

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Maiden Flight Test of Long-Range Pinaka

- India successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) on 29 December 2025 at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur, Odisha.
- This achievement marks a significant milestone in bolstering the Indian Army's precision strike and long-range artillery capabilities, with the rocket demonstrating a strike range of 120 kilometres.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and associated stakeholders for this indigenous development.
- The LRGR-120 represents an advanced evolution of the Pinaka Multi-Barrel Rocket Launcher System (MBRLS), originally designed by DRDO to replace ageing Russian systems like the BM-21 Grad.
- Developed primarily by DRDO's Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE), the guided variant builds on existing Pinaka iterations, including MK-1, MK-2, and extended-range models with ranges up to 90 kilometres.
- Key innovations include a guidance system for enhanced accuracy, achieving a Circular Error Probable (CEP) of less than 20 metres, vital for minimising collateral damage against high-value targets.
- The Indian Army has advanced procurement plans, initiating a proposal valued at approximately ₹2,500 crore for these long-range guided rockets, recently cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC).



MoD Targets 2026 Dry Kaveri Certification To Fast-Track Ghatak

- The Ministry of Defence has imposed a firm 2026 deadline for the Gas Turbine Research Establishment to certify the indigenous Dry Kaveri engine, positioning it as a pivotal requirement for securing Cabinet Committee on Security clearance for the Ghatak Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle project.
- This target underscores a strategic shift towards synchronising engine maturation with airframe development, aiming to avert the protracted delays that have hindered prior Indian aerospace endeavours.
- The Dry Kaveri, a non-afterburning variant of the original Kaveri turbofan designed for the Light Combat Aircraft Tejas, delivers approximately 49 kN of thrust, rendering it apt for the stealthy, long-endurance missions of the Ghatak UCAV.
- Ministry officials have explicitly rejected interim foreign engine options, insisting on deploying the indigenous powerplant from the programme's inception to bolster self-reliance under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- Crucial high-altitude flight trials for the Dry Kaveri are slated aboard an Ilyushin Il-76 testbed in Russia, with successful outcomes by 2026 serving as the chief benchmark for advancing to full-scale prototype funding.



India's 4th SSBN (S4*) Enters Sea Trials

- India's strategic submarine fleet continues to expand with the recent launch of its fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, codenamed S4*. This vessel marks a pivotal advancement in the nation's sea-based nuclear deterrence.
- Launched on 16 October 2024 at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, the S4* is presently in the fitting-out phase, prior to commencing sea trials.
- Unlike its predecessors, the S4* represents a stretched and enhanced design within the Arihant class. It boasts greater dimensions and improved capabilities, allowing for an increased missile payload. This upgrade addresses limitations observed in earlier submarines, positioning the S4* as a more potent platform for extended-range operations.
- The submarine's primary armament comprises the indigenously developed K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). With a strike range of 3,500 kilometres, the K-4 significantly outpaces the K-15 Sagarika missile, which has a mere 750-kilometre reach and equips the inaugural INS Arihant. The K-4's vertical launch system enables multiple tubes, enhancing salvo capacity and operational flexibility.
- INS Arihant (S2), the class lead, entered service in 2016 after extensive trials. Operational since then, it has validated core technologies despite initial constraints on missile loadout. Its deployment patrols vital sea lanes, maintaining continuous deterrence.

- The second vessel, INS Arighaat (S3), achieved formal induction in August 2024. It has since demonstrated K-4 compatibility through successful test firings, affirming the platform's maturity. Arighaat's entry doubled India's SSBN strength, amplifying patrol endurance.
- INS Aridhaman (S4), the third in line, nears completion. Currently in the final sea trial stages, it is slated for imminent commissioning into the Indian Navy. This progression ensures a steady ramp-up, with Aridhaman mirroring Arighaat's enhancements over Arihant.



Centre Approves ₹79,000 Crore Mega Defence Deal

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, convened on 29 December 2025 to approve capital acquisition proposals totalling approximately ₹79,000 crore. These procurements aim to bolster the operational capabilities of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force amid evolving security challenges.
- The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) grants the armed forces authority to proceed with detailed procurement processes.
- For the Indian Army, the DAC cleared the Loiter Munition System tailored for artillery regiments. This kamikaze drone excels in precision strikes against tactical targets, loitering over areas before self-destructing on impact. Low Level Light Weight Radars received approval to detect and track small, low-flying unmanned aerial systems, addressing vulnerabilities to drone incursions.
- Long Range Guided Rocket Ammunition for the Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket System (MRLS) forms another cornerstone. These rockets extend the Pinaka's reach and accuracy, enabling effective engagement of high-value targets at greater distances. The Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction System MK-

2, with enhanced range, safeguards vital assets in tactical battle areas and hinterland zones.

- Turning to the Indian Navy, AoN covered Bollard Pull Tugs essential for berthing, unberthing, and manoeuvring ships and submarines in confined harbours. High Frequency Software Defined Radios in manpack configuration will secure long-range communications during boarding and landing operations.
- Leasing High Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems promises continuous intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, and maritime domain awareness over the Indian Ocean Region.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The maiden flight test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket (LRGR-120) was conducted at which location?

- A. Pokhran, Rajasthan
- B. Chandipur, Odisha
- C. Balasore, Odisha
- D. Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: B

2. What is the maximum strike range demonstrated by the Pinaka LRGR-120 during its maiden test?

- A. 90 km
- B. 100 km
- C. 120 km
- D. 150 km

ANSWER: C

3. The indigenous Dry Kaveri engine is being developed primarily to power which defence platform?

- A. Tejas Mk-2 Fighter Aircraft
- B. AMCA
- C. Ghatak Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle
- D. TAPAS UAV

ANSWER: C

4. Which submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) will serve as the primary armament of India's fourth SSBN, S4*?

- A. K-15 Sagarika
- B. K-3
- C. K-4
- D. Agni-P

ANSWER: C

5. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved defence capital acquisition proposals worth approximately how much on 29 December 2025?

- A. ₹45,000 crore
- B. ₹60,000 crore
- C. ₹72,000 crore
- D. ₹79,000 crore

ANSWER: D

6. Varuna Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. Drone
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: C

7. Varuna Has Been Developed By The____.

- A. Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited
- B. DRDO
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. HAL

ANSWER: A

8. Ex 'KONKAN, INDRADHANUSH' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. UK

ANSWER: D

9. ___ Is India's Border Guarding Organisation On Its Border With Pakistan And Bangladesh.

- A. SSB
- B. ITBP
- C. BSF
- D. None

ANSWER: C

10. Eastern Region (E) Of ICG Is Located At

- A. Chennai
- B. Mumbai
- C. Kolkata
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. Priyadarshini-class Patrol Vessels Is Manufactured By

- A. CSL
- B. MDL
- C. GRSE
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

12. Indian Navy Founded On

- A.** 26 January 1945
- B.** 26 January 1950
- C.** 26 January 1960
- D.** 26 January 1970

ANSWER: B

13. With Which Nation India Holds 2+2 Dialogue?

- A. Pakistan
- B. Japan
- C. USA
- D. Both B & C

ANSWER: D

14. DRDO Lakshya Is A

- A. Fighter Jet
- B. Ship
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

ANSWER: D

15. Exercise Samudra Shakti Conducted B/w Indonesia &

- A. India
- B. Nepal
- C. Bangladesh
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

16. Captain Rank of Indian Navy Equivalent to Which rank of IAF?

- A. Flying Officer
- B. Flight Lieutenant
- C. Group Captain
- D. None

ANSWER: C

17. Brussels Is The Capital Of

- A. Belgium
- B. Belize
- C. Benin
- D. Bhutan

ANSWER: A

18. "Jungle Nama" Book Is Written By

- A. Jhumpa Lahiri
- B. Amitav Ghosh

- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Nirupama Rao

ANSWER: B

19. Rapid Action Force Hq Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Lucknow
- C. Surat
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: D

20. War Cry Of SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY Is

- A. Garud ka hun bol pyare
- B. Everywhere
- C. Raja Ramachandra ki jai
- D. Jo bole So Nihal, sat sri akal

ANSWER: D

