

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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US Congress Approves \$200 Million Security Aid for Baltic States

- The United States Congress has approved a USD 200 million security assistance package for the Baltic States—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—as concerns grow over increased Russian military activity along NATO's eastern flank.
- The funding, cleared under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Defence Appropriations Act, reinforces Washington's commitment to NATO allies in Eastern Europe and strengthens regional deterrence at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions.
- The legislation was signed into law on 3 February 2026 by Donald Trump, ensuring continued support for the Baltic Security Initiative (BSI) despite earlier internal discussions within the Pentagon about discontinuing the programme.
- The USD 200 million allocation forms part of the USD 838.7 billion US defence budget for FY2026. The funding ensures continuity of the Baltic Security Initiative, a programme aimed at:
 - Enhancing military preparedness
 - Improving interoperability with NATO forces
 - Supporting defence modernisation in the Baltic region



Exercise KHANJAR-XIII

- Exercise KHANJAR is an annual joint Special Forces military exercise between India and Kyrgyzstan, started in 2011.
- The exercise aims to strengthen interoperability and mutual understanding between the armed forces of both nations.
- The 13th edition, KHANJAR-XIII, will take place at Misamari from February 4 to February 17, 2026.
- Misamari is a major military training location in Northeast India, offering terrain suitable for realistic combat training.



Mega Rafale Deal Set to Get DAC Nod

- The mega deal for 114 additional Rafale jets is set to be discussed at Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) next week and is likely to get the go-ahead days before the visit of French President Emmanuel Macron to India.
- The acquisition, which has already been cleared by Defence Procurement Board, will head to the apex body for the next round of clearances, following which the formal process of technical and commercial negotiations will start.
- The Indian Air Force is currently operating with around 30 fighter squadrons, well below its sanctioned strength of 42. Officials point out that rising security challenges, including increasing collusion between Pakistan and Bangladesh, and Pakistan and China, have further heightened threat perceptions.
- The proposed project is aimed at meeting the IAF's long-term requirement for 4.5-generation-plus multirole fighter aircraft. Sources said around 80 per cent of the 114 Rafale jets under the deal are planned to be manufactured in India.



Indian Army Drops Colonial-era Names

- The Indian Army has undertaken a major initiative to discontinue colonial-era legacies by renaming 246 roads, buildings, and facilities across its establishments. This move is aimed at strengthening an institutional identity rooted in India's own history, ethos, and military traditions, while honouring the nation's gallantry awardees, war heroes, and distinguished military leaders.

- According to Indian Army officials, the remaining exercise covers 124 Roads, 77 Colonies, 27 Buildings and Other Military Facilities, and 18 miscellaneous facilities, including parks, training areas, sports grounds, gates, helipads, etc.
- Recent national efforts to honour the legacy of the Nation's bravest include dedicated commemorations of Param Vir Chakra awardees, reinforcing the centrality of India's heroes in public and institutional memory.



Swan Defence Bags Export Order from Oman

- Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Limited (SDHI) has received a defence export order from the Government of Sultanate of Oman to supply a training ship, which the company said, is expected to be delivered within 18 months.
- The vessel that will support the Royal Navy of Oman's (RNO) advanced naval training and maritime operations measures 104.25 m in length, with a beam of 13.88 m and a displacement of up to 3500 tonnes.
- The training vessel will be equipped with modern classrooms, training offices, and accommodation facilities, also housing an auditorium to provide a world-class learning environment at sea for up to 70 officer cadets.
- The 'Made in India' vessel will feature a state-of-the-art navigation system, an advanced communications suite, and the capability to conduct helicopter operations.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

- 1. The USD 200 million security aid approved by the US Congress in 2026 is meant for which group of countries?**
 - A. Nordic countries
 - B. Balkan states
 - C. Baltic states
 - D. Black Sea nations

ANSWER: C

- 2. Exercise KHANJAR-XIII held between India and which country?**

- A. Kazakhstan
- B. Uzbekistan
- C. Tajikistan
- D. Kyrgyzstan

ANSWER: D

- 3. The proposed acquisition of 114 Rafale fighter jets by India primarily aims to address which requirement of the IAF?**

- A. Replacement of transport aircraft
- B. Expansion of drone warfare capability
- C. Shortfall in fighter squadrons
- D. Naval aviation modernisation

ANSWER: C

4. The Indian Army's initiative to rename roads, buildings, and facilities is mainly intended to:

- A. Improve logistical efficiency
- B. Reduce maintenance costs
- C. Promote jointness among services
- D. Remove colonial-era legacies

ANSWER: D

5. Swan Defence and Heavy Industries Limited secured a defence export order from which country?

- A. Qatar
- B. United Arab Emirates
- C. Oman
- D. Saudi Arabia

ANSWER: C

6. India's One and Only Tri-Services Command

- A. New Delhi
- B. Northern Army Command
- C. Andaman & Nicobar Command
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

7. The ALH MK III Helicopters Have Been Indigenously Manufactured By__.

- A. Boeing
- B. HAL
- C. DRDO
- D. Dassault Aviation

ANSWER: B

8. INS Satpura Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Guided Missile Stealth Frigate

ANSWER: D

9. HEAT Stands For ____.

- A. Highly Explosive Anti-Tank
- B. Highest Explosive Anti-Tank
- C. High Explosive Anti-Tank
- D. High Explosive Anti-Tank

ANSWER: C

10. Current Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Is__.

- A. Dr. Samir Kamath
- B. Dr. Rakesh
- C. Dr. Rajiv Kumar
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

11. The Hawker Siddeley HS 748 Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Transport Aircraft

ANSWER: D



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EXAMS

12. Juba Is The Capital Of

- A. South Sudan
- B. Spain
- C. Sweden
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

13. "Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India" Book Is Written By

- A. Urjit Patel
- B. Stephen King
- C. J.K Rowling
- D. Amish Tripathi

ANSWER: D

14. Duty, Honour, Courage Is The Motto Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry
- B. The Grenadiers
- C. Rajput Regiment

D. Jat Regiment

ANSWER: A

15. Prahaar Missile Manufactured By

A. MDL

B. BDL

C. CSL

D. DRDO

ANSWER: B

16. Regimental Centre of GARHWAL RIFLES Is In

A. Happy Valley, Shillong, Meghalaya

B. Ranikhet, Uttarakhand

C. Lansdowne, Uttarakhand

D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

17. INS Jalashwa Is A

A. Destroyer

B. OPV

C. Submarine

D. Amphibious transport dock

ANSWER: D

18. Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

A. Desert Eagle

B. SLINEX

C. Indra

D. Indradhanush

ANSWER: D

19. How Many Countries Are In SAARC?

A. 3

B. 4

C. 8

D. 6

ANSWER: C

20. Current CDS of Indian Armed Forces Is

- A. Gen Anil Chauhan
- B. Gen Bipin Rawat
- C. Gen M M Naravane
- D. None

ANSWER: A



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