



### Current Affairs - May to october2018

Month  Type



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#### Defence

- ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) announced its plans for Andhra Pradesh to make it a 'strategic base' and strengthen its presence in the region. It Includes -
  - ▶ Set up a major helicopter training facility at Donakonda in Prakasam district.
  - ▶ Establishing a drone manufacturing facility in Anantapur district.
  - ▶ A cyber security centre in Amaravati and making Rajahmundry and Vijayawada airports asset positioning bases.
- ▶ 13th Joint Military Exercise of India and Nepal, named SURYA KIRAN-XIII conducted at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).
- ▶ 1st session of India and Russia joint air exercise Aviaindra 2018 held in Lipetsk (Russia). 2nd session of Aviaindra 2018 will be conducted in Jodhpur (Rajasthan) in December 2018. Since 2014, it is conducted bi-annually (twice a year) in both countries.
- ▶ 2nd India-Indonesia coordinated patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT) Joint Naval Exercise held in Belawan (Indonesia). Ships and aircraft from both countries undertook patrolling on respective sides of 236 nautical miles long International Maritime Boundary Line.
- ▶ 2nd Nepal-China joint military exercise named Mt Everest Friendship Exercise-2018 (Sagarmatha Friendship-2018) commenced in China's southwestern Sichuan province. The 12 day long joint exercise will focus on combating terror and disaster management training.
- ▶ 3rd Indo-Kazakhstan Joint Army Exercise 'KAZIND' 2018 conducted in Otar region (Kazakhstan).
- ▶ 3rd Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX) held in Indian Ocean, after a gap of 5 years.
- ▶ 6th edition IBSAMAR (joint Navy Exercise between Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies) began at Simons Town (South Africa).
- ▶ About Rafale Fighter Jets Deal -
  - ▶ India in September 2016 signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) with France to procure 36 Rafale fighter jets (Manufactured by Dassault Aviation), for €7.8 billion. Under the deal, it was decided that India will pay 15 per cent in advance.
  - ▶ Earlier deal -
    - ▶ In June 2001, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 126 medium multi-role combat aircraft. In January 2012, IAF announced Rafale as preferred bidder and contract negotiations began.
    - ▶ It was proposed that 18 Rafales would be supplied to the IAF by 2015, while remaining 108 would be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in India under transfer of technology agreements.
    - ▶ Deal stalled due to a lack of agreement on various terms of RFP compliance and cost-related issues.
  - ▶ Current Controversy is that India's main opposition party raised an issue over Dassault partnering with Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence, a private company instead of state-owned HAL. However, Both French government and Dassault stated that it was Dassault's decision to choose Reliance Defence instead of HAL.
- ▶ Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) invited private players in Coimbatore (Tamilnadu) for building Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA), the next generation defence aircraft. Project will be implemented in Suler in Coimbatore district, which may house permanent base of Tejas squadron.
- ▶ Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) commissioned special unit called Bastariya Battalion (numbered 241) to combat Naxals activities in Bastar region of Chhattisgarh. This is first such time that CRPF has raised a special battalion that includes local representation to enhance combat capabilities.
  - ▶ 241 Bastariya Battalion comprises 739 local tribal youths including 198 women combatants selected through special recruitment drive from four highly Naxal infested district in Chhattisgarh - Bijapur, Dantewada, Narayanpur and Sukma.

12. ▶ Chetak corps of South Western Command of Indian Army conducted military exercise Gandiv Vijay in Rajasthan.
13. ▶ DRDO successfully tested indigenously developed light weight glide bomb Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW).
  - ▶ SAAW is India's first fully indigenous anti-airfield weapon project sanctioned by Government in September 2013.
  - ▶ SAAW is long-range lightweight high precision-guided anti-airfield weapon. It is 120 kg smart weapon capable of engaging ground targets with high precision up to range of 100 km.
14. ▶ Dakota DC-3 aircraft of 1940's vintage named as 'Parshuram' has been again Inducted into Indian Air Force, after over 40 years of phasing out.
15. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved acquisition of 8 Fast Patrol Vessels (OPVs) for Indian Coast Guard at an approximate cost of Rs 800 crores. These will be procured under 'Buy (Indian-IDDM)' category, indigenously designed and manufactured.
  - ▶ DAC also approved Implementation Guidelines for 'Strategic Partnership Model' to ensure timely delivery of equipment to Armed Forces. It lays emphasis on incentivisation of transfer of technology and Global Majors, that will encourage self-reliance and align defence sector with 'Make in India' initiative.
16. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved induction of upgraded Akash short-range surface-to-air missile (SRSAM) system in Indian Army, under 'Buy (Indian)' category from Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
  - ▶ Indian Army already has inducted two Akash regiments, which will now increase to 4 regiments.
  - ▶ It has range of 25 km and can engage multiple targets at time in all-weather conditions.
  - ▶ Upgraded Akash Missile System will include seeker technology, possess 360 degree coverage and will be of compact configuration with reduced signature.
17. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement worth approx INR 46000 crores.
  - ▶ Procurement of 111 Utility Helicopters for Indian Navy was approved at cost of over INR 21000 crores, as first project under MoD's Strategic Partnership (SP) Model that aims at providing significant fillip to Government's 'Make in India' programme.
  - ▶ Procurement of 150 Indigenously Designed and Developed 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems for Indian Army.
  - ▶ Procurement of 14 Vertically Launched Short Range Missile Systems. Of these, 10 systems will be indigenously developed and remaining four will be imported. These missile systems will help boost self-defence capability of ships against anti-ship missiles.
  - ▶ To enhance capability of Navy at sea, approval granted for procurement of Anti-Submarine capable, 24 Multi Role Helicopters.
18. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out maiden test OF new surface-to-air missile (yet to get formal name) powered by Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) propulsion Technology. It also successfully demonstrated technology of nozzle less booster for first time in country.
  - ▶ SFDR technology is jointly developed by India and Russia. It will help both India's surface-to-air and air-to-air missiles to perform better and enhance their strike range, making them more lethal.
  - ▶ SFDR and Conventional Missiles are different as conventional missiles have limitations against maneuvering targets, as terminal stage of conventional missiles cannot provide enough energy to maintain their speed in order to hit targets. SDFR removes this drawback by exceptionally enhancing endgame maneuverability of missile at terminal stage when its seeker is locked onto target.
19. ▶ Exercise Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Peace Mission 2018, started at Chebarkul (Russia). It is notable due to India and Pakistan for the first time are participating in any Joint Army Exercise.
20. ▶ First-ever joint air force exercise Between India and Malaysia commenced at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.
21. ▶ Government approved INR 8606 croreS for 60 projects being implemented under umbrella scheme of Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM). projects are being implemented in 111 border districts in 17 states having the international borders with Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.
  - ▶ India shares borders with Pakistan (3,323 km), China (3,488 km), Nepal (1,751 km), Bhutan (699 km), Myanmar (1,643 km) and Bangladesh (4,096 km).
22. ▶ Government reconstituted Security Policy Group (SPG) to assist National Security Council (NSC) in Nation's security Operations. SPG will be 16-member body chaired by National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval.
23. ▶ Government will raise 5 Indian Reserve Police (IRP) battalions in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), to provide jobs to local youths and enhance security. These battalions will have over 5000 personnel, with 60% posts reserved for people from border areas of J&K. Besides, two female battalions comprising 1,000 women personnel will also be created.
  - ▶ At present, there are 144 IRBs in various states. 4 IRBs each are being raised in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and 12 in Maoist-hit states.
24. ▶ High Power Tank Engines V-46-6 and V92S2 handed over to Indian Army, manufactured by Engine Factory Avadi (EFA) under Make in India Initiative. Indian Army also gave 100 crores contract for 81 high mobility 10x10 vehicles to vehicle manufacturer Ashok Leyland. This is for first time Indian vehicle manufacturer will deliver heavy duty, high mobility vehicles for Army launchers.

- ✎ India is also looking to procure National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System-II (NASAMS-II) from USA, an advanced air defence system at \$1 billion to defend National Capital Region (NCR) from aerial attacks. It features new 3D mobile surveillance radars and 12 missile launchers for quicker reaction.
- 25. ▶ ICGS Varuna (Indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited) launched for service in Indian Coast Guard.
- 26. ▶ INS Sahyadri will participate in Exercise KAKADU 2018, hosted by Australian Navy and will finish on Sep 15, 2018. It will be 14th edition of biennial KAKADU exercise, with participation by over 25 different countries.
- 27. ▶ Inaugural Military Field Training Exercise for the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technological and Economic Cooperation nations named MILEX-18 held at Aundh Military Station (Maharashtra).
  - ✎ Nepal refused to participate in inaugural BIMSTEC military exercise, after stringent criticism from ruling and opposition parties in Nepal.
  - ✎ Also, Nepal will take part in a 12-day-long military exercise with China later in September, called 'Sagarmatha Friendship-2'.
- 28. ▶ India along with 23 other nations participated in major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise known as IOWave18, organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. Purpose is to increase tsunami preparedness, evaluate response capabilities in each state and improve coordination throughout region.
  - ✎ In India, It is being coordinated by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) under Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- 29. ▶ India and Japan will hold first ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018' at in Vairengte (Mizoram), During November 1 - 14, 2018. Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 GORKHA RIFLES while Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 Infantry Regiment.
- 30. ▶ India and Thailand Armies conducted Joint Military Exercise called *Maitree*, in Thailand.
- 31. ▶ India and US agreed to elevate their bilateral 'Cope India' air exercise to trilateral format by including Japan. Next edition of this exercise is scheduled to be held in December 2018. The three countries already are conducting trilateral naval war games under expanded Malabar naval exercise.
- 32. ▶ India and USA conducted their annual army exercise *Yudh Abhyas 2018* at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand, as 14th edition of this exercise.
- 33. ▶ India concluded price negotiations with Russia for deal to procure S-400 Triumf air defence missile systems for Indian Air Force (IAF), with finalised financial component nearly Rs 40,000 crores.
  - ✎ Now, both countries are trying to find way out to evade provisions of CAATSA (Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act), a US law that seeks to punish countries and entities engaged in transactions with defence establishment of Russia. USA announced sanctions against Russia under CAATSA for its alleged meddling in presidential election in 2016.
  - ✎ S-400 Triumf Air Defence System It is long-range air defence missile system is one of most advanced long-range defence systems in world, manufactured by Almaz-Antey. It has capability to destroy incoming all airborne targets at ranges of up to 400 km.
- 34. ▶ India successfully test fired BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, to validate it as first Indian missile whose life has been increased from 10 to 15 years.
  - ✎ BrahMos cruise missile developed by joint-venture between Russia's Mashinostroyeniya and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), named after Brahmaputra river in India and Moskva river in Russia.
  - ✎ It is capable of carrying warhead of 300 kilogram (conventional / nuclear) with top speed of Mach 2.8 to 3 (thrice the speed of sound).
  - ✎ Its range was initially capped at 290 km, now increased to 450 km after India's entry into MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime). It is planned to rise to 600km soon.
- 35. ▶ India successfully test fired long range ballistic missile Agni 5, with operational range over 5000 KMs. Upgraded version of Pinaka rocket was also test fired, with range 40 - 70 KMs. Earlier Pinaka version was an unguided one.
- 36. ▶ India successfully tested Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'.
- 37. ▶ India will host first military exercise of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) group focussing on counter-terrorism in September 2018.
  - ✎ BIMSTEC has 7 member nations (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand). Its secretariat is in Dhaka (Bangladesh), with Nepal as current Chair from 2014 onwards.
- 38. ▶ India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean Nations, participated in as IOWave18. It's a major Indian ocean-wide tsunami mock exercise (drill), organized by Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO. In India, IOWave18 is being coordinated by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).

39. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) carried out first ever midair refuelling of indigenously developed light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas. It involved dry linkup (no fuel actually transferred) between IAF Il-78 tanker and Tejas fighter jet through its air-to-air refuelling probe.
- ✍ Its a be major leap for indigenous fighter which will help in enhancing its mission capability by increasing its range and payload.
  - ✍ LCA Tejas is first advanced fly-by-wire Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) developed indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL) and Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) as part of LCA programme, started in 1980s to replace India's ageing MiG-21 fighters.
40. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) for first time will participate in multinational air exercise Pitch Black – 18 (PB-18) in Australia, to be held for 20 days beginning July 27. It will have 12 participant countries.
41. ▶ Indian Army will consider reducing 13-lakh strong Army force by at least 150000 over next few years and revamping cadre to optimise functioning at various levels. This change will now be placed at the Army's Commanders Conference in October 2018 and the modalities will be finalised and rolled out by November-December 2018.
42. ▶ Indian Army's South Western Command conducted month long Vijay Prahar exercise in Suratgarh (Rajasthan).
43. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned fast patrol vessel (FPV) ICGS Rani Rashmoni, in Visakhapatnam, (Andhra Pradesh). It is fifth and last ship to be commissioned in series of fast patrol vessel (FPV) project of ICG.
44. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned indigenously built patrol vessel ICGS Vijaya in Chennai, as second in the series of 98 m offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) commissioned by ICG.
45. ▶ Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Vikram, first of seven new-generation offshore patrol vessels.
46. ▶ Indian Naval Sailing Vessel Tarini (INSV Tarini) entered Goa harbour, after completing a historic global circumnavigation voyage by an all-women crew. Crew Members of this expedition were presented Nari Shakti Puraskar 2017 by Govt.
- ✍ Titled *Navika Sagar Parikrama*, The 254 days long expedition was flagged off in Goa on September 10, 2017. 6 members are - Vartika Joshi (Skipper), Payal Gupta, Pratibha Jamwal, P Swathi, Aishwarya Boddapati and Shourgrakpam Vijaya Devi.
  - ✍ INSV Tarini covered over 22000 Nautical miles (Approx 40000 KMs), visiting five countries – Australia, New Zealand, Falkland Islands (UK), South Africa and Mauritius.
  - ✍ During the voyage, It met all criteria of circumnavigation -
    - ✍ Crossing the Equator twice, crossing all Longitudes, Three great capes (Cape Leeuwin, Cape Horn and Cape of Good Hope).
 The expedition was covered in six legs.
47. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Sahyadri participated in 14th edition of Multi Nation Exercise KAKADU 2018, hosted by Australian Navy. INS Sahyadri also won multi activity competition KAKADU 18 Cup.
48. ▶ Indian Navy inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) which is deployed to rescue downed or disaster-struck submarines at high sea. It will be based in Mumbai and will enhance Navy's operational capabilities.
- ✍ With this, India joined select list of international navies (United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Singapore UK, Sweden and Australia) with ability to search, locate and provide assistance to downed or disaster-struck or distressed submarines at high sea.
49. ▶ Indian Navy's Marine Commando (MARCO) cadre conducted 2nd Asymmetric Warfare Training Exercise 'Ekatha 2018' at Maldives. Additionally, Indian Navy ship Sumedha is conducting a joint exclusive economic zone (EEZ) surveillance of Maldives.
50. ▶ Indian and French navies conducted third (final) phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 in Indian Ocean region (IOR).
51. ▶ India's first indigenous, long-range artillery gun Dhanush passed its final test and is ready for induction into Army.
- ✍ Indian Army has so far not inducted any new artillery guns since Bofors guns. It has placed an initial order for 114 Dhanush guns and is expected to order another 400 more.
  - ✍ Dhanush is a 155mm x 45mm calibre artillery gun developed by Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) Kolkata. It is upgraded version of Swedish 155-mm Bofors howitzers, which India procured in mid-1980s. It has strike range of 40 kilometres (11 km more than imported Bofors).
52. ▶ India's first 'smart fence' pilot project inaugurated along two 5-km each patches of India-Pakistan International Border in Jammu and Kashmir.
- ✍ This initiative has been taken up by BSF as part of comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS). It uses number of devices for surveillance, communication, data storage and automated surveillance technology and alarm detection systems.
  - ✍ It will make virtually impossible for terrorists to infiltrate into Indian side of border.
53. ▶ Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 held in Ullanbaatar (Mongolia).
54. ▶ Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) received additional \$777 million contract to supply LRSAM air and missile defence systems to seven ships in Indian navy, in a contract with Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL). LRSAM is part of Barak 8 family, and is an air and missile defence system.

55. ▶ Joint Indo-Bangladesh Army Trekking Expedition to Nanda Devi started from New Delhi. Nanda Devi (Uttarakhand) east base camp is located 4300m from sea level and has a very challenging trekking route. Summit is at 7816 Metres.

56. ▶ Joint Military Exercises of India over past 3 years -

 **Army -**

S. No.	Country	Exercise
1	Australia	AUSTRA HIND
2	Bangladesh	SAMPRITI
3	China	HAND IN HAND
4	France	SHAKTI
5	Indonesia	GARUDA SHAKTI
6	Kazakhstan	PRABAL DOSTYK
7.	Kyrgyzstan	KHANJAR
8	Maldives	EKUVERIN
9	Mongolia	NOMADIC ELEPHANT
10	Myanmar	IMBEX
11	Nepal	SURYA KIRAN
12	Oman	AL NAGAH
13	Russia	INDRA
14	Seychelles	LAMITIYE
15	Sri Lanka	MITRA SHAKTI
16	Thailand	MAITREE
17	UK	AJEYA WARRIOR
18	USA	YUDHABHAYAS VAJRA PRAHAR
19	Vietnam	VINBAX

 **Navy:**

S. No.	Country	Exercise
1	Australia	AUSINDEX
2	Bangladesh	IN-BN CORPAT
3.	Brazil & South Africa	IBSAMAR
4	France	VARUNA
5	Indonesia	IND-INDO CORPAT IND-INDO BILAT
6	Myanmar	IMCOR IN-MN BILAT
7	Oman	Naseem-al-Bahr
8	Russia	INDRA NAVY
9	Sri Lanka	SLINEX
10	Singapore	SIMBEX
11	Thailand	INDO-THAI CORPAT
12	UK	KONKAN
13	USA	MALABAR RIMPAC (Multilateral)
14	Multilateral Exercise by Brunei	ADMM+ Exercise
15	Multilateral Exercise by Indonesia	KOMODO
16	Multilateral Exercise by India	MILAN

 **Air Force -**

S. No.	Country	Exercise
1	Israel	Blue Flag-17
2	Oman	EASTERN BRIDGE-IV
3	Russia	INDRA-17
4	Thailand	SIAM BHARAT
5	UAE	DESERT EAGLE-II
6	UK	INDRADHANUSH-IV
7	USA	RED FLAG 16-1
8	Multinational Air Exercise Hosted by Australia	Pitch Black – 18
9	Multinational Air Exercise	Samvedna with Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, UAE

57. ▶ Joint exercise of India and Vietnam, named *Sahyog-Hop Tac 2018* began off Chennai coast.

58. ▶ Malabar 2018, the Trilateral Naval Exercise between India, Japan and United States held off coast of Guam in Philippine Sea. It is 22nd edition of the naval exercise.

59. ▶ Ministry of Defence awarded contract for construction of 4 Survey Vessels for Indian Navy to Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Limited Kolkata, with order value of 2435 crores.

 First ship is to be delivered within 36 months and remaining within an interval of six months for each vessel.

 These Survey Vessels (Large) shall be 110 metre long with deep displacement of 3,300 tonnes.

60. ▶ Navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) 2018.
61. ▶ SLINEX 2018, the joint Naval Exercise of India Sri Lanka navies held in Trincomalee.
62. ▶ Tri service joint military exercise Indra-2018 between India and Russia will be held in India in second half 2018.
63. ▶ USA approved sale of six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters to India, for approx \$930 million. Proposed sale also includes 180 Hellfire Longbow air-to-surface anti-armor missiles, 90 R-3 Hellfire II air-to-surface missiles, 200 Stinger air-to-air missiles etc. Apache attack helicopters will strengthen India's ability to defend its homeland and deter regional threats.

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