

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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16th Aero India to be held in Bengaluru

- Aero India, Asia's largest air show and one of the world's premier aerospace and defence exhibitions, is all set to return with its 16th edition at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 8 to 12, 2027.
- Organised by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, the event will bring together leading global aerospace and defence companies, policymakers, technology experts, innovators, industry stakeholders and defence forces personnel on a common platform.
- Aero India has emerged as a flagship international event showcasing the nation's growing capabilities in aerospace, defence manufacturing, emerging technologies and innovation.
- It provides a dynamic platform for business engagement, technology exchange, international cooperation and strategic dialogue, while highlighting India's expanding defence industrial ecosystem and its growing role in the global aerospace and defence sector.
- The five-day event will feature a comprehensive exhibition and a range of business and strategic engagements, providing opportunities for industry-to-industry interactions, government-to-industry engagements, technology demonstrations and collaborations.
- Aero India 2027 is expected to provide a significant impetus to India's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and its emergence as a trusted partner in the global defence and aerospace supply chain.



Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan Assumes Appointment Of Director General Hospital Services

- Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan, VSM assumed the appointment of Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces) on September 01, 2026.
- Born and educated in Chennai and Mumbai, Surg Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan joined the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune in 1985 and completed his MBBS in 1989. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on December 26, 1989.
- During his distinguished career, he held several significant appointments including Command Medical Officer, Southern Naval Command, Command Medical Officer, Eastern Naval Command and Commanding Officer, INHS Asvini, Mumbai. During his tenure as Commanding Officer, INHS Asvini was awarded the Raksha Mantri Trophy for the Best Command Hospital.
- In recognition of his distinguished service, Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan was awarded the Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM) on January 26, 2026.



IAF Tests Indigenous Khagantak-243 Glide Bomb

- IAF successfully conducted the drop trial of the indigenously designed and developed Khagantak-243, a long-range glide bomb, marking what the force called a significant milestone for the IAF and Indian industry.
- The force added that the trial reflected new levels of lethality achieved through the Atmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives, along with continued defence innovation.
- The IAF had earlier placed an order with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the Khagantak-243 munitions. The number of units and the contract value have not been disclosed.
- The weapon has been developed jointly by JSR Dynamics and BEL. JSR Dynamics has provided the bomb's body and control systems, while BEL has supplied its electronics and guidance subsystems.
- The Khagantak-243 is a 300-kg-class airborne long-range stand-off precision-guided glide bomb. Unlike a conventional free-fall bomb, it is designed to be released from a fighter aircraft and glide towards its target using aerodynamic wings and control surfaces, allowing the launch aircraft to strike from a stand-off distance instead of flying directly over the target.



ISRO's Launch of India's First Imaging Satellite

- ISRO's EOS-05 is set to give India a new kind of view from space when the Earth observation satellite launches aboard the GSLV-F17 mission from Sriharikota at 2:55 am on September 4.
- Positioned in geosynchronous orbit around 36,000 km above Earth, the satellite is designed to repeatedly observe the same region continuously rather than capture brief snapshots while passing overhead.
- ISRO has described EOS-05, also known as Gisat-1A, as India's first state-of-the-art imaging satellite from geosynchronous orbit.
- Its ability to maintain persistent coverage could support monitoring of the Indian subcontinent, including remote border areas, strategic assets, severe weather and environmental events. The satellite is intended for both civilian and military applications.
- Most of India's Earth observation and imaging satellites, including the Cartosat and Risat series, operate in low Earth orbit, generally between 60 km and 2,000 km.

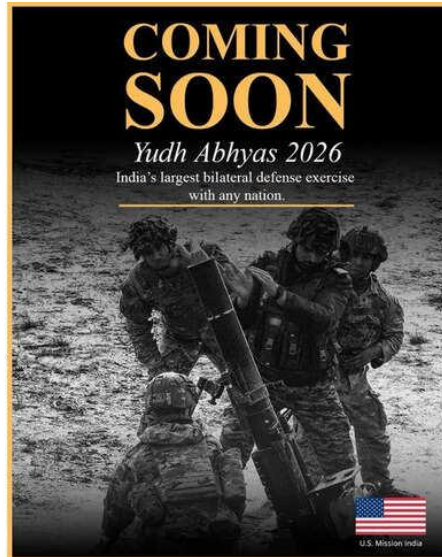
- A GEO satellite offers a fundamentally different advantage. At roughly 36,000 km altitude, a satellite can match Earth's rotational speed and remain positioned over the same location.
- That allows it to maintain a continuous view of a particular part of the planet rather than returning to the same area only after completing multiple orbits.



Joint Military Exercise 'Yudh Abhyas' 2026

- The 22nd edition of the premier annual Army exercise between India and the United States, Yudh Abhyas, will be held soon, the US Embassy in India announced.
- This comes as the United States and India continue to deepen their defence alignment as Yudh Abhyas, a flagship bilateral military exercise sponsored by US Army Pacific, which has entered over two decades of operational history.
- "Since 2004, Yudh Abhyas, a U.S. Army Pacific-sponsored bilateral exercise with the Indian Army, has enhanced combined interoperability and strengthened the U.S.-India Major Defense Partnership in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific," the post read.
- Notably, last year, the 21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas, comprising 450 personnel led by a battalion of the Madras Regiment training alongside US soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment ("Bobcats"), has become one of the largest bilateral military exercises for the Indian Army in terms of troops mobilised, a press release said.
- The **21st edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas**, the premier annual Army exercise between India and the United States, commenced on September 1 at Fort

Wainwright, Alaska, and will continue through September 14, as per an official statement by the Embassy of India in Washington.



Pilot Abhinandan Varthaman Retires From IAF

- Indian Air Force (IAF) fighter pilot Abhinandan Varthaman, who was held captive for three days in Pakistan after his aircraft was shot down in an air duel with a Pakistan Air Force jet in February 2019, has taken premature retirement from the Air Force to begin his new aviation career with a private airline as a commercial pilot.
- The former Group Captain and Vir Chakra awardee, who served in the Air Force for 22 years, has joined Goa-based regional airline FLY91 as a pilot, news agency PTI reported, quoting sources.
- The report claimed that Varthaman joined the private airline in August.
- So far, Varthaman has not issued any statement on the matter. A FLY91 spokesperson also refused to release any personal information about employees, saying it is a private matter.
- FLY91, which started flying in March 2024, currently operates a fleet of six ATR 72-600 aircraft. The airline's two bases are Goa and Hyderabad.
- Pilot Abhinandan Varthaman, Who Shot Down Pak Jet, Retires From IAF And Joins Goa Airline: ReportIn 2019, Varthaman was conferred the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime gallantry medal, for displaying an "exceptional sense of duty" during the dogfight.

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- **About Abhinandan Varthaman**
- In February 2019, Indian forces launched air strikes against terrorists in Pakistani territory after a suicide bombing in Pulwama killed 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel. New Delhi said strikes targeted a training camp of the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) group in Balakot.
- The Pakistani Air Force's subsequent retaliation the next day triggered fears of a war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.
- The most visible face of the confrontation was Wing Commander Varthaman, whose capture by Pakistan after downing his MiG-21 fighter triggered the most serious military crisis between the two neighbours in decades.
- Before his jet was hit on February 27, 2019, Varthaman downed the F-16 fighter of Pakistan. A wing commander at the time, Varthaman was held captive for three days and was released on the night of March 1 by Pakistan.
- He had suffered injuries while ejecting from his MiG-21 Bison during the aerial combat.
- Later that year, he was conferred the Vir Chakra, India's third-highest wartime gallantry medal, for displaying an "exceptional sense of duty" during the dogfight, according to the award citation.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The 16th edition of Aero India is scheduled to be held at which location?

- A. Hindon Air Force Station, Ghaziabad
- B. Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru
- C. Sulur Air Force Station, Coimbatore
- D. Air Force Station Ambala

Answer: B. Air Force Station Yelahanka, Bengaluru

2. Surgeon Vice Admiral Dilip Raghavan assumed the appointment of:

- A. DG Armed Forces Medical Services
- B. DG Naval Medical Services
- C. Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)
- D. DG Medical Education

Answer: C. Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces)

3. Khagantak-243, recently tested by the IAF, is a:

- A. Air-to-air missile
- B. Long-range glide bomb
- C. Surface-to-air missile
- D. Anti-radiation missile

Answer: B. Long-range glide bomb

4. Khagantak-243 has been jointly developed by JSR Dynamics and:

- A. HAL
- B. DRDO
- C. Bharat Electronics Limited
- D. Bharat Dynamics Limited

Answer: C. Bharat Electronics Limited

5. EOS-05, also known as Gisat-1A, is designed to operate in which type of orbit?

- A. Low Earth Orbit
- B. Polar Orbit
- C. Geosynchronous Orbit
- D. Sun-synchronous Orbit

Answer: C. Geosynchronous Orbit

6. Yudh Abhyas is a bilateral military exercise between India and:

- A. France
- B. Russia
- C. Japan
- D. United States

Answer: D. United States

7. Which gallantry award was conferred on former IAF fighter pilot Abhinandan Varthaman in 2019?

- A. Maha Vir Chakra
- B. Kirti Chakra
- C. Vir Chakra
- D. Shaurya Chakra

Answer: C. Vir Chakra

8. Ex 'Poorvi Prahar' Is A

- A. Domestic Ex
- B. Bilateral Ex
- C. Multilateral Ex
- D. All of the above

ANSWER: A

9. Who Becomes First Woman Subedar of Indian Army?

- A. Havildar Preeti Rajak
- B. Havildar Sucheta
- C. Havildar Neha Tyagi
- D. None

ANSWER: A

10. Exercise 'SADA TANSEEQ' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. SAUDI ARABIA

ANSWER: D

11. INS Karmuk Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. Missile Corvette
- C. Submarine
- D. Tank

ANSWER: B

**12. Combat Air Teaming System (CATS) Is An Indian Unmanned & Manned
Combat Aircraft Air Teaming System Developed By**

- A. HAL**
- B. DRDO**
- C. JAXA**
- D. Boeing**

ANSWER: A

13. Ex 'Ekuverin' Conducted B/W India &

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

ANSWER: D

14. Safran Manufactures Aircraft Engines, Rocket Engines MNC Comes From

- A. Germany

- B. France
- C. Nepal
- D. UK

ANSWER: B

15. 'Praia' Is The Capital Of

- A. Costa Rica
- B. Comoros
- C. Cameroon
- D. Cape Verde

ANSWER: D

16. "Roller Coaster: An Affair with Banking" Book Is Written By

- A. Tamal Bandyopadhyay
- B. Ranjan Gogoi
- C. Manish Tiwari
- D. Neha Sharma

ANSWER: A

17. UNDP Was Established In

- A. 1965
- B. 1975
- C. 1985
- D. 1995

ANSWER: A

18. Lamitye Exercise Held B/W India And____?

- A. Thailand
- B. USA
- C. Qatar
- D. Seychelles

ANSWER: D

19. War Cry of THE MAHAR REGIMENT

- A. Bharat Mata ki Jai
- B. Bolo Hindustan Ki Jay
- C. Jai Hind
- D. Durga Mata Ki Jai

ANSWER: B

20. Ex 'Cope India' Conducted B/W India &

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

ANSWER: D