

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Sqn Ldr Saanya Becomes First Woman Officer To Earn Cat-A QFI Qualification

- The IAF said Sqn Ldr Saanya has achieved a historic first by becoming the first woman officer to earn the coveted Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification. The IAF said it marks a proud milestone for the IAF and an inspiration for aspiring aviators across the nation.
- "Excellence takes flight. Sqn Ldr Saanya achieved a historic first by becoming the first woman officer to earn the coveted Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification. Her achievement embodies dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence.



Raksha Mantri to Undertake An Official Visit to Vietnam & South Korea

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh will pay an official visit to Vietnam from May 18 to 19, 2026, followed by Republic of Korea from May 19 to 21, 2026. Raksha Mantri looked forward to visiting the two Asian nations to further expand the scope of bilateral engagement.

- The focus will be on deepening strategic military cooperation, strengthening defence industrial partnerships, and boosting maritime collaboration, promoting peace & stability in the Indo-Pacific region, he said.
- Raksha Mantri's visit to Vietnam marks 10 years of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations which was upgraded to Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the state visit of the President of Vietnam to India from May 05 to 07, 2026.
- Shri Rajnath Singh will hold bilateral talks with the Minister of National Defence of Vietnam General Phan Van Giang during the visit.
- A Joint Vision Statement of India-Vietnam Defence Partnership towards 2030 was signed as part of Raksha Mantri's last visit from June 08 to 10, 2022. The vision statement clearly enunciates a defined way ahead for bilateral defence cooperation.
- India's decision to extend the support was meant to add a healing touch to the war by deploying 60 Parachute Field Ambulance of the Indian Army. Serving for more than three years, the unit treated over two lakh patients and performed about 2,500 surgeries, in addition to treating a number of civilians.
- The Natural Alignment of India's 'Act East Policy' and Republic of Korea's 'Indo-Pacific Strategy' as well as shared values in the Indo-Pacific Region, have opened a new chapter in the relations between the two countries.



Dunagiri, Agray and Sanshodhak: Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy is set to commission three indigenous vessels — a stealth frigate, an anti-submarine warfare craft and a survey ship — in a fresh push to strengthen its operational edge in the Indian Ocean Region, where China has steadily expanded its maritime presence, officials familiar with the matter.
- The vessels — Dunagiri, Agray and Sanshodhak — were built by Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) and were recently delivered to the navy.
- INS Dunagiri inherits the legacy of the earlier Leander-class vessel decommissioned in 2010.
- INS Agray can coordinate with aircraft for extended anti-submarine operations in coastal waters.
- INS Sanshodhak assists in oceanographic research and provides logistical support for naval operations.
- INS Dunagiri, the fifth Project 17A stealth frigate, features BrahMos missiles, Barak-8 air defence, MF-STAR radar, and advanced ASW systems. INS Agray, the fourth ASW-SWC from GRSE, is equipped with lightweight torpedoes, rocket launchers, and sonar for coastal defence.
- INS Sanshodhak will expand hydrographic survey capacity, supporting navigation safety, oceanographic research, humanitarian missions, and low-intensity combat roles.



US Clears \$428-Million Defence Support To India

- The package for long-term sustainment support for M-777 A2 Ultra-Light Howitzers, valued at an estimated \$230 million, include "ancillary items; spares; repair and return; training; technical assistance; field service representative; depot capability; and other related elements of logistics and programme support".
- The principal contractor for the Howitzer support package will be BAE Systems.
- The other package for sale of Apache helicopters' follow-on support services and related equipment is valued at \$198.2 million, for which contractors are Boeing and Lockheed Martin. The Indian Army received its first two artillery gun systems from the US in 2017.
- In a separate notification, the State Department approved a possible \$198.2 million sale linked to Apache helicopters.
- The approvals come amid expanding defence cooperation between India and the United States, which have steadily deepened military ties over the past decade through arms sales, joint military exercises and technology-sharing initiatives.



Tonbo Imaging Wins Indian Navy Contract

- Defence technology company Tonbo Imaging has been awarded a contract by the Indian Navy under the ADITI 3.0 innovation framework to integrate and commission a High Power Microwave (HPM) system for naval platforms, marking a push into directed-energy capabilities for maritime operations.
- The programme is supported by the iDEX initiative and the **Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)** under the Ministry of Defence. Under the contract, Tonbo

Imaging will carry out system integration and commissioning work, followed by the supply of multiple production units after successful development, validation and acceptance.

- High Power Microwave systems are emerging as a strategic non-kinetic defence capability, designed to disrupt or degrade adversary electronics, sensors and unmanned systems.
- Defence planners globally are increasingly viewing such systems as a countermeasure against drone swarms and asymmetric threats, particularly in maritime environments.
- ADITI (Advanced Defence Technology Incubation) is a government-led initiative aimed at maturing and validating advanced defence technologies before induction.
- The selection of Tonbo Imaging under ADITI 3.0 signals the Navy's continued focus on indigenously developed technologies aligned with long-term modernisation and electromagnetic spectrum dominance.



India Receives Fourth S-400 Air Defence System

- India is set to receive the fourth squadron of the Russian-origin S-400 air defence missile system by the end of the week of 19 May 2026. The system forms part of a \$5.43 billion agreement signed in 2018 for five S-400 squadrons from Russia.
- The S-400 Triumf is a long-range surface-to-air missile system developed by Russia. It is designed to engage aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles at different ranges and altitudes. The system is operated by the Indian Air Force for air defence deployment.

- India signed the contract for five S-400 systems in 2018. The original delivery schedule aimed for completion by 2023, but the timeline faced delays linked to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and disruptions in Russian defence supply chains. The fourth unit was inspected by IAF personnel in Russia by mid-April 2026 and was shipped by sea and air transport.
- The fourth S-400 unit is expected to be deployed in Rajasthan for long-range air defence coverage along the western frontier. The fifth and final squadron under the original contract is expected by November 2026 and is likely to be positioned along India's northern border with China. In late March 2026, the Defence Acquisition Council approved a new batch of five additional S-400 missile systems.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Who became the first woman officer in the Indian Air Force to earn the Cat-A Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) qualification?**
 - A) Sqn Ldr Avani Chaturvedi
 - B) Sqn Ldr Saanya
 - C) Wing Commander Anjali Singh
 - D) Group Captain Shaliza Dhani

Answer: B) Sqn Ldr Saanya

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2. **Which organisation built the indigenous naval vessels INS Dunagiri, INS Agray, and INS Sanshodhak?**

- A) HAL
- B) DRDO
- C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- D) GRSE

Answer: D) GRSE

3. INS Dunagiri belongs to which class of stealth frigates?

- A) Project 15B
- B) Project 17A
- C) Talwar Class
- D) Nilgiri Class

Answer: B) Project 17A

4. Which companies are the principal contractors for Apache helicopter support services approved by the United States for India?

- A) Boeing and Lockheed Martin
- B) DRDO and HAL
- C) Airbus and Dassault
- D) Raytheon and Northrop Grumman

Answer: A) Boeing and Lockheed Martin

5. Tonbo Imaging received an Indian Navy contract under which innovation framework?

- A) Make in India 2.0
- B) Startup India Defence Mission
- C) ADITI 3.0
- D) Mission Shakti

Answer: C) ADITI 3.0

6. Raising Day of BRO Observed On

- A. 6 May
- B. 7 May
- C. 8 May
- D. 9 May

ANSWER: B

7. Akash Prime Is A

- A. Rocket
- B. Air Defence Missile System
- C. Sniper Rifle
- D. Tank

ANSWER: B

8. NAVIC Stands For

- A. India Regional Navigation Satellite System
- B. Indian Regional Navigator Satellite System
- C. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite Source
- D. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System

ANSWER: D

9. Major Rank Of the Indian Army Is Equivalent To Which Rank Of The Indian Navy?

- A. Captain
- B. Inspector
- C. Lt Commander
- D. Vice-admiral

ANSWER: C

10. Training Command of IAF is located at

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bangalore
- C. Gurugram
- D. Lucknow

ANSWER: B

11. Captain Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of IAF Is

- A. Wing Commander
- B. Squadron Leader
- C. Flight Lt.
- D. Air Chief Marshal

ANSWER: C

12. Colonel Rank Of Indian Army Is Equivalent To Rank Of Indian Navy Is

- A. Commander
- B. Captain
- C. Group Captain
- D. Lieutenant

ANSWER: B

13. Warsaw Is The Capital Of

- A. Oman
- B. Germany
- C. Ukraine
- D. Poland

ANSWER: D

14. "Indian Fiscal Federalism" Book Is Written By

- A. Dr. Bibek Debroy
- B. Dr. Krishna Saksena
- C. Dr. Y.V. Reddy
- D. Jairam Ramesh

ANSWER: C

15. Tangail Airdrop Was Done At Which War

- A. 1948
- B. 1962
- C. 1965
- D. 1971

ANSWER: D

16. War Cry of NAGA REGIMENT

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Ki ki so so Lhargyalo
- C. Jai Durga Naga
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

ANSWER: C

17. Sankalp-class OPV Designed And Built By

- A. Goa Shipyard Limited
- B. GRSE
- C. MDL

D. CSL

ANSWER: A

18. Mitra Shakti Ex Held B/w India &

A. Sri Lanka

B. USA

C. UK

D. Nepal

ANSWER: A

19. Agni Prime Designed And Built By

A. DRDO

B. GRSE

C. MDL

D. CSL

ANSWER: A

20. Agni Prime Designed And Built By

A. DRDO

B. GRSE

C. MDL

D. CSL

ANSWER: A