

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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NATO launches new 'Arctic Sentry' mission

- NATO on Wednesday said it had launched a new mission to bolster security in the Arctic, in a move to assuage US President Donald Trump after he backed off claims on Greenland.
- "Arctic Sentry underscores the alliance's commitment to safeguard its members and maintain stability in one of the world's most strategically significant and environmentally challenging areas," US General Alexis Grynkeiwich, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, said in a statement.
- NATO said the "multi-domain activity" would initially pull together undertakings already being carried out by alliance members in the region such as upcoming exercises by Norway and Denmark.
- It remained unclear whether the new mission would involve more military capabilities being sent to the region.
- Trump's threats against Greenland last month -- which he based on an alleged threat by Russia and China in the Arctic -- plunged the transatlantic alliance into its deepest crisis in years.
- The unpredictable US leader backed off his vow to take control of Denmark's autonomous Arctic territory after saying he had struck a "framework" deal with NATO chief Mark Rutte to ensure greater American influence.



Exercise Vayu Shakti 2026

- The Indian Air Force will hold Exercise Vayu Shakti in Pokhran, Rajasthan, on 27 February. During the exercise, the strength of the Indian Air Force will be on full display, and glimpses of Operation Sindoor will also be showcased. More than 120 defence assets will be displayed, including fighter jets, aircraft, and helicopters
- Briefing the media about the Exercise in Delhi on Wednesday, Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor said that, "We are going to get glimpses of precise targeting. A target will be earmarked, Aircraft will drop the weapons and target will be engaged. "
- Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor also clarified that, "As people will be seated close to the targets, we will not undertake BrahMos or other long range missiles in same profiles that we carried out during operation Sindoor. But the effect on the ground will be visible. For the first time, two new weapons will be showcased and number of indigenous weapons will be higher."
- Sharing the details of Defence Assets, Wing Commander AB Vasane said that, "77 Fighters, 43 Helicopters and 8 Transport aircraft's will take part in Exercise Vayu Shakti. Fighter Aircrafts such as Rafale, Tejas, Su-30 MKI, MiG-29, Jaguar, Mirage-2000; Helicopters including Apache, MI-17, MI-17 V5, Chinook, LCH, ALH and Transport Air Crafts C-17, C-295 and C-130J will be part of the exercise. Akash, Spyder, L-70 and Special Forces will provide Combat Support."



Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti holds bilateral talks with Bahrain

- Deputy Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti on Tuesday called on the Crown Prince, Prime Minister and the Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of Bahrain, Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa at Riffa Palace for discussions focused on strengthening bilateral ties and naval cooperation of India and Bahrain.
- The discussions focused on cooperation in fields including information sharing, joint training, capacity building and future warfare.
- Earlier on 16 December, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar extended warm greetings to Bahrain's Foreign Minister Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, the government and the people of the Kingdom of Bahrain on the country's National Day.
- The message arrived a month after Jaishankar spoke by phone with Al Zayani on November 16, during which the two leaders discussed ways to deepen the multifaceted relationship between India and Bahrain. They also exchanged views on key regional and global developments.
- The two countries also strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and reaffirmed their commitment to combat terrorism, including cross-border terrorism, reflecting shared security concerns and cooperation.



SAAB seeks Indian Air Force Induction for Its Gripen

- Sweden's SAAB has proposed to the Indian Government the creation of the world's most advanced aerospace industry, comprising multi-layered design, production and maintenance as well as induction of fighter jet Gripen E.
- "In our engagements with the Government of India, we have proposed the creation of the world's most advanced aerospace industry, comprising multi-layered design, production and maintenance," said Mikael Franzen, Chief Marketing Officer, Gripen, and Vice President of Business Area Aeronautics at the Swedish group.
- He pointed out that Gripen E is the most modern and cost-effective fighter jet system on the market and could significantly improve Air Power within the Indian Air Force, with world leading sensor and networking capability.
- "The highest availability of any fighter gives an unrivalled combat mass to counter any adversary. Gripen will fit perfectly in IAF together with Rafale and Tejas," Frazen told PTI at the Singapore Airshow held 3-8 Feb here.
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- While the IAF operates Rafale and Tejas fighters, there is a large space for a game changer like Gripen E at two levels: First, a fighter than can be inducted quickly and in large numbers; second, a technology powerhouse that has already solved the recipe for constant ..



Solar Industries Unveils Vijayastra

- Solar Industries India Limited, a leading explosives and defence manufacturing firm based in Nagpur, has unveiled Vijayastra, its indigenous unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) designed for precision strikes and reconnaissance missions.
- The development marks a significant stride in India's push for self-reliance in defence technologies under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative. Announced on 11 February 2026, Vijayastra integrates advanced propulsion systems derived from Solar Industries' expertise in rocket propellants and warheads.
- Vijayastra boasts a loitering munition capability, allowing it to patrol designated areas for up to 90 minutes before executing kamikaze-style attacks on high-value targets. Its lightweight composite airframe, weighing under 15 kilograms, enables deployment from man-portable launchers or small UAV carriers. The system employs GPS/INS navigation augmented by electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) seekers for terminal guidance, achieving pinpoint accuracy within a 2-metre circular error probable (CEP).
- Engineered for versatility, Vijayastra operates at altitudes between 100 and 4,000 metres, with a maximum range exceeding 50 kilometres. Solar Industries has incorporated indigenous rocket motors, drawing from its proven Nagastra-1 platform, which the Indian Army inducted in 2023. This evolution addresses gaps in swarm drone tactics and counter-UAV operations amid escalating border tensions with neighbours.
- Solar Industries invested over ₹50 crore in R&D, leveraging its 75% domestic content in explosives manufacturing. Production scaling is underway at its

Ambernath facility, aiming for 1,000 units annually by 2027. The firm anticipates orders from the Tri-Services, including Navy adaptations for maritime surveillance.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is the primary objective of NATO's 'Arctic Sentry' mission?

- A. To establish new military bases in Greenland
- B. To enhance security and coordination in the Arctic region
- C. To conduct naval exercises in the Pacific Ocean
- D. To expand NATO membership

ANSWER: B

2. Exercise Vayu Shakti 2026 will be held at which location?

- A. Leh, Ladakh
- B. Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
- C. Pokhran, Rajasthan
- D. Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir

ANSWER: C

3. Which of the following fighter aircraft is proposed by SAAB for induction into the Indian Air Force?

- A. F-16
- B. Eurofighter Typhoon
- C. Gripen E
- D. F/A-18 Super Hornet

ANSWER: C

4. Vijayastra, unveiled by Solar Industries, is primarily a:

- A. Ballistic missile system
- B. Main battle tank
- C. Loitering munition UAV
- D. Submarine-launched torpedo

ANSWER: C

5. Discussions between India and Bahrain focused mainly on:

- A. Space exploration cooperation
- B. Trade in agricultural products
- C. Naval cooperation and defence collaboration
- D. Cultural exchange programs

ANSWER: C

6. 'Samudra Prahari' Is A

- A. Submarine
- B. ICG Pollution-Control Vessel
- C. Destroyer
- D. Frigate

ANSWER: B

7. Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist University (DDIBU) Located At

- A. Tripura
- B. Assam
- C. U.P.
- D. Kerala

ANSWER: A

8. Light Combat Helicopter Is Manufactured By

- A. DRDO
- B. HAL
- C. Boeing
- D. Airbus

ANSWER: B

9. Ex 'KAZIND' & 'KHANJAR' Conducted b/w India &

- A.** Kazakhstan
- B.** Kyrgyzstan

- C. Both a & b
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

10. Munitions India Limited Is An Indian State-owned Defence Company, HQ in

- A. Pune
- B. Mumbai
- C. Noida
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

11. Current CDS Of India Is

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

ANSWER: A

12. War Cry Of Mechanised Infantry Regiment Is

- A. Durga Mata K Jai
- B. Raja Ram Chandra K Jai
- C. Bolo Bharat Mata Ki Jai
- D. Bajrang Bali K Jai

ANSWER: C

13. Ex 'BLUE FLAG' Conducted b/w India &

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

ANSWER: D

14. Operation Devi Shakti Was Conducted In

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2021

ANSWER: D

15. Always Alert Is The Motto Of

- A. RAW
- B. IB
- C. DRDO
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

16. Only Five-star Rank Officer Of The IAF Is

- A. K.M Karippa
- B. V R Chaudhary
- C. R K S Bhadauria
- D. Arjan Singh

ANSWER: D

17. SPYDER Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. OPV
- C. Submarine
- D. Air defence system

ANSWER: D

18. Vilnius Is The Capital Of

- A. Lithuania
- B. Qatar
- C. Malawi
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

19. "Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo" Book Is Written By

- A. Ramesh Kandula
- B. Meghna Pant
- C. Hunter Biden
- D. Lt. Gen. Konsam Himalay Singh

ANSWER: D

20. President's Bodyguard Motto Is

- A. Jai Hind
- B. Sarvda Shaktishali

- C. Bharat Mata Ki Jai
- D. Rashtra Pratham

ANSWER: C



SSBCrack
EXAMS