

Daily Defence Current Affairs

17 January 2025

Bharat Forge Bags Drone Supply Contracts

- Diversified group Bharat Forge said its aerospace division has secured contracts worth approximately **Rs 300 crore** to supply drones.
- These contracts for the Indian Army and Navy cover a range of indigenous unmanned systems, including Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) platforms and loitering munitions, Bharat Forge Ltd. said.
- The drone platforms -- **Omega One, Omega Nine, Bayonet, and Cleaver** -- are developed for India to meet urgent operational requirements across diverse terrains and mission profiles, it added.
- "This dual achievement, securing EP-VI contracts and showcasing Omega One on Army Day, reaffirms BFL's commitment to Atmanirbhar Bharat," said Amit Kalyani, Vice Chairman and Joint Managing Director at Bharat Forge Ltd.
- The programmes leverage a surge in domestic production capacity to ensure rapid delivery timelines while upholding quality, reliability, and scalability, the company said.



Bhairav Battalion to Make R-Day Parade Debut

- The newly raised Bhairav light commando battalion will make its Republic Day Parade debut this January 26 while key Army assets including indigenous platforms accompanied with personnel will roll down the Kartavya Path in a "phased battle array formation".
- Besides, the flypast at the ceremonial event will showcase Rafale, Su-30, P8I, MiG-29, Apache, LCH (Light Combat Helicopter), ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter), Mi-17 helicopters in different formations and transport aircraft C-130 and C-295, they said.
- Defence Secretary R K Singh, in a press briefing at South Block, shared the broader contours of the **77th Republic Day celebrations** that will see many firsts this time.
- The sesquicentenary of '**Vande Mataram**' will be the dominant theme at this year's Republic Day Parade, as enclosure backdrops on the Kartavya Path (earlier Rajpath) here will bear old paintings illustrating the opening stanzas of the National Song and floral artworks at the main stage will pay homage to its composer **Bankim Chandra Chatterjee**.
- Similarly, the enclosures which will be put up for the Beating Retreat Ceremony on January 29 have been named after Indian musical instruments such as '**Bansuri**', '**Sarod**' and '**Tabla**'.



Adani Plans Rs 1.8 Lakh Crore Defence Spend

- Adani Group plans to invest Rs 1.8 lakh crore in 2026 year in defence manufacturing, with a focus on strengthening capabilities in unmanned and autonomous systems as well as advanced guided weapons as it looks to play a stealth anchor role in India's future warfare capabilities.
- Adani Defence & Aerospace in 2025 transitioned from extended planning cycles to rapid deployment with some of its military hardware being used in Operation Sindoora.
- In 2026, it will invest in unmanned and autonomous systems, advanced guided weapons, sensors and electronics, AI-enabled multi-domain operations, and scaled-up maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) and training infrastructure, company sources said.
- Autonomous systems across air, sea and land domains are unmanned platforms that use sensors, software and secure networks to operate with minimal human intervention, expanding military reach while reducing risk to personnel.
- Adani Defence & Aerospace has emerged as India's largest integrated private-sector defence player, with capabilities spanning unmanned aerial and underwater systems, counter-UAS solutions, guided weapons and loitering munitions, small arms and ammunition, aircraft MRO, simulator-driven training and airborne warning and control systems (AWACS).



Dassault Plans 24 Rafales Yearly From Nagpur Plant

- Dassault Aviation, the French manufacturer renowned for its advanced fighter jets, appears poised to ramp up production of Rafale aircraft at its forthcoming facility in Nagpur, India.
- Reports indicate the company could manufacture up to 24 jets annually once the plant reaches full capacity. This development forms part of a broader Indo-French collaboration aimed at bolstering India's indigenous defence manufacturing capabilities.
- The Nagpur facility, located in Maharashtra's MIHAN special economic zone, represents a significant investment by Dassault. Construction is progressing swiftly, with the first assembly line expected to commence operations by late 2027 or early 2028. This move aligns with India's push for 'Make in India' under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, reducing reliance on imports for high-end combat aircraft.
- Indian private sector giants such as TATA Advanced Systems, Mahindra Defence Systems, and Dynamatic Technologies are set to integrate deeply into the Rafale supply chain. These firms will handle critical components like fuselages, wings, avionics assemblies, and engine parts. Their involvement ensures substantial local value addition, potentially exceeding 70 per cent for each aircraft produced.
- Tata, with its established aerospace division, is likely to lead in airframe manufacturing and final assembly processes. Mahindra brings expertise in aerostructures and weapon integration, while Dynamatic specialises in precision hydraulic systems and landing gear. Dozens of smaller tier-2 and tier-3 suppliers from across India will contribute subsystems, fostering a robust domestic ecosystem.
- This partnership builds on the 2016 inter-governmental agreement for 36 Rafale jets, now expanding into licensed production. Dassault's commitment addresses past concerns over technology transfer, with offsets valued at over €4 billion already flowing into Indian industry. The Nagpur plant could eventually produce variants tailored for the Indian Air Force and Navy, including potential exports.



MIDHANI's Defence Surge

- Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI) finds itself at a pivotal moment amid India's accelerating drive towards self-reliance in defence, space, and aerospace sectors. As the nation's sole domestic producer of critical titanium alloys, the company is uniquely positioned to harness surging demand for specialised materials.
- This strategic advantage underpins its robust growth trajectory, with recent order inflows securing multi-year revenue visibility.
- India's defence indigenisation push has created fertile ground for MIDHANI's expansion. Government initiatives like 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' prioritise local manufacturing of high-performance alloys, reducing import dependence on strategic inputs.
- MIDHANI's expertise in producing ultra-high-strength steels, superalloys, and titanium alloys aligns perfectly with this national agenda, fuelling its order book and long-term earnings potential.
- The company's products serve mission-critical applications across defence, atomic energy, space, and aerospace. Entities such as the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), and naval programs rely on MIDHANI's materials for aircraft engines, missile components, and satellite structures. This entrenched customer base provides a formidable competitive moat.
- MIDHANI's status as India's only titanium alloy producer confers an unparalleled supply-side edge. Titanium alloys are indispensable for lightweight, high-strength components in fighter jets, submarines, and launch vehicles.

- By controlling this niche, MIDHANI shields itself from foreign competition while meeting escalating domestic needs driven by programs like TEJAS MK-2 and Gaganyaan.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Bharat Forge recently secured defence contracts worth approximately ₹300 crore for supplying which of the following systems?

- A. Main battle tanks
- B. Fighter jet components
- C. Indigenous unmanned drone platforms
- D. Naval missile destroyers

ANSWER: C

2. The newly raised Bhairav light commando battalion will make its first appearance during which national event?

- A. Independence Day Parade
- B. Army Day Parade
- C. Republic Day Parade
- D. Beating Retreat Ceremony

ANSWER: C

3. Adani Group's planned defence investment of ₹1.8 lakh crore by 2026 primarily focuses on which of the following areas?

- A. Nuclear submarine construction
- B. Unmanned and autonomous systems and guided weapons

- C. Import of foreign fighter aircraft
- D. Expansion of civilian aviation infrastructure

ANSWER: B

4. The upcoming Rafale manufacturing facility in India by Dassault Aviation is located in which city?

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Pune
- D. Nagpur

ANSWER: D

5. Which organisation holds the distinction of being India's only domestic producer of titanium alloys for defence and aerospace applications?

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- B. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- C. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Limited (MIDHANI)
- D. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

ANSWER: C

6. Garuda Shakti Exercise Held B/W India And__?

- A. Mongolia
- B. Indonesia
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: B

7. CISF Hq Is In

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. New Delhi
- D. J&K

ANSWER: C

8. HAL Dhruv Is A

- A. Missile
- B. UAV
- C. Utility Helicopter
- D. Aerial Refueling Aircraft

ANSWER: C

9. Project Yojak Launched By

- A. CRPF
- B. BSF
- C. BRO
- D. None of the Above

ANSWER: C

10. Motto Of Army Air Defence Regiment

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Akashe Shatrun Jahi
- C. Yudhaya Krit Nishchaya
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: B

11. Republic Of Djibouti, Is A Country Located In The

- A. Horn of Africa
- B. North America
- C. South America
- D. Asia

ANSWER: A

12. Range of Shaurya Missile Is

- A. 700 - 1,900 km
- B. 500 – 15,00 km
- C. 1,500 – 2,000 km
- D. 2,500 – 3,200 km

ANSWER: A

13. Yudh Abhyas Exercise Held B/W India And___?

- A. China
- B. USA
- C. Russia
- D. Singapore

ANSWER: B

14. HADR Stands For

- A. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief
- B. Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Reload
- C. Humanitarian Assist and Disaster Relief
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

15. War Cry of ASSAM REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Rhino Charge
- C. Jai Bajrangbali
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: B

16. M4 carbine Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. Helicopter
- C. Assault rifle
- D. Submachine gun

ANSWER: C

17. "Conquest of Self" Book Is Written By

- A. Rabindranath Tagore
- B. Mulk Raj Anand
- C. Rabindranath Tagore
- D. Mahatma Gandhi

ANSWER: D

18. Parakram Diwas Celebrated On

- A. December 1
- B. October 8
- C. January 23
- D. March 10

ANSWER: C

19. Republic of Seychelles Is A Country Located In The

- A. Pacific Ocean
- B. Indian Ocean
- C. South China Sea

D. Japan Sea

ANSWER: B

20. Defence Space Agency Hq At

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Chennai
- D. Noida

ANSWER: B



SSBCrack
EXAMS