

Daily Defence Current Affairs

29 September 2025

Anant Shastra

- The Indian Army has issued a tender to state-owned Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of five to six regiments of the indigenously developed 'Anant Shastra' surface-to-air missile weapon systems.
- The system, earlier known as the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), has been developed by the DRDO.
- The project is estimated to cost about Rs 30,000 crore and is aimed at strengthening air defence capabilities along the borders with Pakistan and China.
- The Army's Air Defence (AAD) played a significant role during Operation Sindoor in countering Pakistani drone attacks. At present, the AAD operates systems such as MRSAM and Akash in coordination with the Indian Air Force to counter aerial threats.
- The Defence Acquisition Council cleared the procurement proposal shortly after Operation Sindoor in May. The mobile system can search, track and engage targets on the move, with a firing range of around 30 km, complementing existing MRSAM and Akash systems.



Amit Shah Rejects Ceasefire Offer From Naxals

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday rejected the ceasefire offer given by Maoists, saying if the extremists want to surrender and lay down arms, they are most welcome to do so and security forces would not fire a single bullet on them.
- Addressing the valedictory session of a seminar on 'Naxal Mukta Bharat', Shah also hit out at Left parties for extending ideological support to Left Wing Extremism and dismissed their arguments that lack of development led to the Maoist violence. He said it was due to the "red terror" that development could not reach many parts of the country for several decades.
- "I want to tell you that there will be no ceasefire. If you want to surrender, lay down arms and not a single bullet will be fired. A red carpet welcome is waiting for you if you surrender," he said.
- Shah said this in response to the offer of a ceasefire given by the CPI (Maoists) sometime back following the intensified operations carried out by security forces, including "**Operation Black Forest**" along the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, in which several top Naxals were eliminated.



DRDO To Develop Legged In-Orbit Robotics

- DRDO is embarking on an ambitious program to develop in-orbit robotics for space applications, marking a major step in India's pursuit of advanced autonomous technologies for aerospace and defence. The project is being led by scientist Kiran Akella, with the aim of completing the first operational phase of development by 2027.

- The initiative focuses on designing legged robotic systems capable of performing complex tasks in zero-gravity and low-gravity space environments. Unlike traditional robotic arms used in satellites and space stations, legged robots provide greater mobility and flexibility in manoeuvring across spacecraft surfaces.
- Such robots can be used for inspection, maintenance, assembly, and even repair tasks in orbit, reducing dependence on human extravehicular activity (EVA) missions.
- **Purpose:** The goal is to strengthen India's capabilities in space technology, aligning with the goal of self-reliance (Atmanirbhar Bharat).



Russia Backs India's Bid For Permanent UNSC Seat

- Russia has formally reiterated its support for India's long-standing bid for a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) during the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York.
- Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, addressing delegates, stressed that reforms were urgently needed to reflect the global shifts since the UN's formation 80 years ago.
- He noted that Russia supported **India and Brazil's** inclusion as permanent members, which would broaden representation from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.
- The Russian minister also highlighted the growing influence of bodies like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and BRICS.

- He underlined that these platforms were increasingly shaping consensus among Global South nations and reinforcing calls for alternative mechanisms of global governance outside traditional Western-dominated institutions.



Bhutan Calls For Reforms In UNSC

- Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, addressing the 80th United Nations General Assembly (UNGA80), called for substantive reforms to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- In his speech, Tobgay explicitly named India and Japan as "deserving nations" for permanent membership, advocating that a reformed UNSC should include these countries along with other capable and leading nations to better reflect today's global realities.
- Tobgay emphasized Bhutan's strong support for expanding both permanent and non-permanent membership of the Security Council. He urged for a UNSC that is more representative, responsive, and effective, aligning closely with India's long-standing bid for a permanent seat on the council.
- The Prime Minister positioned Bhutan as an active partner in advocating for a multilateral system that prioritizes actionable results rather than mere resolutions.
- Bhutan's Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay's UNGA address marked a strong endorsement for UNSC reforms, naming India and Japan as prime candidates for permanent seats.



Bharat Tests Agni-Prime Missile

- India on Thursday successfully conducted the flight test of its Intermediate Range Agni-Prime missile from a rail-based mobile launcher system, defence minister Rajnath Singh confirmed in a post on X (formerly Twitter).
- The new generation missile, designed for a strike range of up to 2,000 km, is equipped with advanced features and represents a key step in the country's strategic capabilities.
- For the first time, the missile was launched from a specially designed rail-based mobile launcher. The system can move freely on the rail network without prior conditions, enabling cross-country mobility. It allows forces to carry out launches within short reaction time while keeping operational visibility low.
- In his post, the defence minister said, "Congratulations to DRDO, Strategic Forces Command (SFC) and the Armed Forces on successful test of Intermediate Range Agni-Prime missile."



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Indian Army has issued a tender to BEL for which indigenously developed missile system?

- A. Akash-NG
- B. Anant Shastra
- C. Pralay
- D. Astra Mk-II

ANSWER: B

2. The surface-to-air missile system 'Anant Shastra' was earlier known as:

- A. Akash
- B. Nirbhay
- C. Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM)
- D. Agni-Prime

ANSWER: C

3. "Operation Black Forest," in Chhattisgarh-Telangana border, was aimed at eliminating:

- A. Cross-border smugglers
- B. Terrorist groups
- C. CPI (Maoists) cadres
- D. Illegal arms traffickers

ANSWER: C

4. DRDO's new program on in-orbit robotics for space applications is being led by:

- A. Tessy Thomas
- B. G. Satheesh Reddy
- C. Kiran Akella
- D. R. Umamaheswaran

ANSWER: C

5. India recently conducted the flight test of the Agni-Prime missile from which type of launcher system?

- A. Road-mobile launcher
- B. Rail-based mobile launcher
- C. Submarine-based launcher
- D. Fixed land-based silo

ANSWER: B

6. What is the highest commissioned rank awarded in the Navy?

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Wing Commander
- D. Admiral

ANSWER: D

7. 'Varuna' is a multilateral Defence Exercise b/w India &

- A. Japan
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. France
- D. Australia

ANSWER: C

8. Super Hornet Is Made By

- A. Dassault
- B. Boeing
- C. Airbus
- D. HAL

ANSWER: B

9. Heron Is A

- A. Tank

- B. Rifle
- C. UAV
- D. Helicopter

ANSWER: C

10. Exercises B/w India And Nepal Lanka Is Called:

- A. Vayu
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Surya Kiran

ANSWER: D

11. AEW&CS Stands For

- A. Airborne Early Warning and Center System
- B. Airborne East Warning and Control System
- C. Airborne Early Warning and Control System
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent to which rank of Indian Navy?

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Commander
- D. Vice Admiral

ANSWER: D

13. 'CORPS' In Indian Army Headed By__

- A. General Officer Commanding (GOC)
- B. General Officer Commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C)
- C. Major General
- D. Brigadier

ANSWER: A

14. Which Is/Are The Combat Arms Of The Indian Army?

- A. Infantry
- B. The Armoured Corp
- C. The Mechanized Infantry
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

15. Bugatti Car Manufactured By

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

ANSWER: B

16. India Purchased Dragunov SVD from

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. USSR

ANSWER: D

17. Oslo Is The Capital Of

- A. Norway
- B. Palau
- C. Philippines
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

18. "Mind-Master" Book Is Written By

- A. Roopa Pai
- B. Neha J Hiranandani
- C. M Venkaiah Naidu
- D. Viswanathan Anand and Susan Ninan

ANSWER: D

19. Heckler & Koch MP5 Is A

- A. Submachine gun
- B. Machine pistol
- C. Sniper rifle
- D. Anti-material rifle

ANSWER: A

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

- A. Vice Admiral
- B. Air Commodore

- C. Commodore
- D. Air Marshal

ANSWER: D