

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 23 January 2025

### In a First, Women Agniveer To Be Part of IAF Band in RD

- In a first, nine women Agniveer will be part of the Indian Air Force's band contingent that will march down the Kartavya Path during the 77th Republic Day Parade playing music.
- At a briefing held here, the IAF also announced that Flt Lt Akshita Dhankar will unfurl the national flag alongside President Droupadi Murmu at the ceremonial parade on January 26.
- The IAF band, led by Sergeant Charles Antony Daniel, will complement the 144-member marching contingent of the air force, which will be led by Sqn Ldr Jagdesh Kumar.
- A total of 29 aircraft -- 16 fighter aircraft, four transport aircraft and nine helicopters will be part of the two-phase flypast at the parade, with a total of eight formations, a senior official of the IAF said.
- The official said the first phase will be alongside the parade with four formations and the remaining four formations after the end of the parade, including a special spearhead formation during the parade to mark "the success of Operation Sindoor" conducted in May last year.
- The 66 Agniveer will include nine women Agniveer, and this will be the first time they will be part of the IAF band in the parade, he said.



## Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework

- Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Thursday released a comprehensive document for the integration of the four pillars of quantum technologies into the tri-services to prepare them for a future battlefield and to achieve technological dominance in a rapidly evolving world.
- The '**Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework**' includes the policy and the roadmap to implement quantum technologies in the armed forces.
- The vision document defines the way ahead to achieve synergy in the amalgamation of quantum technologies, alignment with the National Quantum Mission, of which the defence forces are an integral part, and formulates an indicative roadmap and policy for implementation of this niche field in the defence forces.
- The document underscores the increasing need for the assimilation of these niche technologies from a defence perspective and highlights the milestones and goals to be achieved by utilising civil-military fusion through dedicated governing bodies consisting of members across multiple government sectors.
- The framework also highlights the critical need for jointness and integration in assimilating this technology to achieve technological supremacy in the future battlefield, it said.



## Black Shark Deal Bolsters Navy's Submarine Edge

- Italian defence firm Whitehead Alenia Sistemi Subacquei (WASS) has hailed its recent contract to supply 48 Black Shark Advanced (BSA) heavyweight torpedoes to the Indian Navy as a transformative boost to underwater combat prowess.
- The agreement, inked under the Buy Global category, targets integration across all six Kalvari-class submarines—India's first indigenously built Scorpene platforms under Project 75.
- Developed in tandem with the Italian Navy to address cutting-edge operational demands, the BSA leverages state-of-the-art propulsion, guidance, and countermeasure resistance, ensuring lethality in contested underwater domains.
- Already operational with seven navies worldwide and under scrutiny by four others, the torpedo seamlessly adapts to diverse platforms including U-boat class, Scorpene, Västergötland, Kilo, and midget submarines.
- The ₹1,896 crore deal, finalised on 30 December 2025 between the Ministry of Defence and WASS, includes associated equipment for full integration, with deliveries slated to commence in April 2028 and conclude by early 2030.
- With Kalvari submarines forming the vanguard of India's SSK fleet, the BSA infusion will sharpen asymmetric warfare edges, vital against peer adversaries equipped with advanced anti-submarine warfare suites. Critically, the torpedo's modularity promises scalability to future platforms like Project 75I conventional subs or even nuclear-powered SSNs under gestation, ensuring long-term fleet interoperability.



## HAL Lays Foundation For Strategic MRO Hub

- HAL has taken a pivotal step towards bolstering India's indigenous defence capabilities with the inauguration of the foundation stone for its new MRO Hub at Missamari in Assam on 22 January 2026, underscoring the nation's drive for self-reliance in defence under the #AtmanirbharBharat initiative.
- The ceremony featured key interactions between senior military and HAL leadership, highlighting a collaborative push to elevate operational readiness in the strategically vital Eastern Theatre.
- The hub will extend comprehensive MRO services not only to Army Aviation but also to Indian Air Force platforms operating in the region, with such enhancements poised to sharpen combat effectiveness along India's north-eastern frontiers, where terrain and weather pose unique operational hurdles.
- This MRO Hub represents more than infrastructure; it embodies strategic foresight in an era of evolving regional security dynamics, particularly with China's growing military footprint along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), where swift aviation maintenance becomes indispensable for deterrence and rapid mobilisation.



## India Weighs Trump's Gaza Peace Board Invite As Israel

- India's government is carefully weighing an invitation from U.S. President Donald Trump to participate in a proposed U.S.-led "Board of Peace" for Gaza. Experts urge caution regarding the board's legitimacy and mandate.
- On 21 January 2026, several nations, including Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Qatar, and the UAE, announced their decision to join. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has also accepted.
- Sources in New Delhi indicate that Indian and Israeli diplomats are coordinating potential high-level visits. Prime Minister Narendra Modi may travel to Israel, while Netanyahu could visit India. These exchanges form part of broader regional engagement amid the Israel-Palestine conflict.
- New Delhi will host the Foreign Ministers of the 22-member League of Arab States on 30 January. The government plans consultations with regional partners on the U.S.-promoted Gaza Peace Proposal.
- Trump's letter targeted leaders from about 60 countries, including India, Russia, China, Türkiye, Argentina, Brazil, Pakistan, and various West Asian and European nations. The Ministry of External Affairs has declined comment, stating the matter is under discussion.
- India's longstanding support for a two-state solution and aid to Palestinians must guide any decision. Former Ambassador Anil Trigunayat noted that peace in Gaza would benefit its people, with India well-placed to offer humanitarian aid, particularly medical expertise.





## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Why was the participation of women Agniveer in the 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Parade significant?**
  - A. They led the Indian Air Force marching contingent
  - B. They piloted fighter aircraft during the flypast
  - C. They became the first women Agniveer to be part of the IAF band
  - D. They commanded the ceremonial parade

**ANSWER: C**

2. **Who will unfurl the national flag alongside the President during the Republic Day Parade 2026?**
  - A. Squadron Leader Jagdesh Kumar
  - B. Sergeant Charles Antony Daniel
  - C. Flight Lieutenant Akshita Dhankar
  - D. Air Chief Marshal V. R. Chaudhari

**ANSWER: C**

3. **The 'Military Quantum Mission Policy Framework' primarily aims to:**
  - A. Promote private sector defence manufacturing
  - B. Integrate quantum technologies across the tri-services
  - C. Modernise conventional weapon systems
  - D. Establish a separate Quantum Command

**ANSWER: B**

**4. The Black Shark Advanced heavyweight torpedoes will be deployed on which Indian Navy platforms?**

- A. Arihant-class nuclear submarines
- B. Shivalik-class frigates
- C. Kalvari-class submarines
- D. Talwar-class destroyers

**ANSWER: C**

**5. The newly announced HAL MRO hub at Missamari in Assam is strategically important mainly because it:**

- A. Supports coastal surveillance operations
- B. Enhances aviation readiness in the Eastern Theatre
- C. Is India's first private defence MRO facility
- D. Will manufacture fighter jet engines

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Awardees of PVC IN Kargil War Are**

- A. Captain Vikram Batra
- B. Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey
- C. Rifleman Sanjay Kumar
- D. All of the above

**ANSWER: D**

**7. Prevention of Money-Laundering Act Came In**

- A. 2000
- B. 2001
- C. 2002
- D. 2004

**ANSWER: C**

**8. 'Desh Pukare Jab Sab Ko' Is The March Past Song Of**

- A. IAF
- B. ICG
- C. BSF
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Hitler was the dictator of which country?**

- A. Russia
- B. Egypt
- C. France
- D. Germany

**ANSWER: D**

**10. On which dates did the US drop atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively?**

- A. Aug 6, 1945 & Aug 9, 1945
- B. Aug 6, 1945 & Sept 12, 1945
- C. Aug 5, 1946 & Aug 8, 1946
- D. Aug 9, 1946 & Aug 12, 1946

**ANSWER: A**

**11. What was the name given to World war I by historians?**

- A. First War
- B. European war
- C. The Great war
- D. Seven-year War

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Cairo Is The Capital Of**

- A. Egypt
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Indian Army Has How Many Operational Commands?**

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6

**ANSWER: D**

**14. SALVEX (Salvage) Ex Conducted B/W India And**

- A. USA



- B. UK
- C. Uganda
- D. European Union

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Mil Mi-35 Is A**

- A. Attack Helicopter
- B. Fighter Jet
- C. Tank
- D. UAV

**ANSWER: A**

**16. The Training Command of The IAF Is In**

- A. Bengaluru
- B. New Delhi
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Wassenaar Arrangement Works on Transfer Of**

- A. conventional weapons and dual-use goods and technologies
- B. Wheat and Rice
- C. Space Technology
- D. High yielding seeds

**ANSWER: A**

**18. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Hq Is In**

- A. Nairobi, Kenya
- B. New York City, USA
- C. Rome, Italy
- D. Washington, DC, USA

**ANSWER: A**

**19. Joint Exercises B/w The India and UK Is Called:**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**20. CISF Comes Under Which Ministry?**

- A. MHA
- B. MOD
- C. MEA
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**