

Current Affairs search results for tag: defence

1. Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar takes over as Vice Chief of Army Staff (March 2, 2023)

Lt. Gen. **M.V. Suchindra Kumar** took over as Vice Chief of the Army Staff on 1 March 2023.

An overview of the news:

- General Officer Suchindra Kumar, Lieutenant General **B.S. Raju**, who took over the reins of the **Jaipur-based Sapta Shakti Command** on March 1, 2023.
- Prior to taking over, Lt Gen Suchindra Kumar was the Deputy Chief of Army Staff (Strategy) at the Army Headquarters.
- In his recent responsibilities, he has experience in various departments like Intelligence, Operations, Force Structuring, Operational Logistics and Tech Infusion.
- The General Officer has held various staff and instructional responsibilities at home and abroad.
- Suchindra Kumar's military papers have been published in several professional journals.

Chiefs of Indian Services:

- Chief of Defense Staff: **Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan (Retd.)**
- Army: **General Manoj Pandey**
- Navy: **Admiral Radhakrishnan Hari Kumar**
- Air Force: **Air Marshal VR Chowdhary**

2. Government approves purchase of 70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft from HAL for IAF (March 2, 2023)

The Union Cabinet has approved the procurement of **70 HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft** from **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** for the Indian Air Force at a cost of **Rs 6,828.36 crore**.

An overview of the news:

- These aircraft are to be supplied by **HAL over a period of next six years**.
- The HTT-40 is a turbo prop aircraft and is designed to provide good low speed handling qualities and improved training effectiveness.
- Fully aerobatic this one-seat turbo trainer in the rear has an air-conditioned cockpit, modern avionics, hot re-fuelling, running change over and zero-zero ejection seat.

- The aircraft will bridge the shortfall of basic trainer aircraft of the IAF for training newly inducted pilots.
- The purchase will include associated equipment and training aids, including simulators.
- Being an indigenous solution, the aircraft can be upgraded to incorporate the future requirements of the Indian Armed Forces.
- The HTT-40 has approximately 56 per cent indigenous content which will increase to over 60 per cent through indigenization of major components and sub-systems. HAL will involve Indian private industry including MSMEs in its supply chain. The procurement is likely to provide direct employment to around 1,500 personnel and indirect employment to 3,000 people spread across more than 100 MSMEs.

3. IAF transport aircraft Exercise Shinyuu Maitri with Japan's Air Self Defense Force (March 2, 2023)

The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** along with the **Japan Air Self Defense Force (JASDF)** participated in **Exercise Shinyuu Maitri**. It was mainly organised from 1st to 2nd March 2023.

An overview of the news:

- This air exercise was organised along with the **Indo-Japanese joint military exercise Dharma Guardian**.
- The Dharma Guardian air exercise was conducted from 13 February 2023 to 02 March 2023 at **Komatsu, Japan**.
- An Indian Air Force contingent with a **C-17 Globemaster III aircraft** participated in **Exercise SHINYU Maitri 23**.
- The first phase of the exercise involved discussion on transport operations and tactical manoeuvres, followed by the second phase of flying exercises by C-17 transport aircraft of the Indian Air Force and C-2 transport aircraft of the Air Self-Defense Force of Japan.
- This special exercise provides an opportunity for the respective subject matter experts to interact and deliberate on each other's operational philosophies and best practices.
- This exercise will also enhance mutual understanding and reciprocity between the two countries.
- The heavy lift transport aircraft fleet of the Indian Air Force is also participating in **Exercise Desert Flag VIII in UAE** and **Exercise Cobra Warrior in UK**.

4. Indian Air Force to conduct exercise Cobra Warrior with British Royal Air Force (Feb. 27, 2023)

Indian Air Force departs for the British Royal Air Force to participate in **Exercise Cobra Warrior** at **Waddington Air Force Base**. This exercise is proposed to be organised from 06 March 2023 to 24 March 2023.

An Overview of the news:

- Exercise Cobra Warrior is a multilateral air military exercise in which air forces from **Finland, Sweden, South Africa, USA and Singapore** are also participating along with the Royal Air Force and Indian Air Force.
- The Indian Air Force is participating in the exercise this year with five Mirage 2000 fighter jets, two C-17 Globemaster III and one IL-78 mid air refuelling aircraft.
- The aim of the exercise is to engage in a variety of activities by different fighter aircraft and learn from the best practices of different air forces.

5. IAF develops indigenous data link communication: 'Vayulink' (Feb. 27, 2023)

In a major achievement, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched the **indigenously built jammer-proof communication platform 'Vayulink'**. This will help in maintaining contact with the base station even in bad weather.

An overview of the news:

- It is a highly secure communication system developed by the IAF.
- At Aero India 2023, IAF has given information about this and also organised a gallery for detailed information about this **'Vayulink platform'**.

Platform 'Vayulink':

- 'Vayulink' is an ad-hoc data link communication system that, when installed on an aircraft, transmits encrypted traffic data over a secure channel as well as the position of other aircraft.
- The jammer-proof platform 'Vayulink' data link communication uses the **Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**, also known as **NAVIC**.

Benefits of 'Vayulink':

- From this platform radio communication can be sent to the base station even in weak signal conditions.
- This system is very helpful for IAF. Because during a war situation when the aircraft are flying close to a friendly force, this system is helpful in telling the actual position of the aircraft.
- This helps the pilots to get accurate and precise information about the weather. In particular, it also helps in providing accurate communication to aircraft flying over hills.
- It helps prevent fratricide in case of war. Also it helps to know where our army is present.

- By this, mutual collision of fighter planes can also be prevented. Which provides an
- accurate teaming system service. It also helps in setting real time targets with the help of which multiple teams can attack the target simultaneously.
 - The indigenous jammer-proof communication platform 'Vayulink' is helpful to all **the three services of the country.**

6. Indian Air Force contingent reaches in UAE to participate in Exercise Desert Flag VIII (Feb. 26, 2023)

An **Indian Air Force contingent of 110 Air Warriors** reached **Al Dahfra airbase of United Arab Emirates** on 25 February for participating in **Exercise 'Desert Flag VIII'**.

An overview of the news

- Tejas, the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** made in India, will make its first appearance at a multinational exercise in the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
- The IAF would be participating with five **LCA Tejas and two C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.**

About Exercise Desert Flag

- It is a **multilateral air exercise** in which air forces from the **United Arab Emirates, France, Kuwait, Australia, United Kingdom, Bahrain, Morocco, Spain, Republic of Korea and the United States** will also participate.
- This exercise will run from **27 February to 17 March.**
- The objective of the exercise is to participate in multiple combat events and learn from best practices of air forces of different countries.

TEJAS fighter aircraft

- It is an '**Indigenous Light Combat Aircraft**'.
- It has been jointly developed by '**Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)**' and '**Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**' (HAL).
- It is the smallest-lightweight single-engine '**Multirole Tactical Fighter Aircraft**'.
- It has been designed with an aim to reduce India's dependence on **Russia's MiG-21 fighter jets** and move towards self-reliance in the field of national security.
- It is designed to carry a range of **air-to-air, air-to-surface weapons.**
- It is capable of refueling in the sky during the journey and has a maximum **payload capacity of 4000 kg.**
- It can achieve a **maximum speed of Mach 1.8 and has a range of 3,000 km.**

7. Germany to pursue \$5.2-billion deal with India to build 6 submarines (Feb. 25, 2023)

Germany will sign a **\$5.2 billion deal** to **jointly build six conventional submarines** with **India during German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's visit to India** on February 25-26.

An overview of the news

- The naval project is the latest attempt by the **Western military manufacturing power** to end **India's dependence on Russia** for military hardware.
- India is looking to **replace 11 of its 16 conventional submarines** that are more than two decades old, as it seeks to counter China's growing presence in the Indian Ocean.
- The Indian Navy also has two indigenous nuclear-powered submarines.
- **Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS)** is one of the two **international bidders** for the submarine project Berlin will back the deal.
- Under the deal, a foreign submarine maker will have to partner with an **Indian company to build submarines in India.**

8. Lt Gen RS Reen takes over as Director General Quality Assurance (Feb. 25, 2023)

Lt Gen RS Reen took over as **Director General Quality Assurance** on 24 February 2023.

An overview of the news

- Lt Gen Rin, a 1986 batch officer, is an alumnus of the **Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.**
- He completed his **BE (Electrical) from National Institute of Technology, Srinagar.**
- He specialised in Radio Engineering and did his post graduation in **Communication Engineering from MC EME, Secunderabad.**
- He has served as a senior **faculty at Defense Institute of Quality Assurance, Bengaluru.**
- He is a **certified Six Sigma Black Belt** from the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata.
- He is certified in Reliability Engineering from **IIT, Kharagpur** and is a qualified Lead Auditor in Quality Management Systems and Integrated Management Systems from Bureau Veritas, Bengaluru.

Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA)

- The Director General Quality Assurance (DGQA) is an **Inter-Service Organisation** functioning under the **Department of Defence Production in the Ministry of Defence**.
- It is responsible for **second party quality assurance of defence stores and equipment**, both imported and indigenous, for items of common use to the Indian Army, Indian Navy (except Naval Armament) and Indian Air Force procured from the private sector and public sector.

9. For the first time, Indian submarine INS Sindhukesari docks Indonesia amid South China Sea conflict (Feb. 25, 2023)

Indian submarine **INS SindhuKesari** docks **Jakarta, Indonesia** for the first time amid the conflict between **China and Indonesia in the South China Sea**.

An overview of the news

- Indonesia is among the countries embroiled in a naval dispute with **Beijing in the South China Sea**.
- It is about strengthening the **maritime partnership between India and Indonesia** towards a secure Indo-Pacific.
- Indian warships frequently visit Indonesia and other ASEAN countries. This is the first time the submarine has been deployed for long distances.
- Under the rule of Xi Jinping, China is trying to **expand its territory by making incursions into its neighbouring countries**.
- On the land border, China is trying to enter **Indian as well as Bhutanese territories**.
- This maiden long-range deployment of a submarine also underlines the operational capability and reach of the **country's underwater warfare arm**.
- INS Sindhukesari is the **3,000-tonne diesel-electric submarine**.

10. India, Uzbekistan hold 4th Joint Military Exercise- 'Dustlik' (Feb. 20, 2023)

As part of the **military-to-military exchange program** between the **Indian Army and the Uzbekistan Army**, the fourth edition of the training exercise **Dastlik (2023)** began on 20 February.

An overview of the news

- The exercise will be held at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand till March 5, 2023**.
- **45-45 soldiers** from both countries will participate in the exercise.

- The Indian contingent in this bilateral exercise will be represented by the **14th Battalion The Garhwal Rifles**, which is part of the Western Command.
- The Uzbekistan Army will be represented by troops from the **North Western Military District of the Uzbekistan Army**.
- Its purpose is to give impetus to the ever-growing military and diplomatic relations between the two countries.
- This exercise shows the strong resolve of both the countries to combat terrorism.

Previous Exercises- 'Dustlik'

- The **first edition** of this exercise was conducted in **November 2019** in Uzbekistan.
- The **second edition** was held in India in 2021 from 10 to 19 March at **Chaubatia, Ranikhet**.
- The **third edition** of the exercise was conducted from March 22 to 29 in 2022 in **Yangiyarik district of Uzbekistan**.

Significance

- Keeping in mind the Belt and Road Initiative of China, this exercise is very important.
- Both the armies share counter-terrorist operations in mountain/rural/urban scenarios under the **UN mandate**.
- Military diplomacy to connect with Central Asia.