Range Air Defence System - New Generation (VSHORADS-NG) category.
- The new supplies of the **Igla-S air defence missiles** have been received by the Indian Army a couple of weeks ago and are being provided to the forward formations for taking care of the threat from enemy fighter aircraft, choppers and drones on the borders.
- The contract worth around **Rs 260 crore** is expected to boost the strength of the air defence troops in the forward areas especially on the western sector.
- The Indian Air Force has opted for a similar contract for the air defence missiles which are **Infra Red sensor based VSHORADS**.
- The F414-GE-39E is a 22,000 lb thrust class turbofan engine that incorporates advanced technology features such as a Full Authority Digital Electronic Control (FADEC).



India Secures HawkEye 360 Tech Deal

- The estimated cost of the package is **\$131 million**. It includes the Sea Vision software, preferred software enhancements, training through a technical assistance field team, remote software, analytic support, documentation, and other logistics and programme support.
- HawkEye 360 is a private American company that operates a network of satellites in low Earth orbit. These satellites track **radio frequency (RF)** signals coming from ships, aircraft, vehicles, and coastal systems.
- With the addition of HawkEye 360, India will now gain deeper visibility into its Exclusive Economic Zone. This is expected to help monitor smuggling, illegal fishing, trafficking, and piracy across the Indian Ocean Region.
- HawkEye 360's system identifies these hidden vessels by picking up RF emissions and analysing them using multiple layers: Electro-Optical (EO) for daytime imaging, Infrared (IR) for detecting thermal signatures, and Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) for radar-based images under any weather or light condition. These layers work together to determine a vessel's size, speed, and location.
- In 2018, India launched the Information Fusion Centre in the Indian Ocean Region. This facility acts as a regional hub for gathering and analysing shipping data. With the integration of HawkEye 360, the centre will receive even more precise intelligence, helping it track developments in real time.



BSF To Get 16 New Battalions, 2 Field Hqs

- The plan has already received an in-principle approval.
- Once sanctioned, it will be a shot in the arm for the force that has heightened vigil in the east following last year's fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh and in the wake of a renewed challenge on the Pakistan front after the April 22 Pahalgam massacre.

- The paramilitary force has 193 battalions as of now to guard the two fronts. A battalion of the border force consists of over 1,000 troopers. Hence, the overall strength of the 16 new battalions will be around 17,000 personnel.
- The BSF guards a total of 6,726 km of the two borders which includes 2,290 km of the India-Pakistan International Border and 339 km along the Line of Control (LoC) apart from 4,097 km of the front with Bangladesh.
- A total of around 1,047 km of these two borders is unfenced owing to those lines passing through riverine areas and harsh jungle terrain. The force has 1,760 border posts along these two frontiers.



Maiden flight-trials of Stratospheric Airship Platform

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out maiden flight-trials of its **Stratospheric Airship Platform** from **Sheopur Trial site at Madhya Pradesh**.
- Developed by **Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment** at Agra in Uttar Pradesh, the airship was launched carrying an instrumental payload to an altitude of around **17 kilometers**.
- The data from onboard sensors was received and will be utilised for development of high-quality fidelity simulation models for future high-altitude airship flights.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has congratulated the DRDO for the successful maiden flight-trial of the system. He stated that this system will uniquely enhance India's earth observation and Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance capabilities.

- The Minister added that this airship will also make the country one of the few countries in the world having such indigenous capabilities.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Where did DRDO conduct the maiden flight-trials of the Stratospheric Airship Platform?**
 - A. Pokhran, Rajasthan
 - B. Chandipur, Odisha
 - C. Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh
 - D. Agra, Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER: C

2. Which organization developed the Stratospheric Airship Platform?

- A. Defence Avionics Research Establishment, Bengaluru
- B. Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune
- C. Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment, Agra
- D. Centre for Airborne Systems, Bengaluru

ANSWER: C

3. What is the estimated cost of the HawkEye 360 technology package approved for sale to India by the United States?

- A. \$100 million
- B. \$131 million
- C. \$150 million
- D. \$175 million

ANSWER: B

4. The RFP released by the Ministry of Defence includes procurement under which system category?

- A. Ballistic Missile Defence System
- B. High Mobility Artillery Rocket System
- C. Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile System
- D. VSHORADS-NG

ANSWER: D

5. What are the High-Altitude Platform Systems (HAPS), set to be acquired by the Indian Air Force, also known as?

- A. Space drones
- B. Low-orbit satellites
- C. Pseudo satellites
- D. Reconnaissance UAVs

ANSWER: C

6. Dhanush, a missile inducted into the Indian Navy

- A. cannot carry nuclear warheads
- B. is a customized and naval variant of Prithvi missile
- C. has a range of 700 km
- D. can be launched from an aircraft

ANSWER: B

7. The commando unit of the Indian Air Force is named.

- A. Ghatak
- B. MARCOS
- C. Garud
- D. Baaz

ANSWER: C

8. Which of the following corps deals with the supply of weaponry and ammunition to the Indian Army?

- A. Armoured Corps
- B. Army Ordnance Corps
- C. Corps of EME
- D. Army Supply Corps

ANSWER: B

9. What was the name given to the operation conducted by National Security Guard in 2008 against terrorist attack in Taj hotel, Mumbai?

- A. Operation Vijay
- B. Operation Black Thunder
- C. Operation Black Tornado
- D. Operation Safed Sagar

ANSWER: C

10. At which of the following places is the headquarters of a Naval Command NOT located?

- A. Goa
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Mumbai
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: A

11. On which of the following dates is the Navy Day celebrated in India?

- A. December 4
- B. February 1
- C. October 8
- D. January 15

ANSWER: A

12. The country that shares the longest border with India is

- A. China
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Nepal
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

13. How many Indian states share border with Bhutan?

- A. 5
- B. 3
- C. 2
- D. 4

ANSWER: D

14. "Indian Home Rule" Book Is Written By

- A. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
- B. H. G. Wells
- C. Sitaram Yechuri
- D. M. K. Gandhi

ANSWER: D

15. The first nuclear reactor in India is

- A. Dhurva
- B. Harsha
- C. Apsara
- D. Vipula

ANSWER: C

16. At which of the following places is the Indian National Defence University being set up?

- A. Gurgaon, Haryana
- B. Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Kasargod, Kerala
- D. Medak, Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: A

17. Which of the following aircraft is the air-to-air refueller of the Indian Air Force?

- A. Ilyushin – 78
- B. C – 130J Hercules
- C. Ilyushin – 76
- D. C – 17 Globemaster

ANSWER: A

18. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

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

ANSWER: A

19. At which of the following places is the Heavy Vehicles Factory located?

- A. Avadi
- B. 24 Paraganas
- C. Kanpur
- D. Khadki

ANSWER: A

20. Defence Services Staff College is located In

- A. Avadi
- B. 24 Paraganas
- C. Kanpur
- D. Wellington

ANSWER: D