

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Indian Army Day 2026

- On the occasion of Army Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday hailed the Indian Army, saying that they stand as a symbol of selfless service, safeguarding the nation with steadfast resolve at times under the most challenging conditions.
- The prime minister also said that the nation salutes their courage and resolute commitment.
- "Our soldiers stand as a symbol of selfless service, safeguarding the nation with steadfast resolve, at times under the most challenging conditions. Their sense of duty inspires confidence and gratitude across the country," he said in a post on X.
- Army Day is observed on January 15 to mark Field Marshal K M Cariappa taking over as the first Indian Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, replacing his British predecessor General Sir FRR Bucher in 1949.
- The **Indian Army** is the land-based branch of the **Indian Armed Forces** and one of the largest standing armies in the world. It plays a vital role in safeguarding India's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity.
- **Key Facts**
 - **Founded:** 1 April 1895 (modern Indian Army after independence: 15 August 1947)
 - **Motto:** "Service Before Self"
 - **Headquarters:** New Delhi
 - **Supreme Commander:** President of India
 - **Chief of Army Staff (COAS):** The senior-most officer of the Army
 - **Primary Roles**

- **National Security:** Defending the country against external aggression and internal threats.
- **Border Protection:** Guarding India's borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- **Internal Security:** Assisting civil authorities during insurgency, terrorism, and emergencies.
- **Disaster Relief:** Providing humanitarian assistance during floods, earthquakes, cyclones, and pandemics.
- **Peacekeeping:** Active participation in UN peacekeeping missions worldwide.
- **Command Structure**
 - The Indian Army is divided into **seven operational commands** and **one training command**, including:
 - Northern Command
 - Western Command
 - Eastern Command
 - Southern Command
 - Central Command
 - South Western Command
 - Army Training Command (ARTRAC)
 - **Regiments and Units**
 - The Army is known for its rich regimental system, such as:
 - Punjab Regiment
 - Rajput Regiment
 - Gorkha Rifles
 - Sikh Regiment
 - Jat Regiment
 - Each regiment has a proud history of bravery and sacrifice.

- **Modernization**
- The Indian Army is continuously modernizing with:
 - Advanced weapons and artillery
 - Indigenous equipment under **Make in India**
 - Use of drones, AI, and cyber capabilities
- **Values and Legacy**
- The Indian Army is respected for its **discipline, courage, professionalism, and secular ethos**. Soldiers serve selflessly, often in extreme conditions—from the icy heights of Siachen to the deserts of Rajasthan.



Around 80% of 114 Rafale Jets To Be Built in India

- In the proposed deal for buying 114 Rafale fighter jets for the Indian Air Force, around 80 per cent of the combat aircraft are planned to be built in India.
- The project would also see some of the manufacturing facilities getting shifted from France to India.
- The Indian side is also discussing with French officials for maximising the localised content in the deal with plans of setting up the Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility within India to maximise the serviceability of the planes, government sources told ANI.
- The sources said the two sides will negotiate the cost of the project further. The French price offer has taken into account the inflation rate increase in prices at around four per cent per annum.

- Sources said that with a large number of parts and systems of the Rafales to be built in India, there is also a possibility of the French Dassault Aviation using an Indian entity for export orders and offering Indian facilities as a hub for MRO for countries in the region operating the Rafale and other Dassault aircraft.
- Sources said in the present circumstances, the Rafale has been found to be the best suited to meet Indian Air Force requirements for fighter aircraft, as the serviceability is around 90 per cent, which is much higher than any other aircraft in the world, including the American F-35.



New ITBP & BSF Appointment

- Senior IPS officer Shatrueet Singh Kapoor was on Wednesday appointed as the director general of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).
- He will succeed incumbent Praveen Kumar, who has been named the new chief of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Kapoor, a 1990-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, is currently working in his cadre state Haryana.
- He has been appointed DG, ITBP for a period up to October 31, 2026, the date of his superannuation, according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- Incumbent ITBP chief Kumar has been named new DG, BSF.
- Kumar, a 1993-batch IPS officer of West Bengal cadre, has been appointed for a period up to September 30, 2030, the date of his retirement.



Japan, Philippines Seal Defence Pact Amid Rising China Pressure

- Japan and the Philippines signed a defense pact on Thursday that would allow the tax-free provision of ammunition, fuel, food and other necessities when their forces stage joint training to boost deterrence against China's growing aggression in the region and to bolster their preparation for natural disasters.
- Japan has faced increasing political, trade and security tensions with China, which was angered by Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's remark that potential Chinese action against Taiwan could spark Japanese intervention.
- Japan and the Philippines have also had separate territorial conflicts with Beijing in the East China Sea and South China Sea that have continued to flare and threaten to draw in the United States, a treaty ally of the two Asian nations.
- Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi signed the Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement with Philippine Foreign Secretary Theresa Lazaro in Manila. During the ceremony, Japan also announced new security and economic development assistance to the Philippines.
- The military logistical agreement, which has to be ratified by Japanese legislators before it takes effect, is the latest key defense pact to be forged between Japan and the Philippines to deepen their security alliance.
- Aside from facilitating joint combat drills, it would also help Japan and the Philippines jointly respond to natural disasters, a mutual concern, and participate in peacekeeping operations by the United Nations, according to Japanese and Philippine officials.



To Avoid FATF Grey List, Pakistan Used Lobbying Firms

- Disclosures under the US Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) reveal that Pakistan, through lobbying firms in Washington, sought support from the US government to avoid being placed on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list.
- Pakistan is often seen as having a chequered past when it comes to illicit money flow. At a proposed FATF meet next month, there will be scrutiny on whether it aided terror financing or not.
- FARA filing shows that Javelin Advisors LLC was registered in April to represent Pakistan under a formal consulting agreement dated April 24, two days after the Pahalgam terror attack. Javelin said its work included communicating Pakistan's positions on regional and global issues to the US executive branch, US Congress and the public. The issues listed include the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and Pakistan-India relations.
- Another filing shows that the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington entered into a contract with Ervin Graves Strategy Group LLC, effective October 1, 2025. It also lobbied heavily for keeping Pakistan out of the FATF grey list.
- However, counter-terror experts claim that Islamabad has often misled the international community and failed to take corrective institutional actions to suppress terror financing.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Indian Army Day is observed on January 15 to commemorate which historic event?

- A. Formation of the Indian Army in 1895
- B. India's independence from British rule
- C. Field Marshal K. M. Cariappa becoming the first Indian Commander-in-Chief
- D. Adoption of the Army motto "Service Before Self"

ANSWER: C

2. Who is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army as per the Constitution of India?

- A. Prime Minister of India
- B. Chief of Army Staff
- C. Defence Minister
- D. President of India

ANSWER: D

3. Approximately what percentage of the proposed 114 Rafale fighter jets are planned to be built in India?

- A. 50%
- B. 60%
- C. 70%
- D. 80%

ANSWER: D

4. Who has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)?

- A. Praveen Kumar
- B. Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor
- C. Toshimitsu Motegi
- D. Theresa Lazaro

ANSWER: B

5. Japan and the Philippines signed a defence pact mainly to strengthen cooperation in which area?

- A. Space research and satellite development
- B. Joint training, logistics support, and disaster response
- C. Nuclear weapons development
- D. Cyber surveillance against Europe

ANSWER: B

6. ABHYAS HEAT was successfully flight-tested from

- A. Kochi
- B. Konkan Coast
- C. Chennai
- D. ITR, Chandipur Coast

ANSWER: D

7. ABHYAS Is Designed & Developed By

- A. Aeronautical Development Establishment
- B. Aeronautics Development Establishment
- C. Aeronautical Development Estimate
- D. None

ANSWER: A

8. Army War College Is Located At

- A. Mhow
- B. Nashik
- C. Pune
- D. Noida

ANSWER: A

9. AUSINDEX Ex Conducted B/W India &

- A. USA

- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. Australia

ANSWER: D

10. Commander Rank of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Which Rank of IAF? “

- A. Air Marshal
- B. Flight Lt.
- C. Captain
- D. Wing Commander

ANSWER: D

11. INS Utkrosh Naval Air Station Is Located At

- A. A&N
- B. Lakshadweep
- C. Puducherry
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

12. SNC Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Kochi
- C. Chennai
- D. Panaji

ANSWER: B

13. Monrovia Is The Capital Of

- A. Liberia
- B. Qatar
- C. Madagascar
- D. Liechtenstein

ANSWER: A

14. “A Century Is Not Enough” Book Is Written By

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. David Reich
- C. Rahul Dravid
- D. Sourav Ganguly

ANSWER: D

15. Rear Admiral Rank Of Indian Navy Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of IAF?

- A. Air Vice Marshal
- B. Group Captain
- C. Commodore
- D. Major

ANSWER: A

16. Farkhor Air Base operated by Indian Air Force in collaboration with the__

- A. Iranian Air Force
- B. Israel Air Force
- C. USA Air Force
- D. Tajik Air Force

ANSWER: D

17. What is the name given to India's first-ever satellite and nuclear-missile tracking ship?

- A. INS Tez
- B. INS Parvat
- C. INS Eklavya
- D. INS Dhruv

ANSWER: D

18. What is Arjun Mk1A?

- A. Anti-tank Guided Missile
- B. Main Battle Tank
- C. Fighter jets
- D. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

ANSWER: B

19. Which country hosted the multinational Exercise Desert Flag?

- A. UAE
- B. US
- C. UK
- D. France

ANSWER: A

20. Which country hosted Exercise KAKADU?

- A. Australia
- B. US
- C. UK
- D. France

ANSWER: A