

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 20 January 2025

### Centre to Soon Launch 'Coastal Vibrant Villages' Programme

- The Union government is expected to soon roll out a "coastal vibrant villages" programme to engage with the local communities living along India's nearly 6,500-km long coastline.
- This will be on the lines of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) launched by the Centre for the people living in villages along India's land borders in the north, apart from other areas.
- CISF Director General (DG) Praveer Ranjan informed reporters about this during a press conference held here to announce the second edition of their coastal cyclothon from January 28.
- "The government is soon expected to come out with a coastal vibrant villages programme like the one being implemented for our land borders. The CISF will also adopt 52 coastal villages as part of this initiative," Ranjan said.
- India has more than 230 seaports, out of which 78 are categorised as "exim ports" for import and export of goods. At present, the force guards 12 major seaports and one minor port.
- Ranjan said the RSO designation will allow the force to do all the planning and assessment for seaports, train private security staff, even as a Bureau of Port Security (BOPS) will be created by the Union government in the near future.
- "We are creating a new vertical for port security in CISF for which we will require about 10,000-12,000 more personnel. We hope to get the government's sanction for raising this strength soon," Ranjan said.



## Mistral Solutions Bags ₹100 Cr DRDO-BEL Radar Deal

- AXISCADES Technologies Limited, a Bangalore-headquartered firm with expertise across aerospace, defence, electronics, semiconductors, and artificial intelligence, has revealed that its subsidiary Mistral Solutions has clinched a significant ₹100 crore contract.
- This deal stems from India's Low-Level Transportable Radar (LLTR) Ashwini program, which focuses on developing an indigenous low-level transportable radar system.
- The contract, awarded under the auspices of the DRDO and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), entails the supply of signal and data processing units along with associated spares. Deliveries are slated over a two-year period, underscoring the project's emphasis on reliable, sustained production.
- Mistral Solutions, renowned for its prowess in defence electronics, will leverage its specialised capabilities in signal processing and data handling to fulfil this order. These units form the critical 'brain' of the **LLTR Ashwini radar**, enabling real-time detection and tracking of low-altitude targets such as drones, aircraft, and missiles in cluttered environments.
- The 2025-26 defence budget allocated over ₹6 lakh crore, with a sharp focus on indigenous systems. Contracts like this exemplify the success of the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, prioritising local content thresholds above 50 per cent.

- Strategically, deployable LLTR Ashwini radars enhance India's air defence posture, particularly along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and Line of Control (LoC). Their low-level detection capability counters stealthy incursions, complementing high-end systems like the Arudhra or Ashwini-3D radars.



## Jaishankar Slams Selective Targeting Beyond Tariffs

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has articulated profound concerns over the selective targeting of India in global economic interactions, particularly emphasising that such measures transcend mere tariffs to encompass subtler instruments of pressure.
- In early 2026, during discussions with Polish Deputy Prime Minister Radoslaw Sikorski on 19 January, he explicitly stated that "the selective targeting is not limited to tariffs - I think there have been other forms of selective targeting," deeming it both unfair and unjustified.
- He noted that tariffs, sanctions, and export controls have become entrenched realities, compelling India to seek more reliable trade partners. This shift influences business decisions beyond efficiency and cost, incorporating non-economic factors to safeguard national interests.
- A focal point of his critique involves unfair sanctions disrupting energy flows, notably pressure on India's Russian oil imports. He has argued that Western double standards—criticising India's purchases while others face no equivalent constraints—constrict global energy trade, fostering market distortions and unreliable supply chains.

- Poland should show zero tolerance for terrorism and not help fuel terrorist infrastructure in India's neighbourhood, external affairs minister S Jaishankar told his Polish counterpart Radosław Sikorski, an apparent response to a mention of Kashmir and terrorism in a joint statement issued by Poland and Pakistan last year.
- Jaishankar also pointedly raised the “**selective targeting**” of India by European states in the context of the war in Ukraine, describing the trend as unfair and unjustified. The comments were part of Jaishankar's televised remarks at the start of his meeting with Sikorski.
- Poland is one of India's largest trading partners in Central Europe, and the two countries elevated their ties to a strategic partnership in 2024. Two-way trade is currently worth \$7 billion and has grown by almost 200% over the past decade.
- Indian investments in Poland have crossed \$3 billion, and Jaishankar said India's economic growth, market size and pro-investment policies provide key opportunities for Polish businesses.
- Poland has also backed a proposed India-European Union (EU) free trade agreement, negotiations for which are expected to be concluded during the **India-EU Summit in New Delhi** on January 27.



## Trump Invites India For Gaza's Board Of Peace

- US President Donald Trump has invited India to be a part of what he called "Board of Peace" meant to oversee governance and reconstruction in postwar Gaza.
- The White House had said there would be a main board, chaired by Trump himself, a Palestinian committee of technocrats meant to govern the war-

wracked territory, and a second "executive board" that appears designed to have a more advisory role.

- Pakistan said it has also got an invitation from Trump to join the Gaza "Board of Peace". Bharat is a country acceptable to both Israel and Palestine because of historic ties with both. India enjoys strategic partnership with Israel and has given regular humanitarian aid and help to Palestine.
- India was among the first countries to send humanitarian aid to Gaza through Egypt after the recent conflict began. Israel's envoy to India Reuven Azar in an exclusive interview to NDTV had also mentioned that Pakistan would be unacceptable to Israel for any role for the future of Gaza.
- This board, formed on January 15 as part of Trump's 20-point peace plan for Gaza, is seen as a potential broader mechanism to address other global conflicts in the future.
- Governments, however, reacted cautiously today to Trump's invitation to his "Board of Peace" initiative aimed at resolving conflicts globally, a plan that diplomats said could harm the work of the United Nations.
- Only Hungary, whose leader is a close Trump ally, gave an unequivocal acceptance in response to the invitations, which have been addressed to some 60 nations and began arriving in European capitals on Saturday, according to diplomats.
- Other governments appeared reluctant to make public statements, leaving officials to express concerns anonymously about the impact on the work of the UN, news agency Reuters reported.
- Italy's Prime Minister called U.S. President Donald Trump's threat to slap tariffs on opponents of his plan to seize Greenland a "mistake" on Sunday adding she had told him her views.
- "I believe that imposing new sanctions today would be a mistake," Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni told journalists during a trip to Seoul.
- Israel's government has voiced strong objections to the White House's announcement of a Gaza executive committee tasked with overseeing the next phase of post-ceasefire operations in the territory.
- The committee, revealed on Friday, 16 January 2026, lacks any official Israeli representatives, featuring instead Israeli billionaire businessman Yakir Gabay alongside prominent figures from the United States and other nations.
- This development marks a rare public rebuke from Jerusalem towards its closest ally, Washington, amid the fragile transition following the Gaza ceasefire.



- The Israeli statement, issued on Saturday, explicitly criticised the committee as “not coordinated with Israel and contrary to its policy,” though it offered no further elaboration on the precise objections.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The proposed ‘Coastal Vibrant Villages’ Programme is primarily aimed at:
  - A. Developing tourism infrastructure along beaches
  - B. Strengthening engagement with coastal communities
  - C. Modernising shipbuilding yards
  - D. Expanding naval bases

**ANSWER: B**

2. Under the Coastal Vibrant Villages initiative, how many coastal villages are proposed to be adopted by CISF?
  - A. 25
  - B. 40
  - C. 52
  - D. 78

**ANSWER: C**

3. Mistral Solutions secured a ₹100 crore contract related to which defence project?
  - A. Akash Missile System
  - B. Arudhra Radar

- C. LLTR Ashwini Radar
- D. Barak-8 Missile

**ANSWER: C**

**4. S. Jaishankar criticised “selective targeting” of India during discussions with which country’s Deputy Prime Minister?**

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Poland
- D. Italy

**ANSWER: C**

**5. Why is India considered suitable for participation in the proposed Gaza ‘Board of Peace’?**

- A. India is a permanent UNSC member
- B. India has military bases in West Asia
- C. India maintains relations with both Israel and Palestine
- D. India proposed the peace plan

**ANSWER: C**

**6. How many submarines built under Project 75?**

- A. Four
- B. Five
- C. Six
- D. Seven

**ANSWER: C**

**7. Which company is involved in the construction of Project 17 Alpha frigates?**

- A. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- B. Hindustan Shipyard Limited
- C. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
- D. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited

**ANSWER: D**

**8. How many ships are planned under Project 17 Alpha frigates?**

- A. Three
- B. Seven
- C. Five

D. Six

**ANSWER: B**

**9. What is the naming convention for the ships under Project 17 Alpha frigates?**

- A. Named after Indian cities
- B. Named after Indian rivers
- C. Named after Indian hill ranges
- D. Named after Indian states

**ANSWER: C**

**10. How many warships are planned under the P-15B (Visakhapatnam Class) destroyer program?**

- A. Two
- B. Three
- C. Four
- D. Five

**ANSWER: C**

**11. What is the primary purpose of a Destroyer in naval warfare?**

- A. Coast defense
- B. Long-range operations
- C. Anti-submarine warfare
- D. Anti-aircraft defense

**ANSWER: D**

**12. Which ship is the fourth submarine under Project 75?**

- A. INS Kalvari
- B. INS Khanderi
- C. INS Karanj
- D. INS Vela

**ANSWER: D**

**13. When was INS Khanderi, the second submarine under Project 75, deployed?**

- A. 2015
- B. 2017
- C. 2019
- D. 2021

**ANSWER: C**



**14. Pangong Tso lake Is Located In**

- A. Kashmir
- B. Ladakh
- C. Odisha
- D. Kochi

**ANSWER: B**

**15. Priyadarshini Is A Fast Patrol Vessel Of**

- A. ICG
- B. IAF
- C. Indian Navy
- D. BSF

**ANSWER: A**

**16. Which Port Is Located In the Western Coast of India?**

- A. Kandla
- B. Kolkata
- C. Mangalore
- D. Visakhapatnam

**ANSWER: A**

**17. AAI Stands For**

- A. Airport Author of India
- B. Air Authority of India
- C. Airport Authority of India
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**18. India Purchased Boeing 737 from**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Indian Army Flag Consist Colours of\_\_\_ Colours.**

- A. Gold, Red And Black
- B. Gold, Red And Blue

- C. Gold, Rose Black And Black
- D. Green, Red And Black

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Operation Talwar Was Conducted In**

- A. 1978
- B. 1988
- C. 1998
- D. 1999

**ANSWER: D**

