



Current Affairs - July to December 2018

Month Type



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Defence

- ▶ 4th Edition of India-USA Joint Air Force Exercise *Cope India-18* conducted at Kalaikunda and Panagarh Air Force bases in West Bengal.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 10th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) held in Kochi (Kerala), to discuss maritime issues pertaining to cooperative capacity-building to deal with common security concerns in region. The theme for this year's seminar was "IONS as Catalyst for SAGAR". SAGAR stands for 'Security and Growth for All in Region.
- ▶ 10th edition of Russia and India Joint Navy Exercise INDRA NAVY 2018 conducted off Visakhapatnam coast.
- ▶ 11 Days Joint India Russia Army Exercise *Indra 2018* began at Babina Field Firing Ranges in Uttar Pradesh.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 25th edition of SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) held in Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- 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. ▶ 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.
- 19. ▶ Fast patrol vessels of Indian Coast guard, Amrit Kaur and Kamla Devi (named after freedom fighters) have been launched.
- 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. ▶ 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.
- 24. ▶ ICGS Varuna (Indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited) launched for service in Indian Coast Guard.
- 25. ▶ 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.
- 26. ▶ 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'.
- 27. ▶ India - UK Joint Naval Exercise KONKAN 18 began in Goa, to last till Dec 06, 2018.
- 28. ▶ India Russia Joint Airforce Exercise Avaiandra held in Jodhpur (Rajasthan), as 2nd edition of this exercise.
- 29. ▶ 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).

30. ▶ India and Indonesia Joint Bilateral Exercise '*Samudra Shakti*' Held in Indonesia, participated by INS Rana on India's Behalf.
31. ▶ India and Japan Conducted Joint First Air Force exercise called SHINYUU Maitri-18, at Air Force Station Agra.
32. ▶ India and Japan held their first ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018', in Vairengte (Mizoram).
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ India and Russia signed a USD 500 million deal for construction of two Talvar-class missile frigates in Goa for Indian Navy. MOU was signed between defence PSU Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) and Russia's state-run defence major Rosoboron.
35. ▶ India and Thailand Armies conducted Joint Military Exercise called *Maitree*, in Thailand.
36. ▶ India and US Army Joint Exercise named Vajra Prahar 2018 began at Mahajan Field Firing Range (MFFR) in Bikaner (Rajasthan).
37. ▶ 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.
38. ▶ India and USA conducted their annual army exercise *Yudh Abhyas 2018* at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand, as 14th edition of this exercise.
39. ▶ India signed \$950 million contract with Russia for two upgraded Krivak III-class stealth frigates. The 4,000-ton Krivak III vessels will also accommodate two multirole helicopters and will be used for anti-submarine and airborne early warning missions.
40. ▶ India successfully tested Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'.
41. ▶ India, along with 23 other Indian Ocean Nations, participated in as IOWave18. Its 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).
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) concluded exercise codenamed CROSS BOW 18 at Suryalanka in Andhra Pradesh.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ Indian Air Force's ASTE (Aircraft & Systems Testing Establishment) flew India's first military flight using blended bio-jet fuel on the An-32 transport aircraft. This fuel is made from Jatropha oil sourced from Chattisgarh Biodiesel Development Authority (CBDA) and then processed at CSIR-IIP Dehradun. IAF intends to fly An-32 transport aircraft using biojet fuel on 26 January 2019, in Republic Day flypast.
46. ▶ Indian Army inducted three major globally combat proven artillery gun system - M777 A2 ultra light howitzers (ULH), K-9 Vajra-tracked self-propelled guns (South Korea) and Composite Gun Towing Vehicle (Ashok Leyland -India) at Deolali Field Firing Range in Maharashtra, as first artillery gun systems to be inducted by Indian Army in three decades.
 -  Last inducted was Bofors artillery gun system procured from Sweden in early 1980s.
47. ▶ Indian Army picked Russia's Igla-S missile system as choice for its multibillion dollar contract for man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS).
 -  Russia's Rosoboron export, with bid Around \$1.47 billion, emerged lowest bidder for Indian Army's Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD) deal. Other bidders were MBDA of France (bid of \$3.68 billion) and SAAB of Sweden (bid of \$2.6 billion).
 -  It is designed for use against visible aerial targets at short range such as tactical aircraft, helicopters, unmanned aerial vehicle (UAVs), cruise missile, head-on or receding, in presence of natural (background) clutter and countermeasures. As per requirements of Indian Army, it will have maximum range of 6km, altitude of 3km along with all-weather capability.
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled 'Clean Sea– 2018' at sea off Port Blair (Andaman & Nicobar (A&B) Islands).

50. ▶ 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.
51. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched new Offshore patrol vessel (OPV) ICGS Varaha, as 4th in series of 98 MOPVs designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro (L&T).
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ Indian Navy commissioned naval hospital ship INHS Sandhani at Naval station Karanja in Raigad district of Maharashtra.
54. ▶ Indian Navy completed refitting of Maldivian Coast Guard Ship (MCGS) Huravee at Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam and formally handed it over to Maldives. It was originally commissioned as INS Tillanchang in March 2001, and was subsequently gifted to Maldives by India in April 2006.
55. ▶ 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.
56. ▶ Indian Navy will conduct its flagship annual Western Seaboard coastal defence exercise Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) from January to March 2019. As part of TROPEX, Navy will conduct coastal defence exercise 'Exercise Sea Vigil'.
57. ▶ Indian Navy's first flyaway Deep Sea Submarine Rescue System inducted at Naval Dockyard Mumbai.
- ▶ New Submarine rescue system was needed as traditional methods of search and rescue at sea are ineffective for a disabled submarine.
 - ▶ Indian Navy's Deep Sea Submarine Rescue System considered to be the most advanced system currently in operation globally, which is capable of undertaking rescue from a disabled Submarine upto 650 m depth.
58. ▶ India's first indigenous nuclear submarine INS Arihant completed its first deterrence patrol, completing its first long-range mission with live nuclear-tipped missiles.
- ▶ During deterrence patrol, a nuclear submarine carries nuclear missiles on board, where command and control protocols for its operations are fully tested by its crew.
 - ▶ With this, India completed its survivable nuclear triad by adding maritime strike capability to land and air-based delivery platforms for nuclear weapons. It makes India sixth country — after US, Russia, UK, France and China — to have fully operational nuclear triad.
 - ▶ INS Arihant is India's first indigenously developed nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine. It was launched in 2009 and its nuclear reactor went critical in 2013 and it was commissioned in 2016.
59. ▶ 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.
60. ▶ Indo China Joint Military Exercise Hand-in-Hand held at Chengdu (China), as 7th edition of this exercise.
61. ▶ Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 held in Ullanbaatar (Mongolia).
62. ▶ 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.
63. ▶ 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

64. ▶ Joint exercise of India and Vietnam, named *Sahyog-Hop Tac 2018* began off Chennai coast.
65. ▶ Long range surface-to-surface Nuclear Capable Ballistic missile Agni V successfully test fired.
-  It has strike range of 5000 km.
 -  It was 7th successful trial of Agni V. It is capable of carrying 1.5 tonnes of nuclear warheads.
66. ▶ Maharashtra cabinet approved conversion of Indian Navy's longest-serving aircraft carrier INS Viraat, into India's first-ever moored maritime museum-cum-marine adventure centre. It was decommissioned in 2017.
67. ▶ 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.
68. ▶ PSU BEML bagged contract for INR 3015 crores for Mumbai Metro Corridor, including manufacturing of 378 Metro cars (63 Metro trains of 6 cars each) for Mumbai Metro Corridor 2A, 2B & 7.
69. ▶ SLINEX 2018, the joint Naval Exercise of India Sri Lanka navies held in Trincomalee.
70. ▶ Supreme Court gave clean chit to Central government for purchase of 36 Rafale fighter Jets from Dassault Aviation (France), stating nothing wrong found in purchase of 36 fighter jet instead of 126 from France.
-  Dassault Rafale won MMRCA competition in January 2012 to supply 126 Jet aircraft with additional 63 aircraft to Indian Air Force. First 18 aircrafts were to be supplied by Dassault and remaining were to be manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
 -  Dassault refused to ensure quality of aircraft produced by HAL. In 2014, price of deal increased to \$30 billion. This created price issue and deal couldn't be signed.

 Thereafter, New central government confirmed the deal for 36 multirole fighter aircraft of 58000 crores from France's Dassault Aviation.

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