

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Indian Coast Guard's First Indigenously Designed 'Samudra Pratap'

- The Indian Coast Guard's first indigenously designed and built pollution control vessel, Samudra Pratap, will be commissioned into the force by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on January 5, officials said.
- Measuring 114.5 metres and weighing 4,200 tonnes, the vessel has over 60 per cent indigenous content. It can achieve speeds of over 22 knots and has an endurance of 6,000 nautical miles.
- Samudra Pratap will play a key role in enforcing marine pollution control regulations, maritime law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and protecting India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).



General Dwivedi Begins Four-day UAE and Sri Lanka Visit

- Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Sunday embarked on a four-day visit to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Sri Lanka to explore ways to shore up bilateral military cooperation.
- Gen Dwivedi is visiting the UAE to hold wide-ranging talks with the top military brass of the influential Gulf nation. He will also visit key military establishments including the UAE National Defence College and interact with officers and troops.
- In the second leg, the Army Chief will visit Sri Lanka and engage with senior military and civil leadership, including the Commander of the Sri Lanka Army. General Dwivedi will address officers at the Defence Services Command and Staff College and pay homage at the IPKF War Memorial to honour the supreme sacrifice of Indian soldiers.
- Army Chief's visit reaffirms India's commitment to strengthening defence cooperation, fostering mutual trust and enhancing interoperability with friendly nations in the Indian Ocean Region and West Asia.



DRDO's SAMHO CLATGM Gets AoN: Arjun Tanks

- India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed the Cannon Launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile (CLATGM), also known as the Laser-Guided ATGM or SAMHO (Semi-Active Mission Homing), specifically for

integration with the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MBT). This indigenous system addresses a longstanding requirement of the Indian Army for enhanced anti-armour capabilities at extended ranges.

- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has recently granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for its procurement, marking a pivotal step towards production and induction into service. This clearance fulfils a decade-old need, enabling the Arjun tank fleet to engage heavily armoured threats with precision beyond line-of-sight (BLOS).
- Development of the CLATGM progressed through rigorous trials, with successful tests conducted from the Arjun tank's 120 mm rifled gun. In June 2022, DRDO and the Indian Army test-fired the missile at KK Ranges in Ahmednagar, where it struck targets with textbook precision at minimum ranges, demonstrating satisfactory flight performance via telemetry.
- Earlier trials, including those in 2020 and 2022, validated the missile's ability to transition from ballistic launch to guided flight, targeting modern main battle tanks equipped with explosive reactive armour (ERA). The system employs semi-active laser homing guidance (SAMHO), allowing fire-and-forget operation post-launch for crew safety.
- Key capabilities include a tandem high explosive anti-tank (HEAT) warhead designed to penetrate ERA-protected vehicles, with engagement ranges from 1.5 to 5 kilometres. Its multi-platform launch potential and BLOS engagement provide a tactical edge in open terrain, countering low-flying helicopters and hardened targets.



Trump says U.S. is "in charge" of Venezuela

- Former Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and his wife were captured and brought to the U.S. They will appear in federal court at noon on Monday, according to a spokesperson for the U.S. District Court in the Southern District of New York.
- President Trump said in a Saturday press conference that the U.S. would "run" Venezuela temporarily during the transition, and "get the oil flowing." He said Sunday the U.S. was "in charge" of Venezuela.
- Secretary of State Marco Rubio signaled on Sunday the U.S. doesn't plan to directly govern Venezuela but will continue to enforce an "oil quarantine" as part of a plan to influence policy.
- Maduro and his wife landed in New York on Saturday hours after being captured during a U.S. military operation in Caracas. They are being held at the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn and will face federal charges related to drug trafficking and working with gangs designated as terrorist organizations, which Maduro denies.
- The U.S. Army's Delta Force, an elite special forces unit, carried out the operation to capture Maduro, officials told CBS News.
- The operation followed months of U.S. military buildup in the region, with the USS Gerald R. Ford aircraft carrier and numerous other warships positioned in the Caribbean, and a series of deadly strikes on more than 30 boats the administration says were carrying drugs.
- The Cuban government said Sunday that 32 Cubans were killed during the U.S. operation to capture Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.
- "As a result of the criminal attack perpetrated by the United States government against the sister Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, carried out in the early morning of January 3, 2026, 32 Cubans were killed in combative actions, who were serving missions on behalf of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior, at the request of counterpart bodies of the South American country," the Cuban government said.



MSA Global Secures Indian Army Contract for 50,000+ Ice Axes & Shovels

- Bangalore-based MSA Global Technology & Engineering Pvt Ltd has secured a significant supply order from the Indian Army for over 50,000 ice axes and shovels, marking a milestone in indigenous production that eliminates imports of these essential high-altitude tools for the first time.
- Established in 2015 and headquartered in Delhi with key manufacturing facilities in Bengaluru, the company specialises in precision engineering for aerospace and defence sectors. Its state-of-the-art centre of excellence supports high-tolerance component production, aligning well with military requirements for durable mountaineering gear.
- The contract announcement, shared via LinkedIn in early December 2025, underscores MSA Global's growing role in defence indigenisation. This Bangalore firm, employing 51-200 staff, has rapidly expanded its portfolio to include critical Army supplies, building on prior achievements like pioneering all-metal barrels for the GRAD BM-21 rocket launcher system in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science.
- Ice axes and shovels are vital for the Indian Army's operations in super high-altitude areas, such as along the Line of Actual Control with China, where troops face extreme conditions in regions like Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. These tools enable snow clearance, trench digging, and climbing, directly impacting combat readiness and soldier safety in sub-zero terrains.
- MSA Global's success builds on years of R&D, including metallurgy advancements for high-stress applications, positioning it as a key private player

amid partnerships with public sector undertakings. Supplying over 50,000 units will bolster stockpiles for multiple regiments deployed in high-altitude posts, reducing vulnerabilities to global disruptions.



PEL Secures ₹2.7 Crores Contract For Masts & Tripods Supply

- Precision Electronics Ltd (PEL), based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, has secured a government contract valued at approximately ₹2.7 crore for the supply of masts and tripods.
- This order, placed by a government entity in the aerospace and defence segment, underscores the company's growing footprint in India's strategic defence ecosystem. The contract requires PEL to deliver these specialised elevation systems along with related accessories, tailored precisely to the customer's specifications.
- Founded in 1979, PEL has evolved into a prominent hi-tech enterprise specialising in the design, development, and manufacture of tactical infrastructure solutions, including telescopic masts, tripods, and pedestals.
- Headquartered in Noida with 201-500 employees, the firm serves sectors such as telecom, security, government, and automotive, with a strong emphasis on military communications, electronic warfare, and integrated surveillance systems. Its product portfolio extends to power electronics, anti-drone solutions, and system integration for critical infrastructures like railways and oil & gas.
- The masts and tripods in question align with PEL's specialised roof-top mast systems, engineered for elevating smaller payloads such as cameras, radios, illuminating systems, and broadcast equipment. These robust, vehicle-mountable or building-integrated structures support deployments in dense urban environments, including base stations for DMR, TETRA, LoRA, LTE, 5G cellular, and anti-drone applications. Such equipment proves vital for signals

intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance (ISR), and secure communications in defence operations.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Samudra Pratap, recently commissioned into the ICG, is primarily designed for which role?

- A. Anti-submarine warfare
- B. Amphibious assault operations
- C. Marine pollution control and maritime law enforcement
- D. Ballistic missile defence

ANSWER: C

2. What is the endurance of the Indian Coast Guard's pollution control vessel Samudra Pratap?

- A. 3,500 nautical miles
- B. 4,200 nautical miles
- C. 5,000 nautical miles
- D. 6,000 nautical miles

ANSWER: D

3. DRDO's SAMHO CLATGM is designed to be launched from which Indian Army platform?

- A. T-90 Bhishma tank
- B. Arjun Main Battle Tank
- C. BMP-2 Infantry Combat Vehicle
- D. K9 Vajra-T howitzer

ANSWER: B

4. During his four-day foreign visit, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi paid homage at which memorial in Sri Lanka?

- A. Kargil War Memorial

- B. Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) War Memorial
- C. Victory Memorial Colombo
- D. Sri Lanka Armed Forces Memorial

ANSWER: B

5. Which Indian company secured a contract to supply over 50,000 ice axes and shovels to the Indian Army for high-altitude operations?

- A. Tata Advanced Systems
- B. Bharat Forge
- C. MSA Global Technology & Engineering Pvt Ltd
- D. Larsen & Toubro

ANSWER: C

6.Is Referred To As The First Citizen Of India.

- A. The President
- B. The Prime Minister
- C. Governor
- D. Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

ANSWER: A

7. INS Sukanya Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank Landing Ship

ANSWER: B

8. The 164th Anniversary Of Income Tax Day Was Observed On

- A. 23rd July
- B. 24th July
- C. 25th July
- D. None

ANSWER: B

9. The "Ladakh Scouts" also known as -

- A. Snow Lions
- B. Snow Warriors
- C. Snow Leopards

D. Snow Jackals

ANSWER: B

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

A. Kochi

B. Vishakhapatnam

C. Pune

D. Jaipur

ANSWER: D

11. What is the highest commissioned rank awarded in the IAF?

A. Air Marshal

B. Air Chief Marshal

C. Wing Commander

D. Admiral

ANSWER: B

12. India and Sri Lanka are separated by -

A. Palk Strait

B. Indian Ocean

C. Lakshadweep

D. Arabian Sea

ANSWER: A

13. Exercises B/w India And Nepal Is Called:

A. Yama

B. SLINEX

C. Indra

D. Surya Kiran

ANSWER: D

14. Gaborone Is The Capital Of

A. Botswana

B. Brazil

C. Brunei

D. Bulgaria

ANSWER: A

15. "The Carnival Is Over" Book Is Written By

- A. Greg Woodland
- B. Sanjay Dixit
- C. Ashok Kumar
- D. Ruskin Bond

ANSWER: A

16. Dornier 228 Is A

- A. Air to Air missile
- B. Sniper Rifle
- C. Utility Helicopter
- D. Communication satellite

ANSWER: C

17. Current CDS Is

- A. M M Naravane
- B. R Hari Kumar
- C. V R Chaudhary
- D. Place is Vacant

ANSWER: D

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

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

ANSWER: D

19. World Nature Conservation Day Is Observed On

- A. 18th July
- B. 26th July
- C. 28th July
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

20. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Equivalent to Which rank of Indian Navy

- A. Flying Officer
- B. Vice Admiral
- C. Admiral

D. None

ANSWER: B



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EXAMS