

Daily Defence Current Affairs

10 April 2026

CRPF Valour Day

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah paid his tributes to the martyrs of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) on the occasion of CRPF Valour Day.
- CRPF Valour Day, known as **Shaurya Diwas**, is celebrated **annually on April 9** to honour the extraordinary courage of the CRPF on this day in 1965.
- A small contingent of 2nd Battalion CRPF at Sardar Post in Gujarat's Rann of Kutch repulsed a massive Pakistani brigade attack, killing 34 soldiers and capturing four, while sacrificing 6-7 soldiers.



Iran To Charge \$1 Per Oil Barrel Toll From Tankers

- Iran will reportedly demand tolls in cryptocurrency from shipping companies to let their oil tankers pass through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, as the Islamic Republic tightens its grip on the narrow waterway despite a two-week ceasefire with the United States.

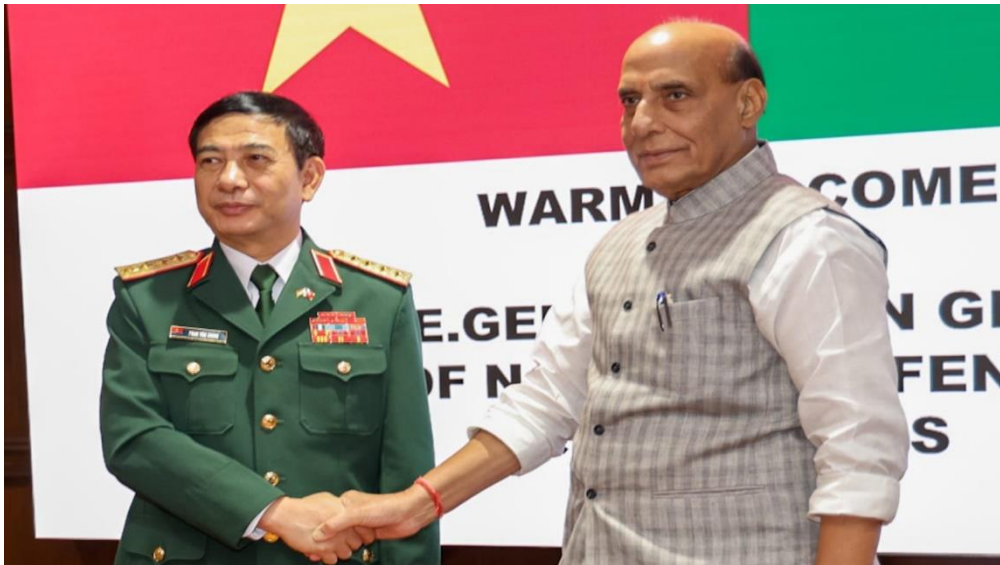
- "Iran needs to monitor what goes in and out of the strait to ensure these two weeks aren't used for transferring weapons," Hosseini quoted as saying by the Financial Times. The demanded toll is reportedly \$1 per barrel of oil.
- Maersk, the world's second-biggest shipping line, said it was "working with urgency" to clarify Iran's terms on the waterway.
- "The ceasefire may transit opportunities, but it does not yet provide full maritime certainty," the company said. It added that it would continue taking a "cautious approach" with cargoes, noting that it was not making any changes to specific services yet.
- The report further cited industry executives to mention that nearly 300 to 400 ships are waiting to exit the Gulf as soon as they can safely pass the Hormuz Strait.



Rajnath Singh congratulates Vietnam's Phan Van

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated General Phan Van Giang on his appointment as Vietnam Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence.
- General Phan Van Giang was appointed Deputy Prime Minister while continuing as Defence Minister on April 8, following approval by Vietnam's National Assembly during its first session for the 2026-2031 term under Prime Minister Le Minh Hung.
- He is among six Deputy Prime Ministers in the new government.

- India and Vietnam share a close and evolving relationship, designated as a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership since 2016. The partnership has expanded across multiple domains, including defence cooperation, trade, and regional security.
- **India–Vietnam Relations**
- India and Vietnam established diplomatic relations in 1972, which have steadily strengthened.
- In 2016, ties were upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.
- Vietnam is a key pillar of India’s Act East Policy.
- India supports Vietnam’s role in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).
- Regular naval exercises and port visits.
- India provides training for Vietnamese armed forces, especially submarine operations.
- Talks on supply of BrahMos missile to Vietnam.
- Cooperation ensures stability in the South China Sea region.
- Bilateral trade has crossed \$14–15 billion.
- Key exports from India: pharmaceuticals, machinery, cotton.
- Vietnam exports: electronics, coffee, rubber, textiles.
- Indian companies are investing in energy, agriculture, and IT sectors.
- Scholarships offered under Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- Popularity of Yoga and Indian culture in Vietnam.
- Cultural exchanges, festivals, and academic collaborations.
- Vietnam is crucial for India’s presence in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Both countries support freedom of navigation and rule-based international order.
- Cooperation balances regional geopolitics, especially in light of China’s influence.



Mission Mitra

- India's journey towards human spaceflight is gaining momentum with **Mission Mitra**, a unique initiative showcasing how the country is preparing its astronauts for extreme space conditions. Recently, Indian astronaut **Shubhanshu Shukla** shared glimpses from this mission being conducted in **Leh, Ladakh**, highlighting the rigorous training and scientific efforts behind India's upcoming space missions.

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- ❄️ **What is Mission Mitra?**
 - Mission Mitra (Mapping of Interoperable Traits and Response Assessment) is a large-scale behavioural study designed to prepare astronauts for human spaceflight.
 - It is jointly developed by **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and the Institute of Aerospace Medicine.
 - The mission focuses on understanding how astronauts behave under **stress, isolation, low oxygen, and extreme cold**.
 - It is India's first major effort to study the **human side of space missions** at such a scale.

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- 🏔️ **Why Leh Was Chosen**
 - Leh provides a natural environment that closely simulates space-like conditions:
 - High altitude (~3,500 meters) leads to **low oxygen levels**
 - Freezing temperatures and harsh terrain test physical endurance

- Isolation helps simulate psychological stress faced in space
- These conditions make Leh an ideal “earth-based laboratory” for astronaut training.

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• **Role of Shubhanshu Shukla**

- Group Captain **Shubhanshu Shukla** is at the center of this mission:
- A key astronaut associated with India’s **Gaganyaan programme**
- Has extensive flying and space experience
- Shared real-time visuals from Leh, offering insights into India’s preparation efforts
- He represents a new generation of Indian astronauts preparing for long-duration human space missions.

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• **Focus on Human Behaviour in Space**

- Unlike traditional missions that focus on rockets and technology, Mission Mitra emphasizes:
- **Mental resilience** under pressure
- **Decision-making ability** in extreme conditions
- **Team coordination and performance**
- The mission studies how astronauts and ground teams function together when pushed to their limits.

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• **Link with Gaganyaan Mission**

- Mission Mitra is a crucial step toward India’s first human spaceflight programme, **Gaganyaan**:
- Helps in **astronaut selection and training**
- Improves **crew safety and mission readiness**
- Provides real-world data for better mission planning
- While spacecraft and rockets prepare the hardware, Mission Mitra prepares the **human component**, ensuring astronauts are fully ready for space challenges.

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• **Significance for India**


- Strengthens India’s position in **global human space exploration**
- Builds indigenous capability in astronaut training
- Demonstrates scientific innovation using local environments like Ladakh




Indian Army Showcases Apache “Tank in Air” Power During Brahmastra Drill


- The Indian Army recently demonstrated its cutting-edge combat capabilities during the ‘**Brahmastra**’ **desert exercise** at the Pokhran Firing Range in Rajasthan. The highlight of the drill was the display of the powerful **Apache attack helicopters**, often referred to as “tanks in the air,” showcasing India’s growing military strength and modernization.

-  **Brahmastra Exercise: A Display of Firepower**
- The exercise involved live firing operations in a simulated battlefield environment.
- Conducted at **Pokhran Field Firing Range, Rajasthan**
- Focus on **real combat simulation and operational readiness**
- Demonstrated coordination between **aircrew and ground forces**
- The drill highlighted India’s shift towards **high-precision, network-centric warfare**, where technology and coordination play a decisive role.


-  **Apache Helicopters: “Tanks in the Air”**
- At the center of the exercise was the Boeing AH-64 Apache, one of the world’s most advanced combat helicopters.
- **Key capabilities:**

- Equipped with a **30 mm chain gun**
- Can launch **AGM-114 Hellfire anti-tank missiles**
- Carries **Hydra rockets** for area attacks
- Advanced **Longbow radar and night-vision systems**
- Capable of **all-weather, day-and-night operations**
- During the drill, Apache helicopters executed **precision strikes**, accurately destroying designated targets in desert conditions.

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-  **Focus on Precision & Coordination**
 - The Brahmastra exercise was not just about firepower—it emphasized:
 - **Pilot training and mission planning**
 - Continuous **simulator-based preparation**
 - Strong coordination between **technical teams and pilots**
 - According to military officials, the successful firing demonstrated the **accuracy, preparedness, and combat efficiency** of Indian Army personnel.

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-  **Role in Modern Warfare**
 - Attack helicopters like Apache are becoming crucial in modern battle scenarios:
 - Provide **instant fire support** to ground forces
 - Operate under **land force command control**
 - Work alongside **drones, artillery, and counter-UAS systems**
 - This integration represents the concept of “**air-land battle synergy**”, where aerial and ground operations are seamlessly connected.

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- **IN Boost to India’s Combat Capabilities**
 - The induction of Apache helicopters, along with indigenous platforms like:
 - **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand**
 - **ALH Rudra (weaponised helicopter)**
 - has significantly enhanced India’s battlefield strength. These platforms together improve **speed, precision, and lethality** in combat operations.

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-  **Strategic Significance**
 - Strengthens India’s **defence preparedness in desert warfare**
 - Enhances capability for **future high-tech conflicts**
 - Demonstrates India’s focus on **modern, technology-driven warfare**



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. CRPF Valour Day is celebrated on which date?

- A. April 7
- B. April 8
- C. April 9
- D. April 10

Answer: C. April 9

2. CRPF Valour Day commemorates an event that took place in which year?

- A. 1962
- B. 1965
- C. 1971
- D. 1999

Answer: B. 1965

3. The historic battle of CRPF Valour Day took place at which location?

- A. Kargil
- B. Siachen

- C. Sardar Post
- D. Longewala

Answer: C. Sardar Post

4. Sardar Post is located in which region?

- A. Punjab
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Gujarat
- D. Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: C. Gujarat

5. Iran proposed charging how much toll per barrel of oil from tankers?

- A. \$2
- B. \$5
- C. \$1
- D. \$10

Answer: C. \$1

6. The Strait of Hormuz connects which two water bodies?

- A. Arabian Sea & Bay of Bengal
- B. Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman
- C. Red Sea & Mediterranean Sea
- D. Black Sea & Caspian Sea

Answer: B. Persian Gulf & Gulf of Oman

7. Which company mentioned taking a cautious approach regarding cargo through Hormuz?

- A. BP
- B. Shell
- C. Maersk
- D. ExxonMobil

Answer: C. Maersk

8. Who congratulated General Phan Van Giang?

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Amit Shah
- C. Rajnath Singh
- D. S. Jaishankar

Answer: C. Rajnath Singh

9. General Phan Van Giang was appointed Deputy Prime Minister of which country?

- A. Thailand
- B. Vietnam
- C. Indonesia
- D. Malaysia

Answer: B. Vietnam

10. India and Vietnam upgraded their ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in which year?

- A. 2010
- B. 2014
- C. 2016
- D. 2020

Answer: C. 2016

11. India's Act East Policy mainly focuses on which region?

- A. Europe
- B. Africa
- C. Southeast Asia
- D. Central Asia

Answer: C. Southeast Asia

12. Mission Mitra is related to which field?

- A. Agriculture
- B. Defence
- C. Space

D. Health

Answer: C. Space

13. Mission Mitra is jointly developed by ISRO and which organization?

A. DRDO

B. HAL

C. Institute of Aerospace Medicine

D. NASA

Answer: C. Institute of Aerospace Medicine

14. Mission Mitra primarily studies what?

A. Rocket engines

B. Satellite communication

C. Human behaviour in extreme conditions

D. Space debris

Answer: C. Human behaviour in extreme conditions

15. Why was Leh chosen for Mission Mitra?

A. High population

B. Space station presence

C. Space-like extreme conditions

D. Coastal location

Answer: C. Space-like extreme conditions

16. Shubhanshu Shukla is associated with which mission?

A. Chandrayaan

B. Mangalyaan

C. Gaganyaan

D. Aditya-L1

Answer: C. Gaganyaan

17. The Brahmastra exercise was conducted in which state?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Punjab
- D. Haryana

Answer: B. Rajasthan

18. The Apache helicopter is manufactured by which company?

- A. Lockheed Martin
- B. Boeing
- C. Airbus
- D. HAL

Answer: B. Boeing

19. Apache helicopters are commonly referred to as:

- A. Flying Tanks
- B. Tanks in the Air
- C. Sky Warriors
- D. Desert Eagles

Answer: B. Tanks in the Air

20. Which missile is used by Apache helicopters for anti-tank operations?

- A. Akash
- B. Nag
- C. Hellfire
- D. BrahMos

Answer: C. Hellfire