

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Ministry of Defence inks Rs 2,312 Crore Contract With HAL

- The Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), Transport Aircraft Division, Kanpur, for the acquisition of eight Dornier 228 Aircraft along with Operational Role Equipment for the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at a cost of Rs 2,312 crore under the Buy (Indian) category.
- According to the Ministry of Defence, the contract was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi today.
- The programme is expected to generate significant direct & indirect employment by strengthening HAL's production ecosystem and supporting a broad network of MSMEs & ancillary industries. It will also create sustained opportunities in Maintenance, repair, and overhaul, as well as life-cycle technical support.
- The Dornier 228 is a twin-turboprop STOL utility aircraft, designed and first manufactured by Dornier GmbH from 1981 until 1998. About 245 such aircraft were built in Oberpfaffenhofen, Germany. In 1983, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited bought a production licence and manufactured 125 aircraft in Kanpur, India.
- Engine type: Honeywell TPE331
- Manufacturers: Dornier Flugzeugwerke, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, DASA
- Range: 1,111 km
- Wingspan: 17 m
- Cruise speed: 315 km/h
- Weight: 3,739 kg
- Top speed: 433 km/h



Ministry Clears Purchase of 114 Rafales, SCALP Missiles

- The defence ministry has approved the acquisition of 114 additional Rafale fighter jets, most of which will be manufactured in India, besides several other major purchases valued at a total of Rs 3.6 lakh crore. In a boost to the air force's long-range strike abilities.
- Earlier, the Defence Acquisition Council, under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to various service proposals, with an estimated value of about Rs 3.60 lakh crore.
- Under the approved framework, India will procure 114 Rafale aircraft, with 18 jets to be delivered in fly-away condition and the remaining to be manufactured domestically. About 90 aircrafts of the fleet is expected to be built in India under the Make in India initiative.
- The agreement would raise India's Rafale fleet to 176 aircraft, including the 36 Rafales already in service with the Indian Air Force and the 26 Rafale-M jets ordered by the Navy for carrier operations.
- The deal is expected to significantly bolster India's fighter capabilities at a time when the IAF operates around 30 squadrons, well below its authorised strength of 42, amid ongoing security challenges along both the western and northern fronts.
- The majority of the MRFA to be procured will be manufactured in India. The Combat Missiles will enhance the stand-off ground-attack capability with deep-strike power and very high accuracy. The AS-HAPS will be utilised for persistent

Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance, Electronic Intelligence, telecommunications, and remote sensing for military purposes.

- For the Indian Air Force (IAF), the AoN was approved for the procurement of Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) {Rafale}, Combat Missiles, and Air-Ships-Based High-Altitude Pseudo-Satellite (AS-HAPS).
- For the Indian Army, AoN was accorded for the procurement of Anti-Tank Mines (Vibhav) and overhaul of Vehicle Platforms of Armoured Recovery Vehicles (ARVs), T-72 Tanks and Infantry Combat Vehicles (BMP-II).
- The Ministry of Defence mentioned that Vibhav mines will be laid as an anti-tank obstacle system to delay the advance of enemy mechanised forces. The overhaul of vehicle platforms of ARVs, T-72 Tanks and BMP-II will enhance the service life of equipment, ensuring readiness and operational effectiveness of the Indian Army.



Indian Navy Assumes Command Of Key Training Task Force

- The Indian Navy has assumed the command of a key multinational training task force under the Combined Maritime Forces, underscoring the country's commitment to collaborative maritime security and capacity-building in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond, the defence ministry said.
- The Combined Task Force 154, or CTF 154, is specifically oriented towards training and capacity-building of member nations of the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF), it said.
- This reflects the region's growing trust in India's professional expertise, operational experience, and its role as a "preferred security partner" among the 47 member nations, a Navy spokesperson said.

- The Change of Command ceremony was conducted on February 11 at CMF headquarters in Bahrain's Manama and was presided over by Vice Admiral Curt A Renshaw, Commander of CMF and US Naval Forces Central Command, the defence ministry said in a statement.
- CTF 154 operates alongside CMF's other task forces: CTF 150 (maritime security), CTF 151 (counter-piracy), CTF 152 (maritime security in Arabian Gulf) and CTF 153 (maritime security in Red Sea).



IAF to Train UK's Royal Air Force Pilots

- New Delhi, For the first time, the Indian Air Force is set to train pilots of the UK's Royal Air Force under a new initiative. The decision was taken at the 19th UK-India Air Staff Talks held in New Delhi.
- "Under the latest agreement, the Indian Air Force will deploy three Qualified Flight Instructors (QFI) to Royal Air Force (RAF) Valley in the UK -- the training base for British fast jet pilots," a British readout said.
- The development closely follows the first-time deployment in January this year of an Indian Air Force officer as an instructor to the Royal Air Force College Cranwell -- the air academy that trains the next generation of RAF officers.
- The Air Staff Talks are part of annual engagements, with both sides usually represented by a two-star officer or above to discuss areas of military collaboration. The previous edition of the staff talks was held in London in 2025.



DAC Greenlights Six Additional P-8I Aircraft

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved the procurement of six additional Boeing P-8I maritime patrol aircraft for the Indian Navy.
 - This decision, announced on 12 February 2026, marks a significant enhancement to India's maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare capabilities.
 - The P-8I, a long-range multi-mission platform derived from the Boeing 737, excels in anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) roles.
 - These aircraft will join the Navy's existing fleet of 12 P-8Is, codenamed "Neptune", which have amassed over 40,000 mishap-free flight hours since their induction more than a decade ago.
 - This exemption stems from DAP 2020 provisions that removed offsets for IGAs, streamlining acquisitions while prioritising strategic interoperability with allies. The deal, valued at approximately \$3-4 billion, resolves prior cost disputes through recent high-level talks involving US Department of Defence officials and Boeing representatives.
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REVIEW QUESTIONS

Here are 15 MCQs with answers based on the defence updates:

1. The Ministry of Defence signed a ₹2,312 crore contract with which company for Dornier aircraft?

- A) Boeing
- B) Dassault Aviation
- C) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- D) DRDO

☒ Answer: C

Explanation: The contract for eight Dornier 228 aircraft was signed with HAL under the Buy (Indian) category.

2. The eight Dornier 228 aircraft are being procured for which force?

- A) Indian Navy
- B) Indian Air Force
- C) Border Security Force
- D) Indian Coast Guard

☒ Answer: D

Explanation: The aircraft will strengthen maritime surveillance capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard.

3. The Dornier 228 aircraft is primarily a:

- A) Jet-powered bomber
- B) Helicopter
- C) Twin-turboprop STOL utility aircraft
- D) Supersonic fighter

☒ Answer: C

Explanation: The Dornier 228 is a twin-engine turboprop aircraft with Short Take-Off and Landing capability.

4. Who chairs the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)?

- A) Prime Minister
- B) National Security Advisor
- C) Chief of Defence Staff
- D) Rajnath Singh

☒ Answer: D

Explanation: The Defence Minister chairs the Defence Acquisition Council.

5. The DAC approved procurement of how many additional Rafale aircraft?

- A) 36
- B) 72
- C) 90
- D) 114

☒ Answer: D

Explanation: Approval was granted for 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA).

6. The Rafale fighter aircraft is manufactured by which country?

- A) USA
- B) Russia
- C) France
- D) UK

☒ Answer: C

Explanation: Rafale is a French multi-role fighter aircraft.

7. After the new deal, India's total Rafale fleet will increase to:

- A) 140
- B) 150
- C) 160
- D) 176

☒ Answer: D

Explanation: The fleet will include 36 IAF Rafales, 26 naval Rafale-M, and 114 newly approved jets.

8. The Indian Navy assumed command of which task force under Combined Maritime Forces?

- A) CTF 150
- B) CTF 151
- C) CTF 152
- D) CTF 154

☒ Answer: D

Explanation: CTF 154 focuses on training and capacity-building among member nations.

9. CTF 154 functions under which multinational maritime partnership?

- A) NATO
- B) QUAD
- C) ASEAN
- D) Combined Maritime Forces

☒ Answer: D

Explanation: CTF 154 operates under the Combined Maritime Forces framework.

10. The change-of-command ceremony for CTF 154 was held in:

- A) Doha
- B) Abu Dhabi
- C) Manama, Bahrain
- D) Muscat

☒ Answer: C

Explanation: The ceremony took place at CMF headquarters in Manama.

11. The Indian Air Force will train pilots of which country's air force?

- A) USA
- B) Australia
- C) France
- D) Royal Air Force

☒ Answer: D

Explanation: Under a new initiative, IAF instructors will train RAF pilots in the UK.

12. The Boeing P-8I aircraft is mainly used for:

- A) Passenger transport
- B) Air ambulance services
- C) Maritime patrol and anti-submarine warfare
- D) Training cadets

☒ Answer: C

Explanation: The P-8I performs ASW, ASuW, and ISR roles.

13. The Defence Acquisition Council approved procurement of how many additional P-8I aircraft?

- A) 4
- B) 8
- C) 6
- D) 12

☒ Answer: C

Explanation: Six additional P-8I aircraft were cleared to enhance maritime capabilities.

14. The Anti-Tank Mines approved for the Indian Army are named:

- A) Agni
- B) BrahMos
- C) Astra
- D) Vibhav

☒ Answer: D

Explanation: Vibhav mines are intended to delay enemy mechanised forces.

15. The MRFA programme stands for:

- A) Medium Range Fighter Aircraft
- B) Multi-Role Fleet Aircraft
- C) Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft
- D) Military Recon Fighter Aircraft

☒ Answer: C

Explanation: MRFA refers to the Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft procurement programme.