

Daily Defence Current Affairs

23 October 2025

Neeraj Conferred with Honorary Rank

- India's Olympic gold medalist and former World Champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra expressed his delight with being given the honorary rank of **Lieutenant Colonel** in the Territorial Army, calling it "more than an honour" and a "responsibility towards the country".
- Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formally conferred the gleaming insignia of Honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army upon Neeraj during the pipping ceremony in South Block, New Delhi.
- Interacting with Lt. Col (Hony) Neeraj Chopra and his family members, Singh described him as an epitome of perseverance, patriotism and the Indian spirit of striving for excellence, as per a release from the Ministry of Defence.
- Enrolled in the Indian Army in 2016, Lt. Col (Hony) Chopra has served with The **Rajputana Rifles** of the Indian Army. Born on 24 December 1997 in Khandra village, Panipat district, Haryana, he has brought immense pride to the Nation and the Armed Forces through his remarkable accomplishments in international athletics.



Indian Army Signs Rs 2,700 Crore Deal

- In a major success for the indigenously-produced rifles, the Indian Army has signed a contract to buy 4.25 lakh close-quarter carbines, of which 2.5 lakh would be supplied by **Bharat Forge**, while the remaining would be provided by the AdPLR systems.
- The carbines for DRDO-developed rifles would be replacing the vintage carbines, which were phased out a long time ago.
- The contract was signed last month, Lt Gen Kumar said, adding that the infantry has moved towards the motto of 'shoot to kill' and replaced its older 5.56 mm rifles with the 7.62 mm American Sig Sauer and Russian-origin AK-203 assault rifles.
- The Indian Army has taken various steps to address the shortage of advanced rifles for its troops and plans to induct weapons that will be in service for the next 20-30 years.



Army Equips 380 Infantry battalions with 'Ashney' Drone Platoons

- Three hundred eighty infantry battalions of the Indian Army have been equipped with drone platoons while elite commando units are being raised as part of a modernisation drive to bolster the force's combat capabilities along the northern and western frontiers.

- Lt Gen Ajay Kumar, the director general of infantry, said this while highlighting steps to enhance the strike capabilities of the infantry units. The Army is also procuring 4.25 lakh battle carbines at a cost of Rs 2,770 crore as part of the infantry modernisation plan, he told reporters.
- The Army has already raised five elite **Bhairav battalions** with nearly 250 soldiers each and it plans to have a total of 25 such battalions within next six months. These battalions are being raised for special operations and are likely to be a bridge between regular infantry and the elite para-special forces.
- Lt Gen Kumar said the Army is also upgrading assault rifles and light machine guns from 5.56mm to 7.62mm calibre for infantry soldiers.
- The vintage sniper rifles are also being replaced with .338 sniper rifles.



Indian Army to Buy 2,408 Nag Mark 2 ATGM

- In what would be a major success for indigenous weapon systems, the Indian Army is set to place a major order for 2,408 Nag Mark 2 anti-tank guided missiles with 107 NAMICA tracked vehicles.
- The Nag Mark-2, along with the NAMICA 2 vehicle, is an advanced version of the previous system and includes a large number of changes and improvements suggested by the users.
- The missiles are produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited. The field evaluation trials of the indigenously developed Nag Mark 2, ATGM, which is a third-generation Anti-Tank Fire-and-Forget Guided Missile, were successfully

conducted in January this year at Pokhran Field Range in the presence of senior officers of the Indian Army.



Sweden, Ukraine Sign Letter Of Intent For Supply of Gripen Fighters

- Swedish Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson said Wednesday that Sweden and Ukraine had signed a letter of intent to develop air capabilities, which could see Ukraine buy up to 150 Gripen fighter jets.
- Speaking alongside Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at a press conference in Sweden, Kristersson said the letter of intent would create the conditions for a "very large defence industry deal".
- "Probably somewhere between 100 and 150 fighter jets of the model Gripen E that are now beginning to be made," he said, adding the deal could have a 10- to 15-year timeline.
- The letter of intent did not provide any specific dates, but Kristersson said he expected the first planes to be delivered to Ukraine "within three years".
- "The Gripen is a priority for our army," Zelensky said.
- Last year, Sweden suspended plans to send its Gripen fighter jets to Ukraine, after partner countries requested that priority be given to American F-16s.



JIMEX-25

- The Indian Navy's indigenously built Shivalik-class guided missile stealth frigate INS Sahyadri took part in the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-25) held from October 16 to 18, 2025, and reached Yokosuka Port in Japan on October 21 for the harbour phase.
- These exercises helped improve coordination between the two navies and strengthened cooperation under the India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership, set up in 2014 to promote peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Commissioned in 2012, INS Sahyadri showcases India's progress in indigenous defence technology and supports the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India). The stealth frigate has taken part in several important operational deployments and joint exercises with other countries.



Government to Procure Six Fast Patrol Boats

- The government plans to procure six fast patrol boats for the armed forces, essentially required to acquire capability of small team insertion for "surveillance and reconnaissance", according to the Request for Proposal (RFP) issued for it.
- The opening date for the 'Request for Technical and Commercial Proposal for Procurement of six fast patrol boats (FPBs) under Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category', is October 21, and the closing date is January 13, 2026.
- 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)' category refers to the procurement of products from an Indian vendor that have been indigenously designed, developed and manufactured with a minimum of 50 percent indigenous content on cost basis of the total contract value.
- The RFP is being issued with "no financial commitment", and the Ministry of Defence "reserves the right to withdraw the RFP and change or vary any part thereof or foreclose the procurement case at any stage", it says.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who was conferred with the honorary rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Territorial Army?

- A. PV Sindhu
- B. Neeraj Chopra
- C. Abhinav Bindra
- D. Bajrang Punia

ANSWER: B

2. The Indian Army recently signed a contract worth ₹2,700 crore to procure how many close-quarter carbines?

- A. 3 lakh
- B. 4.25 lakh
- C. 5 lakh
- D. 2.75 lakh

ANSWER: B

3. How many infantry battalions of the Indian Army have been equipped with 'Ashney' drone platoons?

- A. 250
- B. 300
- C. 380
- D. 400

ANSWER: C

4. The Indian Army is set to place an order for how many Nag Mark 2 anti-tank guided missiles?

- A. 1,500
- B. 2,408
- C. 3,000
- D. 2,100

ANSWER: B

5. Which Indian Navy ship participated in the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-25)?

- A. INS Kolkata
- B. INS Vikrant
- C. INS Sahyadri
- D. INS Trikand

ANSWER: C

6. HOP EX Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. Kyrgyzstan
- D. Malaysia

ANSWER: D

7. JIMEX Was First Started In

- A. 2012
- B. 2013
- C. 2014
- D. 2015

ANSWER: A

8. Puneet Sagar Abhiyan Is Conducted By

- A. NSS
- B. NCC
- C. BSF
- D. IAF

ANSWER: B

9. Defence Expo 2022 Held In

- A. M.H
- B. M.P.
- C. U.P.
- D. Ahmedabad

ANSWER: D

10. Major Rank of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of The Indian Navy?

- A.** Captain
- B.** Inspector
- C.** Lt Commander
- D.** Vice-admiral

ANSWER: C

11. Range of Shaurya Missile Is

- A. 700 to 1,900 km
- B. 500 – 15,00 km
- C. 1,500 – 2,000 km
- D. 2,500 – 3,200 km

ANSWER: A

12. Rashtriya Rifles Motto Is

- A. Courage and Valor
- B. Always Brave
- C. Service Before Self
- D. Lethal

ANSWER: A

13. War Cry of ASSAM REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge
- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: B

14. Amogha Is A

- A. Anti-tank guided missile
- B. Surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile
- C. Quick reaction surface to air missile

D. Multiple rocket launcher

ANSWER: A

15. Department of Military Affairs Headed By

- A. CDS
- B. NSA
- C. COAS
- D. Defence Minister

ANSWER: A

16. Cairo Is The Capital Of

- A. Egypt
- B. El Salvador
- C. UAE
- D. Eritrea

ANSWER: A

17. "Ignited Minds" Book Written By

- A. Bimal Jalal
- B. Vinit Karnik
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Dr APJ Kalam

ANSWER: D

18. Controller General of Defence Accounts Heads The

- A. MoD Accounts
- B. Make In India Accounts
- C. Parliament Accounts
- D. Defence Accounts Department

ANSWER: D

19. Army Sports Institute Is In

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

ANSWER: A

20. SITMEX Ex Is Done Among

- A. India, Singapore, and Thailand
- B. India, Sri Lanka and Thailand
- C. Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

