

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Amit Shah Inaugurates IED Data Management System

- Launching the national IED data management system through a video conferencing link, Amit Shah said that the two-way comprehensive and integrated online platform will be available to National Investigation Agency, anti-terrorism squads, state police forces and central armed police forces.
- Shah said that data related to any explosion or IED incident can be included in this system. "By utilising this data, necessary guidance can be obtained during investigations in every state.
- He said that NIDMS will prove extremely important in investigating terrorist activities, understanding trends in explosions and formulating effective strategies against them."



Ground Test of Scramjet Engine For Hypersonic Missiles

- DRDO has achieved a key milestone in the development of hypersonic missiles, as it successfully conducted a long-duration ground test of its actively cooled scramjet combustor, the defence ministry said.
- Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), the Hyderabad-based laboratory of the DRDO, has achieved a "path-breaking milestone" in the development of such missiles, the ministry said, as it shared the update on scramjet-powered hypersonic technology.
- "The DRDL successfully conducted an extensive long-duration ground test of its Actively Cooled Scramjet Full Scale Combustor, achieving a run time of over 12 minutes at its state-of-the-art Scramjet Connect Pipe Test (SCPT) Facility on January 9," it said in a statement.
- A hypersonic cruise missile is capable of exceeding five times the speed of sound (over 6,100 kmph) for extended periods, the ministry said.



India, France Near Mega Rafale Deal Amid IAF Gaps

- India and France are inching closer towards a mega deal for fighter jets, with additional Rafales likely to be ordered to meet the shortfall in the air force inventory. The proposal to acquire the fighter jets is likely to gain steam in the run-up to French President Macron's scheduled visit to India next month.
- IAF has already moved a proposal to acquire a significant number of jets, under a government-to-government deal that will also involve them being

manufactured in India. While the final numbers of the jets to be acquired are under discussion, the IAF has a projected requirement of at least **114 modern combat aircraft**.

- With the MRFA case hanging fire for the last seven-eight years after an initial cost estimate of over Rs 1.2 lakh crore, IAF is now grappling with a depleted strength of 31 fighter squadrons (16-18 jets in each). The number will go down to the lowest-ever figure of 29 squadrons after the retirement of the MiG-21s next month.
- This when IAF is authorised 42.5 squadrons to tackle the collusive challenge from China and Pakistan, which was strongly reinforced during Sindoar. Moreover, China is set to supply Pakistan with at least 40 J-35A fifth-generation stealth jets in the near future.



Lockheed Martin eyes first C-130J assembly line outside US, in India

- Lockheed Martin is considering setting up a final assembly line for the C-130J Super Hercules military transport aircraft in India-for the first time outside the US, said senior executives at the American defence conglomerate. The facility could eventually transform into a global manufacturing hub for the aircraft, they said.
- To date, Lockheed Martin has delivered more than 560 aircraft from the C-130J Super Hercules family, which have accumulated more than three million flight hours. The leading tactical airlift has been serving 28 operators in 23 nations.

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) currently operates 12 C-130Js.
- Alongside the standard transport variant, Lockheed Martin offers multiple specialised configurations of the C-130J which enable the aircraft to perform intelligence, electronic warfare, special forces support, search and rescue and command roles.
- Besides India, the three other Quad member nations -- the US, Australia and Japan -- have been operating C-130Js.
- "The C-130J Super Hercules offers superior performance and capabilities for every theatre of operations. This aircraft will be the best option for India," Patricia Trish Pagan, Vice President, Air Mobility and Maritime Missions at Lockheed Martin, said.
- In 2022, the IAF issued a Request for Information (RFI) to purchase medium transport aircraft (MTA) to replace its ageing fleet of Soviet-era AN-32 and IL-76 planes.



Chinese, Russian and Iranian warships arrive in South Africa

- Chinese, Russian and Iranian warships arrived in South African waters for a week of naval drills starting Friday off the coast of Cape Town as geopolitical tensions run high over the United States' intervention in Venezuela and its move to seize tankers carrying Venezuelan oil.
- The Chinese-led drills were organized last year under the BRICS bloc of developing nations and South Africa's armed forces said they will bring members of the bloc together to practice maritime safety and anti-piracy operations and "deepen cooperation."

- China, Russia and South Africa are longtime members of BRICS, while Iran joined the group in 2024.
- The Iranian navy was taking part in the drills while protests grow back home against the Islamic Republic's leadership.
- It was not immediately clear if other countries from the BRICS group - which also includes Brazil, India and the United Arab Emirates among others - would take part in the drills. A spokesperson for the South African armed forces said he wasn't yet able to confirm all the countries participating in the drills, which are due to run until next Friday.
- Chinese, Russian and Iranian ships have been seen moving into and out of the harbour that serves South Africa's top naval base in Simon's Town, south of Cape Town, where the Indian Ocean meets the Atlantic Ocean. China's ships include the Tangshan, a 161-meter (528-foot) -long destroyer class vessel.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **The National IED Data Management System (NIDMS) launched by Amit Shah will primarily be used by which of the following agencies?**

- A. Only Central Armed Police Forces
- B. National Investigation Agency, ATS, State Police and CAPFs
- C. Indian Armed Forces only
- D. Intelligence Bureau only

ANSWER: B

2. **DRDO recently achieved a major milestone by successfully testing which technology for hypersonic missile development?**

- A. Ramjet propulsion system
- B. Solid rocket booster

- C. Actively cooled scramjet combustor
- D. Liquid-fuel ballistic engine

ANSWER: C

3. A hypersonic cruise missile is defined as a missile capable of sustaining speeds greater than:

- A. Mach 3
- B. Mach 4
- C. Mach 5
- D. Mach 7

ANSWER: C

4. Why is the Indian Air Force considering additional Rafale fighter jet acquisitions from France?

- A. To replace Sukhoi-30 aircraft
- B. Due to delays in indigenous trainer aircraft
- C. To address falling squadron strength and MRFA delays
- D. For carrier-based operations only

ANSWER: C

5. Which country has been considered by Lockheed Martin for setting up its first C-130J Super Hercules assembly line outside the United States?

- A. Japan
- B. Australia
- C. United Kingdom
- D. India

ANSWER: D

6. Dhanush, a missile inducted into the Indian Navy

- A. cannot carry nuclear warheads
- B. is a customized and naval variant of Prithvi missile
- C. has a range of 700 km
- D. can be launched from an aircraft

ANSWER: B

7. The commando unit of the Indian Air Force is named.

- A. Ghatak
- B. MARCOS

- C. Garud
- D. Baaz

ANSWER: C

8. Which of the following corps deals with the supply of weaponry and ammunition to the Indian Army?

- A. Armoured Corps
- B. Army Ordnance Corps
- C. Corps of EME
- D. Army Supply Corps

ANSWER: B

9. What was the name given to the operation conducted by National Security Guard in 2008 against terrorist attack in Taj hotel, Mumbai?

- A. Operation Vijay
- B. Operation Black Thunder
- C. Operation Black Tornado
- D. Operation Safed Sagar

ANSWER: C

10. At which of the following places is the headquarters of a Naval Command NOT located?

- A. Goa
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Mumbai
- D. Kochi

ANSWER: A

11. On which of the following dates is the Navy Day celebrated in India?

- A. December 4
- B. February 1
- C. October 8
- D. January 15

ANSWER: A

12. The country that shares the longest border with India is

- A. China

- B. Bangladesh
- C. Nepal
- D. Pakistan

ANSWER: B

13. How many Indian states share border with Bhutan?

- A. 5
- B. 3
- C. 2
- D. 4

ANSWER: D

14. "Indian Home Rule" Book Is Written By

- A. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan
- B. H. G. Wells
- C. Sitaram Yechuri
- D. M. K. Gandhi

ANSWER: D

15. The first nuclear reactor in India is

- A. Dhurva
- B. Harsha
- C. Apsara
- D. Vipula

ANSWER: C

16. At which of the following places is the Indian National Defence University being set up?

- A. Gurgaon, Haryana
- B. Amethi, Uttar Pradesh
- C. Kasargod, Kerala
- D. Medak, Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER: A

17. Which of the following aircraft is the air-to-air refueller of the Indian Air Force?

- A. Ilyushin – 78
- B. C – 130J Hercules

- C. Ilyushin – 76
- D. C – 17 Globemaster

ANSWER: A

18. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Indradhanush
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: A

19. At which of the following places is the Heavy Vehicles Factory located?

- A. Avadi
- B. 24 Paraganas
- C. Kanpur
- D. Khadki

ANSWER: A

20. Defence Services Staff College is located In

- A. Avadi
- B. 24 Paraganas
- C. Kanpur
- D. Wellington

ANSWER: D