

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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AVM Shakti Sharma Scripts History As First (Non-Medical) Woman Two-star Officer

- In a historic milestone for the Indian Air Force Air Vice Marshal Shakti Sharma became the first woman officer (non-medical) in the Indian Defence Forces to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal (or equivalent).
- On 01 September 2026, she assumed the appointment of Assistant Chief of the Air Staff (Education) at Air Headquarters.
- Commissioned into the **Education Branch of the IAF** on 18 June 1994, AVM Shakti Sharma brings a wealth of experience to her new role, spanning diverse postings across Training Establishments, Field Stations, Command Headquarters, and Air Headquarters.
- Throughout her career, she has spearheaded key institutional initiatives, including establishing the IAF Chairs of Excellence at IIT Kanpur and Pune University to drive academic and strategic defense collaboration.
- She also created history as the first woman officer from the Tri-Services to command a Sainik School, serving as Principal of Sainik School, Kapurthala.
- This landmark achievement marks a new chapter in the journey of women officers in the Indian Defence Forces. With over three decades of distinguished service, she continues to inspire generations to “**Touch the Sky with Glory**”.



Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja Takes Over As DGAFMS

- Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja assumed the appointment of the 47th Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS) on September 01, 2026.
- As the DGAFMS, Air Marshal Thareja will oversee the provision of comprehensive medical support to the Defence Forces.
- His appointment comes at a time of significant transformation within the AFMS, with continuing emphasis on operational medical preparedness, jointness, modernisation of military healthcare, digital health, medical research and innovation, human-resource development and delivery of high-quality healthcare to serving personnel, veterans and their dependents.
- An alumnus of the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune, Air Marshal Thareja was commissioned into the Army Medical Corps in December 1986. A distinguished physician and gastroenterologist, he completed his MD in Medicine from Delhi and DM in Gastroenterology from AIIMS, New Delhi.



Raksha Mantri Conducts Annual Performance Review of 16 DPSUs

- Rajnath Singh reviewed the annual performance of 16 Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) in New Delhi on September 01, 2026.
- Raksha Mantri reviewed the progress made by the DPSUs in enhancing indigenous production and manufacturing capabilities, development of advanced defence technologies, increasing defence exports, strengthening supply chains and execution of major projects.
- He stated that all the 16 DPSUs are showing their achievement in multi sectors and congratulated the organizations for their continued dedication and excellence. He underlined that in the year 2025-26, India achieved defence production worth approx. Rs 1.8 lakh crore with DPSUs contributing Rs. 1.29 lakh crore. He termed the achievement a reflection of the nation's significant progress towards building an Aatmanirbhar defence industrial base.
- During the event, the CMDs of seven DPSUs - HAL, MDL, BEL, BDL, GRSE, BEML, and MIDHANI - presented dividend cheques, worth a total of Rs 3,951 crore for the Government's equity shares to the Raksha Mantri for FY 2025-26.



Air Marshal Kaa Sanjeeb Takes Over As Air Officer-in-charge Maintenance of THE IAF

- Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb AVSM VSM assumed the charge of Air Officer-in-Charge Maintenance of the IAF on 01 September 2026. The Air Marshal, after taking over, laid a wreath at the **National War Memorial** in honour of the personnel who have made the supreme sacrifice in Service of the Nation.
- The Air Officer was commissioned in the IAF on 03 September 1988 in the Aeronautical Engineering (Mechanical Branch). He has extensive field experience on IL-76, Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) and Boeing 737-200 aircraft.
- In recognition of his distinguished service and devotion to duty, the Air Officer has been awarded with the Presidential Award 'Vishisht Seva Medal' (VSM) in 2015 and 'Ati Vishisht Seva Medal' (AVSM) in 2026.



Air Marshal Vivek Hande Took Over as the DGMS

- Air Marshal Vivek Hande, AVSM, VSM, took over as the Director General Medical Services (Air) on September 01, 2026 on permanent secondment to the Indian Air Force.
- An alumnus of Armed Forces Medical College, Pune; Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai; and National Defence College, New Delhi, he was commissioned in December 1988. He is a gastroenterologist of national repute and has tenanted many specialist and administrative appointments in his illustrious career.



India Eyes Russia's S-500 and Su-57 in a Major Defence Push

- The S-500 missile defence system and Su-57 stealth fighter are emerging as key defence discussions between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the SCO Summit, as India looks to expand its military cooperation with Moscow.
- The talks come after the S-400, deployed during Operation Sindoor, reportedly demonstrated its capabilities against aerial threats, strengthening the case for adding newer Russian systems to India's defence arsenal.
- The S-400, which is designed to provide theatre-level air defence with a reach of up to 400 kilometres, was reportedly effective in detecting and countering aerial threats during Operation Sindoor.
- India currently operates four S-400 squadrons out of the five ordered under a \$5.43 billion contract signed in 2018. The four systems have been deployed across the country's western, northern and eastern fronts, and their reported performance during Operation Sindoor has added attention to the platform.

- The S-400 and S-500 are not intended to perform exactly the same role. As reported, the S-400 is designed primarily as a theatre-level air-defence system, with an interception range of up to 400 km, while the S-500 Prometheus is being positioned as a higher-tier shield against ballistic missiles and hypersonic threats.
- The S-500 is reported to have a maximum interception range of around 600 km and an engagement altitude of about 180 to 200 km, taking its operations into the near-space layer. Its reported reaction time is around three to four seconds, compared with roughly nine to 10 seconds for the S-400.
- The S-500 and Su-57 were absent from the joint statement issued after the Indo-Russian Summit in December last year. Critical technical, financial and logistical questions had remained unresolved.
- India and Russia have reportedly discussed expanding logistics cooperation through reciprocal access to military facilities. Another potential area is a major upgrade for India's Sukhoi-30MKI fleet, including improvements to radars, avionics and weapons systems.



Indian Army Begins Arjun Tank Overhaul After 6-year Delay

- The Indian Army has begun the first full overhaul of its Arjun Mk-1 tanks, six years after the fleet was originally due for refurbishment.
- Two tanks are now being stripped down and rebuilt at the Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF) in Avadi, with 26 upgrades planned as part of a pilot exercise that will set the procedure for refurbishing the Army's remaining 124 Arjun Mk-1 tanks.
- The overhaul marks the first time the Arjun will undergo a complete rebuild covering its hull and turret. The two pilot tanks will receive upgrades drawn

from the newer Mk-1A configuration, while the repair and refurbishment methods developed at Avadi are expected to become the template for the rest of the fleet.

- The Arjun Mk-1 was inducted into the Army from 2004, but its first major overhaul was originally expected to take place by 2020.
- A 2016 CAG report had pointed out that the tank was approaching its overhaul timeline, while no agency had been identified to undertake the work. The audit also noted that Arjun tanks had remained idle since 2013 because of inadequate repair infrastructure and shortages in spares support from HVF.
- Six of these have been identified as major upgrades. They include a commander's panoramic sight, the Mk-II gunner's sight, an automatic target tracker, an improved muzzle reference system, upgraded tracks and an enhanced running gear system.
- The Army's existing Arjun fleet is being upgraded even as the Mk-1A programme continues to face delivery delays.
- The Army ordered 118 **Arjun Mk-1A tanks** from HVF in 2021 under a contract worth **Rs 7,523 crore**. The tanks have yet to be delivered, with engine availability emerging as the main bottleneck.
- Among the prominent Mk-1A additions are non-explosive reactive armour, integration of the gun-launched SAMHO anti-tank guided missile, automatic target tracking and a new commander's panoramic sight.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Who became the first woman officer from the non-medical stream of the Indian Defence Forces to attain the rank of Air Vice Marshal?

- A. Air Marshal Vivek Hande
- B. AVM Shakti Sharma
- C. Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb
- D. Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja

Answer: B. AVM Shakti Sharma

2. AVM Shakti Sharma assumed charge as the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff in which field?

- A. Operations
- B. Intelligence
- C. Education
- D. Maintenance

Answer: C. Education

3. Who assumed charge as the 47th Director General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS)?

- A. Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja
- B. Air Marshal Vivek Hande
- C. AVM Shakti Sharma
- D. Air Marshal KAA Sanjeeb

Answer: A. Air Marshal Sandeep Thareja

4. How much was India's defence production approximately in FY 2025–26?

- A. ₹1.20 lakh crore
- B. ₹1.50 lakh crore
- C. ₹1.80 lakh crore
- D. ₹2.25 lakh crore

Answer: C. ₹1.80 lakh crore

5. Which Russian air-defence system is being discussed as a higher-tier system against ballistic and hypersonic threats?

- A. S-300
- B. S-350
- C. S-400
- D. S-500

Answer: D. S-500

6. Where has the Indian Army begun the pilot overhaul of its Arjun Mk-1 tanks?

- A. Vehicle Factory Jabalpur
- B. Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi
- C. Mahindra Defence, Pune
- D. Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad

Answer: B. Heavy Vehicles Factory, Avadi

7. How many Arjun Mk-1A tanks did the Indian Army order under the 2021 contract?

- A. 100
- B. 118
- C. 124
- D. 150

Answer: B. 118

8. Quad Was Founded On

- A. 2017
- B. 2018
- C. 2019
- D. 2020

ANSWER: A

9. Where Is The Hq Of The Training Command of The IAF?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Bengaluru
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: C

10. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent to which rank of the Indian Navy?

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Commander
- D. Vice Admiral

ANSWER: D

11. 'Ex Zapad' Conducted B/W India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Russia
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: B

12. IBSAMAR Trilateral Naval Exercise Held Between India, Brazil And ____?

- A. North Korea
- B. Switzerland
- C. Singapore
- D. South Africa

ANSWER: D

13. The Port Duqm Is In

- A. Yemen
- B. Iran
- C. Iraq
- D. Oman

ANSWER: D

14. Madrid Is The Capital Of

- A. Spain
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

15. "Fit At Any Age" Book Is Written By

- A. Ajay Bhatt
- B. Sitaram Yechuri
- C. Vikram Sampath

D. Retd. Air Marshal PV Iyer

ANSWER: D

16. Lamitye Exercise Held B/W India And ____?

A. Thailand

B. USA

C. Qatar

D. Seychelles

ANSWER: D

17. Which Of The Following Is Not Main Organ Of United Nations?

A. International Court of Justice

B. Economic and Social Council

C. Secretariat

D. International Monetary fund

ANSWER: D

18. "Badri Vishal Lal Ki Jai" Is The War Cry Of

A. GARHWAL RIFLES

B. MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT

C. THE GRENADIERS

D. PUNJAB REGIMENT

ANSWER: A

19. NAMICA Stands For

A. Nag Missile Cart

B. Nag Missile Carrier

C. Nag Missile Corn

D. None

ANSWER: B

20. Akash Is A Medium-range Mobile Surface-to-air Missile System Developed By The ____

A. HAL

B. TATA

C. Mahindra

D. DRDO

ANSWER: D