

Daily Defence Current Affairs

22 September 2025

Pokhran Exercise

- The Pokhran Field Firing Range in Jaisalmer district, Rajasthan, was transformed into a simulated battlefield as the Indian Army's **Battle Axe Division** conducted its annual field firing exercise under the theme "**Focus, Fortitude, and Fire Power.**"
- The exercise showcased the army's combat readiness with next-generation weapons and modern equipment.
- During the exercise, the Battle Axe Division demonstrated combat effectiveness using a wide range of infantry weapons, including assault rifles, light machine guns (LMG), heavy machine guns, sniper rifles, under-barrel grenade launchers, mortars, anti-tank rocket systems, and personal defence weapons.
- Night-vision and thermal sighting devices, drones, surveillance equipment, and communication and navigation devices such as radio and GPS were also used.
- The Battle Axe Division, part of the Southern Command based in Pune, conducts annual exercises at the Pokhran range to assess combat capabilities in desert conditions near the Pakistan border.



Ex Pacific Reach

- INS Nistar, India's indigenously built diving support vessel, has arrived in Singapore to participate in Exercise Pacific Reach 2025 (XPR25), a prestigious international submarine rescue exercise.
- Commanding Officer Amitsubhro Banerji highlighted INS Nistar's dual roles -- conducting deep-sea diving operations and serving as a mothership for the Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) for submarine rescue missions.
- The ship is indigenously built at Hindustan Shipyard Limited, and it is the first of its class, among the two diving support vessels which is being made. The first ship, INS Nistar, was commissioned on July 18. The ship is 120 meters in length and it displaces 10,000 tons. With the DSRV being on board, the length further increases to 134 meters.
- Exercise Pacific Reach 2025, being **hosted by Singapore**, is seeing the participation of more than 40 nations as active participants or observers. The exercise is being conducted in two phases, viz., harbour and sea phase.



Indian Navy's Rs 80,000 Crore Tender For 4 Amphibious Warships

- Seeking to expand its amphibious warfare capabilities, the Indian Navy is likely to issue a tender soon for building four large-sized warships known as the **Landing Platform Dock (LPD)** at a cost of around Rs 80,000 crore.

- The Indian Navy is also looking to have the capability of operating fixed-wing naval drones from the warships and also use them as command and control centres for carrying out operations on shore from sea for prolonged durations.
- The Indian shipbuilders would be the lead in this contract, which is likely to see the participation of major players, including **L&T, Mazagon Dockyards, Cochin Shipyard** and **Hindustan Shipbuilders Limited**.
- International shipbuilders such as **Navantia, Naval Group, and Fincantieri** are likely to be the design partners for the warships to be built and fully integrated within the country.
- The Navy wants the warships to have the capability of carrying out out-of-area contingency operations with the capability of transporting and deploying large-sized forces in the area of operations



'There will be no Palestinian State': Netanyahu

- Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has issued a stark warning to the UK, Canada and Australia after the three nations moved to recognise Palestine on Sunday. In a statement from the Prime Minister's office, Netanyahu accused the nations of "rewarding terrorism."
- As the war in Gaza rages on and Israel faces immense international pressure to withdraw its forces, the UK, Canada and Australia moved to formally recognise the state of Palestine on Sunday.

- All three prime ministers of the countries stated that the move comes amid the ongoing assault on the Gaza Strip. They added that the recognition of Palestine is the only solution to move towards lasting peace in the region and a two-state solution.
- Hours after, Portugal also joined the list by officially recognising statehood for Palestine.



Project Vijayak (BRO) Celebrates 15th Raising Day

- Project Vijayak of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 15th Raising Day at Kargil, Ladakh on September 21, 2025, expanding infrastructure projects worth over Rs 1,200 crore as it enters its 16th year.
- Over the last 15 years, the Project has built and maintained more than 1,400 km of roads and 80 major bridges across Ladakh, including the record-setting reopening of the strategic Zojila Pass within just 31 days of its winter closure in April 2025, an unprecedented feat in high-altitude connectivity.
- Raised in 2010, Project Vijayak was entrusted with the task of linking Ladakh's remote valleys and forward areas with the national mainstream while fulfilling operational requirements of the Armed Forces.



International Coastal Cleanup Day 2025

- As part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and Prime Minister's call for "Swachhta Hi Seva" (SHS), the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated International Coastal Cleanup Day 2025 (ICC-2025) nationwide on September 20, 2025.
- The event also focused on sensitising citizens about the need for sustainable practices and raising awareness on the importance of protecting fragile coastal ecosystems.
- Observed globally on the third Saturday of September under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), the initiative combats marine pollution through mass community participation. The ICG has been the national coordinator since 2006, consistently fostering environmental stewardship.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The annual field firing exercise of the Indian Army's Battle Axe Division at Pokhran in 2025 was conducted under which theme?

- A. Speed, Strength, and Strategy
- B. Focus, Fortitude, and Fire Power
- C. Precision, Power, and Protection
- D. Defence, Determination, and Discipline

ANSWER: B

2. INS Nistar, which participated in Exercise Pacific Reach 2025, was built at which Indian shipyard?

- A. Cochin Shipyard Limited
- B. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- C. Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- D. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers

ANSWER: C

3. The Indian Navy's upcoming tender worth around Rs 80,000 crore is for building which type of warships?

- A. Aircraft Carriers
- B. Destroyers
- C. Landing Platform Docks (LPDs)
- D. Submarines

ANSWER: C

4. Project Vijayak of the BRO, is mainly associated with which region?

- A. Sikkim
- B. Arunachal Pradesh
- C. Ladakh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: C

5. International Coastal Cleanup Day 2025 in India was coordinated nationally by which organisation?

- A. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- B. National Green Tribunal
- C. Indian Coast Guard

D. NITI Aayog

ANSWER: C

6. Army Airborne Training School Is Located At

A. Agra

B. Mumbai

C. Pune

D. Nagpur

ANSWER: A

7. EASTERN BRIDGE Conducted B/W India &

A. UK

B. Oman

C. Sri Lanka

D. USA

ANSWER: B

8. INS Chennai Is A

A. Missile Destroyer

B. Submarine

C. Landing Ship Tank

D. None

ANSWER: A

9. INS Karmuk Is A

A. Destroyer

B. Missile Corvette

C. Submarine

D. Tank

ANSWER: B

10. R&AW Stands For

A. Research and Analytical Wing

B. Raw and Analysis Wing

C. Research and Analysis Wing

D. Research and Analysis Wet

ANSWER: C

11. "Sarvatra" (Everywhere) Is The Motto Of

- A. JKRF
- B. RR
- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

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

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Konkan Shakti

ANSWER: D

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

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

ANSWER: A

14. Moroni Is The Capital Of

- A. Comoros
- B. Costa Rica
- C. Cuba
- D. Dominica

ANSWER: A

15. "An Introduction to Dreamland" Book Is Written By

- A. Bhagat Singh
- B. Leo Tolstoy
- C. Jules Verne
- D. Gunnar Myrdal

ANSWER: A

16. Current NSA Of India Is

- A. S Jaishankar

- B. Ajit Doval
- C. R Hari Kumar
- D. V R Chaudhari

ANSWER: B

17. Ex 'AUSINDEX' conducted b/w India &

- A. Angola
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Australia

ANSWER: D

18. Vice Chief of the Naval Staff (India) Is

- A. Satish Namdeo Ghormade
- B. R Hari Kumar
- C. Karambir Lamba
- D. Sunil Singh

ANSWER: A

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

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Tiger Triumph

ANSWER: D

20. Where Is The Hq Of The Eastern Command of The IAF?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Shillong
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: C