

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 29 December 2025

### Lockheed Martin Positions C-130J As Top Pick For IAF Tactical Airlift

- Lockheed Martin has positioned its C-130J Super Hercules as the premier choice for the Indian Air Force's (IAF) tactical airlift needs amid preparations for procuring up to 80 military transport aircraft.
- The US aerospace giant emphasises the aircraft's unmatched versatility and proven track record, highlighting its potential to bolster India's capabilities within the Quad framework.
- Company officials have revealed plans to establish the first global production hub for the C-130J outside the United States should India select it. This mega facility would mark a significant milestone, producing the "iconic" aircraft locally and enhancing India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.
- To date, Lockheed Martin has delivered over 560 C-130J Super Hercules family aircraft, which have logged more than three million flight hours across 28 operators in 23 nations. The IAF already operates 12 such aircraft, gaining first hand experience with their reliability in demanding environments.



## BEL Actively Advancing 'Anant Shastra'

- In a significant stride towards indigenisation in India's defence sector, the Indian Army has issued a tender valued at approximately ₹30,000 crore to Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of five to six regiments of the Anant Shastra surface-to-air missile systems.
- This move aims to fortify air defence capabilities along the borders with Pakistan and China. The Anant Shastra, developed by the DRDO and previously known as the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system, represents a home-grown solution to aerial threats.
- The Anant Shastra system boasts high mobility, enabling search, tracking, and target engagement on the move or during brief halts.
- Its single-stage solid-propellant missile features a mid-course inertial navigation system with two-way data link and a terminal active radar seeker in Ku and X bands, developed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat.
- With an operational range of around 30 km, it complements short-to-medium-range assets like Akash (up to 25-30 km, Mach 2.8-3.5 speed, 88-98.5% kill probability) and MR-SAM. Each launcher carries six missiles, capable of engaging six simultaneous targets, and includes electronic counter-countermeasure features for jamming immunity.



## Indian Coast Guard Signs Deal With L&T

- The Indian Coast Guard has signed a significant contract with L&T Precision Engineering & Systems for the supply of six Rail-Less Helo Traversing Systems (RLHTS), destined for its indigenously constructed Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs).

- This agreement, inked on Friday at Coast Guard Headquarters in New Delhi, aligns seamlessly with the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative, promoting self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- The signing ceremony involved the Principal Director (Air Acquisition) from the Coast Guard and a Vice President from L&T, conducted under the watchful eye of the Deputy Director General (Aviation).
- Unlike conventional rail-based mechanisms, RLHTS eliminates stringent alignment requirements, thereby boosting operational flexibility and dependability in challenging maritime conditions.
- The NGOPVs themselves embody advanced maritime capabilities, featuring twin diesel engines that propel them to 23 knots with an endurance of 5,000 nautical miles.
- L&T's longstanding role in Coast Guard projects traces back to earlier OPV series, including seven vessels launched from its Kattupalli yard, each 97 metres long with 26-knot speeds and 5,000 nautical mile ranges.



## RFI For The Procurement of 20 Tactical UAVs

- The Indian Army has issued a Request for Information (RFI) for the procurement of 20 Tactical Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs), also referred to as Tactical UAVs, with a maximum take-off weight (MTOW) of up to 800 kg.
- This initiative, spearheaded by the Ministry of Defence, aims to bolster intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities across diverse operational terrains. The systems include associated ground support equipment, underscoring a comprehensive approach to enhancing battlefield awareness.

- The procurement splits equally into 10 units optimised for plains operations and 10 for high-altitude or mountainous environments, such as those along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). This dual configuration addresses India's varied border landscapes, from low-level deserts to extreme elevations exceeding 5,000 metres.
- Key objectives of the RFI include finalising Services Qualitative Requirements (SQRs), determining the procurement category—potentially Buy (Indian-IDDM)—and shortlisting capable Indian industry partners.



## China launches 'Justice Mission 2025'

- China on Monday announced the launch of a large-scale inter-service joint military exercise around Taiwan, showcasing its assertion over the island nation, which Beijing claims "is a sacred and inseparable part" of its territory.
- According to China Daily, citing a spokesperson for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Eastern Theatre Command, the military exercise codenamed "Justice Mission 2025" involves the coordinated participation of China's ground forces, air force, navy, missile units, and other branches of the military.
- Senior Colonel Shi Yi, spokesperson for the PLA Eastern Theatre Command, said that the exercise includes air and maritime patrols, simulated strikes against hostile targets, blockades of key ports and areas, and deterrence operations along the periphery of the battlefield.
- The drills are designed to test the PLA's joint combat and integrated operational capabilities.
- "The operation includes air and sea patrols, suppression of hostile forces, blockade of critical ports and zones, and battlefield periphery deterrence, and is

intended to test our forces' joint combat capabilities," he said, as quoted by China Daily.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Lockheed Martin has positioned which aircraft as the top choice for the Indian Air Force's tactical airlift requirement?

- A. C-17 Globemaster III
- B. C-295W
- C. C-130J Super Hercules
- D. AN-32

**ANSWER: C**

2. If India selects the C-130J Super Hercules, what major step has Lockheed Martin proposed?

- A. Leasing aircraft to the IAF
- B. Setting up a maintenance-only facility
- C. Establishing the first global C-130J production hub outside the US
- D. Joint development of a new transport aircraft

**ANSWER: C**

3. The 'Anant Shastra' surface-to-air missile system was earlier known as which DRDO project?

- A. Akash-NG
- B. Trishul
- C. MR-SAM
- D. Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM)

**ANSWER: D**

**4. What is the approximate operational range of the Anant Shastra missile system?**

- A. 15 km
- B. 20 km
- C. 30 km
- D. 50 km

**ANSWER: C**

**5. China's large-scale joint military exercise launched around Taiwan in 2025 is codenamed:**

- A. Eastern Shield
- B. Red Dragon
- C. Strait Guardian
- D. Justice Mission 2025

**ANSWER: D**

**6. Marine Engineering Training Establishment of the Indian Navy located at**

- A. Noida
- B. Kochi
- C. Pune
- D. Wayanad

**ANSWER: C**

**7. RIMPAC Stands For**

- A. Rim of the Pacific Exercise
- B. Rim of the Perfect Exercise
- C. Rim of the Pacific Economy
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Which is a UAV?**

- A. INS Hansa
- B. INS Parundu
- C. Chetak
- D. Rustom

**ANSWER: C**

**9. INS Ranjit Is A**

- A.** Destroyer
- B.** OPV
- C.** Submarine
- D.** Tank

**ANSWER: A**

**10. Which Country Is Not The Member Of G-7?**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Berlin Is The Capital Of**

- A. France
- B. Qatar
- C. Germany
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: C**

**12. "Not Just A Nightwatchman: My Innings in the BCCI" Book Is Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Vinod Rai
- D. Anurag Thakur

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Where Is The Hq Of The Southern Western Command of The Indian Army?**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Sea Dragon Exercise Hosted By**

- A. USA



- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**15. India Purchased C 130 J from**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Ex KHANJAR Conducted B/W India &**

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

**ANSWER: D**

**17. OPEC Hq Is In**

- A. Vienna
- B. New York
- C. Chennai
- D. Abu Dhabi

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Gangtok Is The Capital Of**

- A. Sikkim
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Telangana
- D. Tripura

**ANSWER: A**

**19. What Is The Full Form Of JCB?**

- A. Joseph Cyril Bamford
- B. Joseph Cyrus Bamford
- C. Joseph Cyril Bofors
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**



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

- A. Vice Admiral
- B. Air Commodore
- C. Commodore
- D. Air Marshal

**ANSWER: D**