

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 08 January 2025

### Shaktibaan Regiments To Be Raised For Unmanned Warfare

- In a major push to strengthen its drone warfare capabilities, the Indian Army is raising 15-20 Shaktibaan regiments which would be equipped with swarm drones, loitering munitions and long-range UAVs which would be capable of striking targets from **5 kms to 500 Kms**.
- The Shaktibaan Regiments would be part of the Indian Army's Regiment of Artillery and initial units have already been operationalised. The major force restructuring, conceived by Indian Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, is part of the forces' transformation to tackle the challenges of modern warfare.
- For targets beyond **400-500 km**, the Indian Army's Regiment of Artillery has the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and is now also receiving the **120 km-range Pinaka rockets**.
- To equip the first of the Shaktibaan regiments, the Indian Army will shortly issue a tender under a fast-track procedure to procure **850 loitering munitions**, along with the required launchers, they said.
- Indian firms, including Solar Defence and Aerospace, AdDefence and RapheM, are likely to be the contenders for this Rs 2,000 crore project.
- Along with the Shaktibaan regiments, the Regiment of Artillery will also raise around 35-40 **Divyasthra batteries** as part of artillery divisions, equipped with drones of different types with lethal strike capabilities.
- The Indian forces used a number of loitering munitions like the **Nagastra, Sky Strikers, Harpy and Harop** to target enemy targets during Operation Sindoor to destroy enemy bases and Pakistan Army bases after extension of hostilities by Pakistan.



## Indian Navy Set To Commission 19 Warships In 2026

- India's naval ambitions are reaching a pivotal milestone in 2026, with the commissioning of 19 warships marking the largest single-year force accretion in its history.
- This surge underscores the rapid maturation of the nation's domestic shipbuilding capabilities, transforming the Indian Navy into a more potent blue-water force amid escalating regional tensions.
- Central to this achievement are the Nilgiri-class stealth frigates, with multiple units slated for induction. These 7,400-tonne warships boast advanced stealth features, including reduced radar cross-sections and integrated sensor suites, enhancing survivability in high-threat environments.
- Their deployment will bolster India's anti-submarine warfare and surface strike capabilities across the Indian Ocean Region.
- Looking ahead, 2026's inductions pave the way for the Navy's 2035 goal of 200 warships, including three indigenous aircraft carriers and six nuclear submarines. Initiatives like **Project 75I for AIP-equipped submarines** and the Next Generation Missile Vessels will sustain momentum. Private sector forays, such as Adani's planned Kochi yard, promise diversified capacity.



## **L&T Awarded Order By Indian Army To Upgrade Pinaka**

- L&T has been awarded a supply order by the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers (EME) of the Indian Army, for the overhaul, upgrade and obsolescence management of the indigenous Pinaka Multi-Rocket Launcher Systems, the company said in a stock exchange filing.
- This partnership between a domestic private OEM (Original Equipment Manufacturer) and the Indian Army, for sustenance of frontline artillery systems, "is a significant step for product lifecycle support of Made-in-India, in-service Artillery systems."
- The programme will focus on managing outdated components, upgrading critical sub-systems and providing sustained technical support to the Army Base Workshops. This affiliation shall also reinforce Public Private Partnership model in defence sustenance and lifecycle support for frontline artillery systems.
- In the initial phase, L&T shall jointly undertake a pilot overhaul of Pinaka Launcher and Battery Command Post in collaboration with 510 ABW. Upon successful completion of the pilot phase, remaining systems shall be overhauled by 510 ABW of the Corps of EME, with L&T continuing to provide critical spares, technical support and quality oversight.



## **First Training Squadron to be deployed to South East Asia**

- Three naval ships and an ICG vessel of the Indian Navy's First Training Squadron will be part of the long range training deployment to South East Asia, reinforcing India's sustained maritime engagement with nations in the region.
- The long range training deployment (LRTD) underscores the Navy's emphasis on training excellence while contributing to maritime diplomacy, goodwill and cooperative approach to regional maritime security, the defence ministry said.
- The ships of the First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy -- INS Tir, INS Shardul, INS Sujata and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) ship Sarathi -- will be proceeding on an LRTD to South East Asia as part of a training curriculum of the 110th Integrated Officers' Training Course (IOTC), the ministry said in a statement.



## **DRDO Greenlit For BM-04**

- India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has secured approval to develop the BM-04, a short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) poised to bolster the nation's strategic capabilities.

- Following the granting of Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), development will accelerate, with testing likely to commence shortly. This advancement emerges from New Delhi, signalling a robust response to evolving regional threats.
- The BM-04 addresses a critical void in India's missile arsenal. Existing systems like the Pinaka multi-barrel rocket launcher offer ranges of merely 40 to 90 kilometres, suitable for tactical battlefield support.
- In contrast, the Agni series extends beyond 2,000 kilometres, aligning with strategic nuclear deterrence. The BM-04 bridges this gap with an operational range of 400 to 1,500 kilometres, enabling precise strikes on high-value targets deep inside adversarial territory.
- This missile's speciality lies in its capacity for conventional precision attacks. It can neutralise command centres, airfields, or logistics nodes without resorting to nuclear options, thereby enhancing India's graduated response doctrine. Such versatility strengthens conventional deterrence, deterring aggression through the credible threat of overwhelming, non-nuclear retaliation.
- Weighing approximately 11,500 kilograms, the BM-04 measures 10.2 metres in length and boasts a diameter of 1.2 metres. Its 500-kilogram conventional warhead delivers substantial destructive power. Propulsion relies on a two-stage solid-fuel motor, facilitating rapid launch preparation and high mobility, which proves invaluable in dynamic conflict scenarios.
- Guidance systems integrate inertial navigation, GPS augmentation, and India's indigenous NavIC satellite constellation, ensuring resilience against jamming. The circular error probable (CEP) stands below 30 metres, guaranteeing exceptional accuracy even at maximum range. Fixed wings and control fins enable mid-flight manoeuvrability, allowing the missile to evade air defence interceptors.





## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. The primary role of the Shaktibaan Regiments being raised by the Indian Army is to:**

- A. Operate nuclear-capable ballistic missiles
- B. Conduct armoured warfare operations
- C. Carry out unmanned and drone-based combat missions
- D. Provide air defence cover to infantry units

**ANSWER: C**

**2. Which of the following weapon systems is already used by the Indian Army for long-range strikes beyond 400 km?**

- A. Pralay missile
- B. BrahMos cruise missile
- C. Akash surface-to-air missile
- D. Nagastra loitering munition

**ANSWER: B**

**3. The commissioning of 19 warships by the Indian Navy in 2026 is significant because it:**

- A. Marks the first induction of nuclear submarines
- B. Represents the largest single-year naval induction in India's history
- C. Completes Project 75I submarine programme
- D. Signals the retirement of older destroyers

**ANSWER:**

**4. The BM-04 ballistic missile is best described as:**

- A. An intercontinental nuclear missile
- B. A tactical rocket system with 90 km range
- C. A conventional precision-strike missile with 400–1,500 km range
- D. An air-launched cruise missile

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Larsen & Toubro's contract with the Indian Army primarily focuses on:**

- A. Manufacturing new Pinaka rocket launchers
- B. Exporting Pinaka systems to foreign countries
- C. Overhauling and upgrading existing Pinaka launcher systems

D. Integrating Pinaka with BrahMos units

**ANSWER: C**

**6. Madagascar Is Located In**

- A. Indian Ocean
- B. Arabian Sea
- C. South China Sea
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: A**

**7. World Report on Health of Refugee and Migrants is released by which of the following organisation?**

- A. World Economic Forum
- B. United Nations Human Rights Commission
- C. World Bank
- D. World Health Organisation

**ANSWER: D**

**8. Who is known as India's missile woman?**

- A. Dr. Aditi Pant
- B. Dr. Indira Hinduja
- C. Dr. Tessy Thomas
- D. Koneru Humpy

**ANSWER: C**

**9. Which one of the following pairs of islands is separated from each other by the 'Ten Degree Channel'?**

- A. Andaman and Nicobar
- B. Nicobar and Sumatra
- C. Maldives and Lakshadweep
- D. Sumatra and Java

**ANSWER: A**

**10. SEPECAT Jaguar Is A**

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

D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Transport Aircraft of IAF Is**

A. C-17 Globemaster

B. Tejas

C. Apache

D. Illyushin 78

**ANSWER: A**

**12. War Cry Of RAJPUTANA RIFLES Is**

A. Garud ka hun bol pyare

B. Everywhere

C. Raja Ramachandra ki jai

D. Charge and Attack

**ANSWER: C**

**13. Joint Exercises B/w The India And USA Is Called:**

A. Surya Kiran

B. Vajra Prahar

C. Yudha Abhyas

D. Both B & C

**ANSWER: D**

**14. LEMOA Stands For**

A. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement

B. Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Appeal

C. Logistics Extra Memorandum of Agreement

D. All are correct.

**ANSWER: A**

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

A. Flying Officer

B. Flight Lieutenant

C. Group Captain

D. None

**ANSWER: C**



**16. Heron TP Drone Is Made By**

- A. Brazil
- B. India
- C. Israel
- D. USA

**ANSWER: C**

**17. Kampala Is The Capital Of**

- A. Uganda
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Tuvalu

**ANSWER: A**

**18. "The Battle of Belonging" Book Is Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. APJ Abdul Kalam

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Oman Is Called:**

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. AL NAGAH

**ANSWER: D**

**20. "Naam Namak Nishaan" Is The Motto Of**

- A. THE GRENADIERS
- B. Rajputana Rifles
- C. Gorkha
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**