

## Testwale Current Affairs PDF

Current Affairs search results for tag: defence

### **1. Defence Ministry signs three contracts worth about 5400 crore rupees to bolster defence capabilities ( March 30, 2023 )**

Defence Ministry signs three contracts worth about 5400 crore rupees to bolster defence capabilities

The **Defense Ministry** has **signed three contracts** with domestic manufacturers at a **total cost of about Rs 5400 crore** to **enhance the country's defense capabilities.**

#### **An overview of the news**

##### **First Contract**

- The first contract has been signed with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** which pertains to the procurement of **Project Akashtir**, an automated air defense control and reporting system worth **Rs 1982 crore** for the Indian Army.

##### **Second Contract**

- The second contract with BEL pertains to the **acquisition of Sarang Electronic Support Measure System** for the Indian Navy at a total cost of **Rs 412 crore.**
- **Sarang** is an advanced electronic support measure system for helicopters of the Indian Navy.
- Both will empower the **air defense units of the Indian Army to operate effectively in an integrated manner.**

##### **Third Contract**

- The third contract with **New Space India Limited** pertains to **procurement of GSAT 7B**, an advanced communication satellite for the Indian Army at a total cost of Rs 2963 crore.
- The satellite will significantly **enhance the communications capability of the Indian military** by providing mission-critical beyond-line-of-sight communications for troops and formations as well as weapon and airborne platforms.

### **2. Passing out parade of first batch of Agniveers at INS Chilka ( March 29, 2023 )**

2,585 Agniveers celebrated their passing out parade at INS Chilka in Odisha

The first batch of **2,585 Agniveers celebrated their passing out parade at INS Chilka in Odisha** on 28 March.

#### **An overview of the news**

- The parade was held under the **aegis of Southern Naval Command**.
- The parade was reviewed by **Adm R Hari Kumar**, Chief of the Naval Staff, in the presence of Hon'ble Member of Parliament **PT Usha**, eminent sports personality **Mithali Raj** and eminent naval veterans.
- There are also **272 women Agniveers** among those passing out in the parade.
- **Khushi Pathania** was awarded the **General Bipin Rawat Trophy for Best Female Agniveer** at the first passing out parade of Agniveers at INS Chilka.
- Khushi, 19, from Pathankot, is the granddaughter of a Subedar Major and the daughter of a farmer.
- **Amalakanti Jayaram**, Agniveer (SSR), **Ajith P**, Agniveer (MR) were awarded the **Chief of the Naval Staff Rolling Trophy and Gold Medal for Best Agniveer SSR and MR** in the **men's category respectively**.

### **About 'Agnipath' scheme**

- Under this scheme, to reduce the rising salary and pension expenses, short-term soldiers will be recruited on contract basis, which will be called '**Agniveer**'.
- Under the scheme the soldiers will be recruited initially for a period of four years and some of them would be retained.
- Indian youth will be provided an opportunity to serve in the Armed Forces as 'Agniveer'.
- Women will also be recruited into armed forces under the scheme.
- This will help in ensuring optimum balance between youth and experience in the Army.
- The "Agneepath" scheme, earlier named as "Tour of Duty", was initiated in the presence of the Chiefs of the three Services.
- At present, the Army recruits youth under Short Service Commission for an initial tenure of 10 years, which can be extended up to 14 years.

### **Salary of Agniveers**

- Agniveers will get a **salary of Rs 30,000 to Rs 40,000 per month** plus applicable allowance.
- The **Seva Nidhi** will be exempt from Income Tax.
- No one will be entitled to gratuity and pensionary benefits.
- Agniveers will be provided a non-contributory life insurance cover of Rs 48 lakh.

### **3. Ministry of Defence inks Rs 3,700 crore contracts with BEL ( March 25, 2023 )**

Indian Air Force (IAF),

To enhance the operational capabilities of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, the **Defense Ministry** on March 23 signed **two separate contracts with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** at a total cost of over **Rs 3,700 crore**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The **first contract**, worth over **Rs 2,800 crore**, pertains to the **supply of Medium Power Radar (MPR) 'Arudhra'** to the IAF.
- The **second contract**, at a total cost of about **Rs 950 crore**, pertains to **'Radar Warning Receivers' (RWR)**.
- Both the projects are under the **indigenously designed, developed and manufactured-IDMM category**.
- The radar has been designed and developed by the **Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** and will be **manufactured by BEL**.
- The RWR has been designed to also enhance the **capabilities of Su-30 MKI aircraft**.

### **About Arudhra Radar**

- **This 4D radar** is capable of automatic detection and tracking of slow moving aerial targets ranging from fighter jets.
- The system has an instrumented **range of 400 km**.
- It is capable of **detecting RCS targets** with a range of **300 km with altitudes ranging from 100 m to 30 km**.
- The radar operates in either Staring or Rotation mode.

## **4. Indian Army and Air Force conduct 'Vayu Prahar' exercise in Eastern Sector ( March 25, 2023 )**

Indian Army and Air Force conduct 'Vayu Prahar' exercise in Eastern Sector

The **Indian Army and Air Force** conducted a **96-hour multi-domain air and land exercise** named **'Vayu Prahar'** in the **eastern sector**.

### **An Overview of the News**

- The exercise took place in the second week of March amid the ongoing standoff **between India and China on the Line of Actual Control (LAC)**.
- **Its main objective** was to draw up plans that could coordinate multi-domain operations and enhance the combat capabilities of the Indian Army and Air Force in the eastern sector.

- The exercise involved the use of various combat assets including **fighter jets, transport aircraft, helicopters and ground forces.**
- The Indian Army and Air Force jointly executed complex operational scenarios during the exercise, which included **deployment of troops and equipment, air strikes and air-to-ground warfare operations.**
- The exercise was conducted **to test the readiness and interoperability of the Indian Army and Air Force** in a joint operational environment.

### **About Multi-Domain Operations (MDO)**

- **Multi-Domain Operations (MDO)** is a **military strategy that involves coordination of activities in various domains such as air, land, sea, cyber and space.**
- It aims to achieve convergent results by synchronising and integrating capabilities across various branches of the military.
- MDO emphasises the importance of information **sharing, communication, and cooperation between the various branches of the military.**
- MDO involves the use of advanced technologies and systems to facilitate joint operations across various domains.

### **About Vayu Prahar Exercise**

- Exercise Vayu Prahar is a **joint military exercise conducted by the Indian Army and Air Force** and aims to enhance coordination and rehearsal between various agencies for rapid mobilisation, transport and deployment of forces.
- Its scope is to test the readiness and interoperability of the Indian Armed Forces in a joint operational environment, to prepare them to respond effectively to any potential threat or security challenge in the region.

### **About Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs)**

- **Advance Landing Grounds (ALGs)** in India are military airstrips primarily used by the Indian Air Force and the Indian Army for tactical or logistical purposes.
- They are located in remote and high altitude areas near the **borders with China and Pakistan.**
- ALGs are simple, single runway strips used for safe landing and take-off points for military aircraft.
- **The Rapid Action Force (RAF)** is responsible for undertaking contingency operations in these high altitude areas.

## **5. Anti-submarine craft INS Androth launched ( March 24, 2023 )**

Anti-submarine craft INS Androth launched

The **INS Androth**, second in a series of eight **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC)**, was launched in **Kolkata** on 21 March.

### **About INS Androth**

- It is built by **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd** for the Indian Navy.
- It is **77.6 meters long and 10.5 meters wide**.
- It is powered by **three diesel propellers**, these ships can reach a **top speed of 25 knots**.
- **Its primary Role** is to conduct anti-submarine operations in coastal waters, low-intensity maritime operations, and mine-laying operations.
- The first ship was **delivered in December 2022**.
- The contract for **construction of eight ASW SWC vessels** was **signed on April 29, 2019**.
- The commissioning of two ships of the same class within three months reinforces the Prime Minister's commitment to indigenous shipbuilding as part of the vision of **'Atmanirbhar Bharat'**.

## **6. India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea ( March 24, 2023 )**

India, UK hold joint maritime exercise 'Konkan' in Arabian Sea

The **annual bilateral maritime exercise 'Konkan'** between the **Indian Navy and UK's Royal Navy** was held off the **Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea** from March 20-22.

### **An overview of the news**

- The joint exercise by both the navies demonstrated operational **readiness, enhanced interoperability and improved capability to conduct joint operations**.
- **INS Trishul**, a Guided Missile Frigate, and **HMS Lancaster**, a Type 23 Guided Missile Frigate, participated in 'Konkan 2023' and conducted several maritime exercises to enhance interoperability and imbibe best practices.
- The exercise covered all domains of maritime operations, **air, surface and subsurface**.
- India and the UK agreed on new cooperation on maritime domain awareness, including new agreements on maritime information sharing,
- The UK has been invited to join **India's Information Fusion Center in Gurugram**.

### **About 'Konkan' exercise**

- It is a **bilateral naval exercise** conducted between **India and the United Kingdom**.
- The Konkan series of exercises was **started in 2004**.
- Since then, the exercise is conducted by both the navies in rotation.
- The exercise provided excellent training to the personnel of both the navies.

### **Other Exercises between India and UK**

- Exercise '**Indradhanush**' (Air Force Exercise)
- '**Ajeya Warrior**' (Joint Military Exercise)

## **7. Africa-India military exercise AFINDEX-23 begins in Pune ( March 22, 2023 )**

**India and 23 African nations** on 21 March began a nine-day mega military exercise **Africa-India Field Training Exercise (AFINDEX) in Pune**.

### **An overview of the news**

- The aim of the exercise is to expand the participant's overall military cooperation.
- Several new generation equipment made in India are being used in the exercise to give a feel of India's efficacy to the soldiers of the participating countries.
- Keeping in view India's outreach to Africa, joint exercises have been **hosted by the Indian Army**.
- **The theme** of the exercise is "**humanitarian mine action and peacekeeping operations**".
- **Army Chief General Manoj Pandey** will also host the '**India-Africa Chiefs' Conference**' on March 28, a day before the military exercise ends.

### **Objectives of the exercise**

- The objectives of the exercise are to continue to build upon the initiatives taken to strengthen India-Africa relations, with a focus on enhancing peace and security.
- This joint exercise will bring out the practical aspects of theme-based training.

### **Participating African Countries**

- Botswana, Cameroon, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Seychelles, Senegal, Sudan, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

## **8. MoU signed for implementation of Green Hydrogen Projects in Army Establishments ( March 21, 2023 )**

**NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd** has signed an MoU with the **Indian Army for setting up Green Hydrogen Projects** in its establishments **on Build, Own and Operate (BOO) model.**

### **An overview of the news**

- It aims to **reduce complex logistics, dependence on fossil fuels and accelerate decarbonisation.**
- The MoU was signed by **Mohit Bhargava, CEO (NTPC REL)** and **Lt Gen Rajinder Dewan.**
- Within the scope of the MoU, potential sites will be identified for **setting up green hydrogen projects for supply of electricity in a phased manner.**
- NTPC REL will also **design, develop and install renewable energy projects (solar, wind etc.)** for the Indian Army.
- The MoU signals an advanced approach to **modernization by the Indian Army.**
- This is the first of its kind agreement and heralds a new era of border security backed by energy security for the country's defense line.

### **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd**

- It is a wholly owned **subsidiary of NTPC Limited.**
- It currently has a portfolio of **3.6 GW RE capacity** under construction.
- NTPC Group has an ambitious plan of **60 GW RE capacity by 2032 and currently has an installed RE capacity of 3.2 GW.**

### **About NTPC**

- The NTPC which was earlier known as **National Thermal Power Corporation of India** is owned by the Government of India. It was set up in **1975.**
- The **Vindhyachal Thermal Power Station in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh**, with an **installed capacity of 4,760MW**, is currently the **biggest thermal power plant in India.**
- It is a coal-based power plant owned and operated by NTPC.
- Headquarters: **New Delhi**
- Chairman and Managing Director: **Gurdeep Singh**

## **9. Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base ( March 21, 2023 )**

## **Bangladesh commissions its first submarine base**

Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the **first submarine base** of Bangladesh '**BNS Sheikh Hasina**' at **Pekua in Cox's Bazar** on 20 March.

### **An overview of the news**

- This new submarine base will help the Navy **to enhance its operational capability to secure the vast maritime resources.**
- Ships passing through the Bay of Bengal can also take help from this base.
- The government of Bangladesh is working on '**Forces Goal 2030**' to transform its military force into a modern organization appropriate for the times.
- The government established the **Bangladesh Navy as a full-fledged three-dimensional force** with the induction of two submarines ("**BNS Navagatra**" and "**BNS Joyjatra**") into the naval fleet on **12 March 2017.**
- Bangladesh is building ships at local shipyards for its own use as well as for others.
- Bangladesh Navy has completed construction of **five patrol vessels at Khulna Shipyard.**
- In the last 14 years, a total of **31 warships including 4 frigates, 6 corvettes, 4 large patrol craft, 5 patrol craft and 2 training ships** joined the Bangladesh fleet.
- The Government of Bangladesh signed an agreement with China in **September 2019** for the construction of the submarine base.

## **People's Republic of Bangladesh**

- Capital: **Dhaka**
- Prime Minister: **Sheikh Hasina Wazed**
- President: **Abdul Hamid**
- Currency: **Taka**

## **10. INS Sujata visits Port Maputo, Mozambique ( March 21, 2023 )**

INS Sujata visits Port Maputo, Mozambique

**INS Sujatha**, a ship based at **Southern Naval Command, Kochi**, visited **Port Maputo, Mozambique** from **19 to 20 March 2023** as a part of overseas deployment.

### **An overview of the news**

- **About 40 personnel** from the **Mozambican Navy** visited the ship for cross deck training, which included a tour of the training facilities, briefing on diving ops, training on



VBSS and light weapons, visual communication and maintenance of machinery and onboard sanitation.

- Several other activities such as **joint morning yoga sessions, football matches** were conducted between the personnel of both the navies.
- A reception was also organized onboard Sujata which was attended by several **Indian/Mozambican dignitaries/diplomats.**
- The visit of **INS Sujata to Maputo, Mozambique** further enhanced mutual cooperation and bilateral relations between the two navies.

### **About INS Sujata**

- It is an **indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel.**
- The ship was commissioned into the **Indian Navy on 3 November 1993.**
- It is designed for **coastal and offshore patrolling, surveillance missions, monitoring of sea lines** of communication and escort duties.
- It has been modified for training cadets and is part of the **1st Training Squadron at SNC, Kochi.**