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Many Firsts at R-Day Parade

- Newly raised Bhairav light commando battalion and Shaktiban Regiment, rocket launcher system 'Suryastra' with deep-strike capabilities, and key military assets, including indigenous platforms accompanied with personnel, rolling down the Kartavya Path in a "phased battle array formation" -- the 77th Republic Day Parade saw many firsts.
- Double-humped Bactrian camels and Zanskar ponies were also part of the ceremonial event for the first time, adding an element of curiosity and excitement among the crowds. Also, marking a first, the contingent members of the mounted 61 Cavalry were seen in battle gear during the parade.
- A Bhairav Battalion of the Sikh Light Infantry regiment took part in the January 26 parade in the national capital. Bhairav Battalion is a specialised assault infantry unit, bridging the capabilities of conventional infantry and special forces.
- Other key defence assets showcased during the parade included BrahMos, Akash missile system, Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) system, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), Dhanush artillery gun, and a static display of some drones.
- Eighteen marching contingents and 13 bands took part in the parade that lasted around 90 minutes. The dominant theme of this year's parade was 150 years of '**Vande Mataram**'.



Operation Sindoor: European Analysis

- India's air superiority during the May 7–10, 2025 conflict coerced Pakistan into seeking a ceasefire, according to a detailed European military analysis of Operation Sindoor, which examined the four-day air war between the two countries.
- The report, titled Operation Sindoor: The India-Pakistan Air War (7–10 May 2025), has been authored by Adrien Fontanellaz and published by the Centre d'Histoire et de Prospective Militaires (CHPM), an independent Swiss military history and strategic studies institution founded in 1969. The organisation positions itself as a neutral, non-governmental forum for professional military research.
- Assessing the aerial conflict, the report stated that the initial phase saw the Pakistan Air Force achieve a tactical advantage by shooting down several Indian fighters, but it later failed to execute effective strikes over Indian territory. These attempts were countered by India's integrated air defence system, whose effectiveness emerged as one of the key surprises of the conflict.
- The analysis added that the Indian Air Force subsequently degraded Pakistan's air defence network and concluded the conflict with strikes on major Pakistani Air Force bases, achieving clear air superiority that led Islamabad to request a ceasefire.

- The report noted that while the Indian government did not acknowledge the loss of any fighter aircraft, including Rafale jets, it assessed the loss of at least one Indian Rafale on the night of May 7, 2025, as significant in shaping Western perceptions and media coverage. It described the confrontation as a large-scale clash between two capable air forces operating advanced aircraft such as the J-10C and Rafale, supported by fourth-generation fleets, sophisticated integrated air defence systems, and force multipliers.
- On the broader strategic implications, the analysis highlighted that Operation Sindoor resulted in conventional military clashes of considerable magnitude between two de facto nuclear-armed states with differing nuclear doctrines, creating a high risk of escalation with potentially catastrophic consequences. The report added that the episode offered valuable lessons in tactical and operational planning, underscoring the close interlinking of military action and communication strategies, and reaffirming the critical role of long-range strikes.



Colonel Sofiya Qureshi Awarded Vishisht Seva Medal

- In a significant ceremony commemorating India's 77th Republic Day, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi of the Indian Army's Corps of Signals was honored with the Vishisht Seva Medal, acknowledging her exemplary service and leadership in counter-terrorism operations.
- This prestigious award highlights her vital contributions during Operation Sindoor, a strategic initiative launched in 2025 aimed at neutralizing threats posed by Pakistan along border regions.

- Colonel Qureshi, an officer with over 20 years of experience in field operations and strategic communications, served as the chief spokesperson for the armed forces during this crucial operation.
- The Vishisht Seva Medal, which recognizes exceptional dedication to duty and distinguished service during peacetime, underscores Colonel Qureshi's unwavering commitment to national defense. In her role, she not only ensured effective collaboration between various military units but also played a crucial part in public engagement, bolstering public confidence amid geopolitical tensions.
- The award has garnered widespread praise from both defense circles and the general public. Senior officials within the Indian Army have commended her as a paragon of professionalism and bravery, particularly as women officers continue to break barriers in frontline roles. Media narratives surrounding the event have underscored her remarkable journey from field postings in remote regions to a significant role in high-stakes operations, serving as an inspiration to aspiring military personnel.



Operation Sindoor: European Analysis

- Indonesia has received three Rafale fighter jets from France in the first deliveries from a multi-billion-dollar defence deal between the two countries, a defence ministry official said, marking a major upgrade to the country's ageing military hardware.

- Jakarta, France's main arms client in Southeast Asia, has placed orders for as many as 42 Rafales, built by Dassault Aviation, as well as French frigates and submarines, as the archipelago steps up defence spending under President Prabowo Subianto, a former special forces commander.
- For the longer term, it has also signed a contract to buy 48 KAAN fighter jets from Turkey, a fifth-generation aircraft powered by General Electric F-110 engines that are also used in fourth-generation Lockheed Martin F-16 jets. Reuters also reported that Indonesia and Pakistan discussed a potential deal earlier this month for Jakarta to buy combat jets and killer drones.



Bharat Forge Unveils Record-Breaking Indigenous Light Tank

- Bharat Forge has unveiled India's first fully indigenous light tank from the private sector, marking a significant milestone in the nation's defence manufacturing landscape.
- This ground breaking vehicle, 100% designed and developed within India, achieved completion in a record time of under one year, showcasing the prowess of private industry in accelerating military hardware development.
- Scheduled for its official rollout in March 2026, the light tank will be ready for rigorous trials by September 2026. This rapid timeline underscores Bharat Forge's commitment to the 'Make in India' initiative, positioning the company as a key player alongside public sector giants like DRDO and HAL.
- At the heart of the tank's firepower is a potent 105 mm main gun, capable of engaging armoured threats with precision and lethality. This stabilised armament system ensures effective performance across diverse terrains, from deserts to high-altitude regions.

- With a combat weight under 25 tonnes, the tank is meticulously optimised for high-altitude operations, addressing India's strategic needs along mountainous borders such as Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh. Its lightweight design enhances strategic mobility, allowing rapid deployment via airlift using platforms like the C-17 Globemaster or indigenous C-295 aircraft.
- Amphibious capability sets this tank apart, powered by dual rear-mounted water jets that enable swift water traversal at speeds up to 10 km/h. This feature expands its operational versatility for riverine crossings and littoral zones, vital for India's amphibious warfare doctrines in scenarios like the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Powering the tank is a high-torque, low-emission diesel engine paired with an advanced automatic transmission, delivering a power-to-weight ratio exceeding 25 hp/tonne. This ensures agility with a top speed of 70 km/h on roads and an operational range over 500 km, bolstered by auxiliary power units for silent watch modes.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

- With reference to the 77th Republic Day Parade, consider the following statements:
 - The Bhairav Light Commando Battalion bridges the gap between conventional infantry and special forces.

2. Suryastra is an indigenous rocket launcher system with deep-strike capability.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER: C

2. The European military analysis titled Operation Sindoor: The India-Pakistan Air War was published by which of the following institutions?

- A. International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)
- B. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)
- C. Centre d'Histoire et de Prospective Militaires (CHPM)
- D. RAND Corporation

ANSWER: C

3. According to the European assessment of Operation Sindoor, India achieved air superiority primarily due to:

- A. Superior fighter aircraft numbers
- B. Effective use of aircraft carriers
- C. Performance of the integrated air defence system
- D. Direct involvement of allied forces

ANSWER: C

4. Colonel Sofiya Qureshi was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal primarily for her role as:

- A. Commander of an armoured brigade
- B. Chief spokesperson during Operation Sindoor
- C. Head of military intelligence
- D. Leader of a UN peacekeeping mission

ANSWER: B

5. Which of the following features best distinguishes the indigenous light tank developed by Bharat Forge?

- A. Combat weight exceeding 40 tonnes
- B. Nuclear propulsion system
- C. Amphibious capability and high-altitude optimization
- D. Exclusive deployment in desert regions

ANSWER: C

6. Which port is also known as the New Mangalore Port?

- E. Mormugao Port
- F. Panambur Port
- G. Kandla Port
- H. Tuticorin Port

ANSWER: B

7. Which State Of India Has The 2nd Longest Coastline?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: C

8. “Freedom is not given, It. Is taken”. Said By__

- A. Pandit Nehru
- B. Mahatma Gandhi
- C. Subhas Chandra Bose
- D. Bhagat Singh

ANSWER: C

9. DESERT EAGLE Exercise Conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: C

10. War Cry Of THE INDIAN ARMY

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Vande Mataram
- C. Jai Hind
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: D

11. Major General Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

- A. Commander

- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Group Captain
- D. Air Vice Marshal

ANSWER: D

12. The India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) came into force in

- A. 2015
- B. 2016
- C. 2017
- D. 2018

ANSWER: A

13. Mitra Shakti Ex Held B/w India &

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. USA
- C. UK
- D. Nepal

ANSWER: A

14. ___ Himalayan pass is situated b/w India and China.

- A. Shenkota
- B. Thalghat
- C. Bhorhat
- D. Shipki La

ANSWER: D

15. AMCA Stands For

- A. Advanced Medium Cockpit Aircraft
- B. Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft
- C. Advanced Motor Combat Aircraft
- D. Advanced Machine Combat Aircraft

ANSWER: B

16. Wartime Gallantry Award Is/Are

- A. Param Vir Chakra
- B. Maha Vir Chakra
- C. Ashok Chakra
- D. Both a & b

ANSWER: D

17. Military College of Telecommunication Engineering Is At

- A. Gopalpur
- B. Mhow
- C. Pune
- D. Haridwar

ANSWER: B

18. "Bolo Hindustan Ki Jay" Is The War Cry Of

- A. JKRIFF
- B. RR
- C. MAHAR REGIMENT
- D. JKLR

ANSWER: C

19. Quito Is The Capital Of

- A. Ecuador
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Ethiopia

ANSWER: A

20. "The Earth spinner" Book Is Written By

- A. Brisha Jain
- B. Sanjay Gubbi
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Anuradha Roy

ANSWER: D