

Daily Current Affairs

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IAF's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' Marks 75 Years

- The Indian Air Force's No. 17 Squadron, known as the Golden Arrows, completed 75 years on 1 October 2026. The squadron was raised on 1 October 1951 at Air Force Station Ambala, and Flight Lieutenant D. L. Springett served as its first commanding officer.
- No. 17 Squadron began as a tactical reconnaissance unit in 1951. It first operated 12 American **Harvard-II B aircraft** and later converted to British de Havilland Vampires in 1955. The Vampire was among the early jet aircraft inducted by the IAF.
- The squadron has served in major Indian military operations since the 1960s. Its operational record includes the 1961 Liberation of Goa, the Indo-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971, the Kargil conflict of 1999, the Balakot strikes, and Operation Sindoor in May 2025.
- The squadron was number-plated in 2016 during the phase-out of MiG-21 aircraft. It was re-raised on 11 September 2019 at Ambala Air Force Station and became the first IAF unit to operate the Dassault Rafale fighter aircraft.
- In October 2025, No. 17 Squadron received a Unit Citation for its performance during Operation Sindoor under Group Captain Amit Gehani. The squadron's role in the Kargil war was later depicted in a Netflix series released in August 2026.



IDS Celebrates 25 Years of Jointness And Integration

- Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) today marked its Silver Jubilee, commemorating 25 years since its establishment on 01 October 2001 in New Delhi, observed as 'Tri-Service Day'.
- In recognition of its distinguished contributions to strengthening jointness and integration, HQ IDS released a Silver Jubilee Book chronicling its evolution and achievements over the past 25 years, along with a film showcasing key milestones since its establishment.
- The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) is an apex tri-service organization in India responsible for fostering jointness, integration, and operational synergy among the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force.
- **Established:** October 1, 2001, in New Delhi (following recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee).
- **Leadership:** Headed by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), currently Air Marshal Tejinder Singh. It works in tandem with and assists the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS).
- **Composition:** Includes military representatives from all three services alongside officials from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of External Affairs, and DRDO.



Maritime Exercise Varuna 2026

- Indian Naval Ship Trishul arrived at Toulon, France, on 22 Sep 2026 to participate in the **24th edition** of Exercise 'Varuna', the annual bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the French Navy.
- The ship received a warm welcome from the French Navy with a ceremonial water cannon salute. The harbour phase comprised professional, sporting and cultural engagements aimed at strengthening maritime ties and professional bonds between the two navies.
- The Commanding Officer, INS Trishul, called on RAdm Mackara Ouk, Deputy Commander-in-Chief for Operations (CECMED), and interacted with senior leadership of the French Navy.
- INS Trishul also hosted a cultural interaction onboard, attended by VAdm (Retd) Laurent Isnard, Deputy Mayor of Toulon, officers of the French Navy and civil dignitaries. A friendly volleyball match further fostered camaraderie between personnel of the two navies.
- The ship's crew also visited French Navy ships Charles de Gaulle, Forbin and La Fayette, gaining insights into carrier operations, aviation facilities and practices followed onboard.
- During the Sea Phase, INS Trishul exercised alongside French Navy units, including FDA Forbin, FLF La Fayette and SNA Suffren, as well as NH90 helicopters and Atlantique 2 maritime patrol aircraft.



Army Conducts Exercise Jai Se Vijay

- The Indian Army conducted Exercise Jai Se Vijay on 29 September 2026 near the India-Pakistan International Border in Rajasthan. The drill used a stretch of National Highway-911 near Dantour as a temporary military runway for helicopter operations.
- The exercise took place on NH-911, a road corridor in Rajasthan that runs close to the border area. The location near Dantour placed the drill in a strategically sensitive sector under the South Western Command, also known as Sapta Shakti Command.
- National Highway-911 is part of India's road network and was used as a dual-use infrastructure asset for military aviation activity. Such road-runway arrangements are relevant in border regions where fixed airfields may not be available for rapid deployment.
- Rudra, Dhruv, and Chetak helicopters of the Army Aviation Corps took part in the exercise. The helicopters carried out precision landings and take-offs on the highway surface.
- Rudra is the armed version of the Advanced Light Helicopter, Dhruv is the indigenous Advanced Light Helicopter, and Chetak is the Indian licence-built version of the Aérospatiale Alouette III. These platforms are used by the Indian Army for reconnaissance, transport, casualty evacuation, and support missions.
- The India-Pakistan International Border is one of India's most sensitive land borders and passes through Rajasthan, Punjab, and Gujarat. The 2016 surgical strikes across the Line of Control took place on 28-29 September 2016.



Embraer, Mahindra choose Nagpur for potential C-390 assembly line in India

- Embraer and Mahindra have identified Nagpur as the location for a potential final assembly line for the C-390 Millennium military transport aircraft production in India, the Brazilian planemaker said
- The companies are working with the government of Maharashtra on infrastructure for the project, which is contingent on the aircraft being selected for the Indian Air Force's Medium Transport Aircraft programme, Embraer added in a statement.
- Proposed Nagpur facility would cover aircraft assembly, system integration, manufacturing engineering and local supply chain development.
- "Subject to the programme award, the partnership intends to progressively integrate Indian aerospace companies into the C-390 Millennium ecosystem," Embraer said.
- Embraer sees India as a strategic market as it seeks to boost global sales of the C-390, with the country expected to order 60 to 80 aircraft.
- Embraer partnered with Mahindra in 2025 to pursue development and production of the C-390 Millennium in India.
- The aircraft is a major competitor to Lockheed Martin's C-130 Hercules.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Indian Air Force's No. 17 Squadron is popularly known by which name?

- A) Black Panthers
- B) Golden Arrows
- C) Flying Daggers
- D) Falcons

Answer: B) Golden Arrows

2. No. 17 Squadron of the IAF was raised on which date?

- A) 15 August 1947
- B) 26 January 1950
- C) 1 October 1951
- D) 11 September 1955

Answer: C) 1 October 1951

3. No. 17 Squadron became the first IAF unit to operate which fighter aircraft after being re-raised in 2019?

- A) MiG-29
- B) Su-30MKI
- C) Tejas
- D) Dassault Rafale

Answer: D) Dassault Rafale

4. Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) was established in which year?

- A) 1999
- B) 2000
- C) 2001
- D) 2005

Answer: C) 2001

5. HQ Integrated Defence Staff marked its Silver Jubilee in 2026 after completing how many years?

- A) 20 years
- B) 25 years
- C) 30 years
- D) 35 years

Answer: B) 25 years

6. Exercise Varuna is a bilateral maritime exercise between India and which country?

- A) Germany
- B) Italy
- C) France
- D) Spain

Answer: C) France

7. Which Indian Naval Ship participated in Exercise Varuna 2026 at Toulon, France?

- A) INS Vikrant
- B) INS Chennai
- C) INS Trishul
- D) INS Kolkata

Answer: C) INS Trishul

8. Exercise Jai Se Vijay conducted by the Indian Army in Rajasthan involved the use of which infrastructure as a temporary military runway?

- A) Railway track
- B) National Highway-911

- C) Jaipur Airport
- D) Indira Gandhi Canal

Answer: B) National Highway-911

9. Which of the following helicopters participated in Exercise Jai Se Vijay?

- A) Apache, Chinook and Mi-17
- B) Rudra, Dhruv and Chetak
- C) ALH, Apache and LCH only
- D) Chetak, Chinook and Apache

Answer: B) Rudra, Dhruv and Chetak

10. Embraer and Mahindra have identified which city as the potential location for a C-390 Millennium final assembly line in India?

- A) Bengaluru
- B) Hyderabad
- C) Pune
- D) Nagpur

Answer: D) Nagpur

11. ICMF Stands For

- A. Integrated Cryogenic Engine Manufacturing Facility
- B. Integrated Cry Engine Manufacturing Facility
- C. Integrated Cryogenic Engine Make Facility
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

12. “Bolo Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj ki jai” Is The War Cry Of

- A. Maratha Light Infantry Regiment
- B. Grenadiers
- C. Punjab Regiment
- D. Parachute Regiment

ANSWER: A

13. Rabat Is The Capital Of

- A. Morocco
- B. Montenegro
- C. Monaco

D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

14. "Without Fear or Favour" Book Written By

A. R K Narayan

B. Khushwant Singh

C. Neelam Sanjiva Reddy

D. APJ Abdul Kalam

ANSWER: C

15. Exercises B/w The India And Bangladesh Is Called:

A. GARUDA SHAKTI

B. SLINEX

C. SAMPRITI

D. Yudha Abhyas

ANSWER: C

16. __Is The Legal Branch Of The Indian Army.

A. Army Court

B. Supreme Court

C. Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Department

D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

17. Hq of REGIMENTS UNDER CORPS OF ENGINEERS Is In

A. New Delhi

B. Mumbai

C. Jabalpur

D. None of the above

ANSWER: A

18. Predator C Avenger Is A

A. Air to Air missile

B. Sniper Rifle

C. Anti-tank Guided missile

D. Drone

ANSWER: D

19. INS Vikrant Is Manufactured By

- A. CSL
- B. MDL
- C. HSL
- D. GRSE

ANSWER: A

20. Indian Army Corps of Engineers HQ Is In

- A. Mumbai
- B. Noida
- C. Chennai
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: D