



Current Affairs - July to December 2017

Month Type



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Defence

- ▶ **FIPSPHYSIICON 2017** - Conference on Human Physiology - VII Congress of Federation of Indian Physiological Societies (FIPS) and XXIX Annual Conference of Physiological Society of India (PSI) organised at University of Delhi.
- ▶ Defence Ministry approved a proposal to procure six AH-64-E Apache attack helicopters along with weapons systems from American aerospace giant Boeing for Indian Army.
- ▶ 13th edition of Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2017, joint military exercise between Indian and USA armies commenced in Washington (USA).
- ▶ 12th India-Nepal joint military exercise - Surya Kiran XII held in Saljhandi (Nepal).
- ▶ 14 day joint training exercise **PRABAL DOSTYK – 2017** between Indian and Kazakhstan Armies commenced at Bakloh (Himachal Pradesh)
- ▶ 14 day long joint military exercise Maitree 2017 between Indian and Thailand Armies commenced in Himachal Pradesh.
- ▶ 14-day long Combined India-UK Military exercise **Ajeya Warrior- 2017** began in Rajasthan.
- ▶ 45 Member Contingent of Indian Air Force left for Israel to participate in exercise 'Blue Flag-17', onboard a C-130J special operations aircraft. Exercise will be conducted in First week of November 2017. This is first time the Indian Air Force is operating with Israeli AF in a multilateral exercise.
- ▶ 5th India-Sri Lanka Joint Army Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2017 Organized in Pune.
- ▶ 7th India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise SLINEX 2017 held near Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in Bay of Bengal.
- ▶ 7th Joint Army exercise of Indian and Bangladeshi armies - **Sampriti 2017** began at Vairengte in Mizoram. It will last till Nov 18, 2017.
- ▶ 8th India - Maldives bilateral military exercise EKUVERIN 2017 held in Belagavi (Karnataka).
- ▶ Advanced towed artillery gun system (ATAGS, Developed Jointly by DRDO and Bharat Forge Limited of Kalyani Group) with special ammunition high explosive – base bleed (HE – BB) has set world record in terms of range by hitting targets at distance of 48 km during trial firings at Pokhran (Rajasthan).
- ▶ Anil Ambani led **Reliance Defence and Engineering** changed its name to **Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RNEL)**, in line with company's focus on building capabilities for Indian Navy and Coast Guard.
- ▶ Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved implementation of first phase of reforms pertaining to Indian Army based on recommendations of Lt Gen Shekatkar Committee. It aims to enhance combat capability and optimize defence expenditure of Indian Army by December 2019. It is first ever reform exercise to be undertaken in Indian Army since independence. Major reforms are -
 - ▶ Redeployment and restructuring of approximately 57,000 posts of Armymen.
 - ▶ Optimisation of signals establishments - To include Radio Monitoring Companies, Air Formation Signal Regiments, Corps Air Support Signal Regiments, Composite Signal Regiments and merger of Corps Operating and Engineering Signal Regiments.
 - ▶ Restructuring of repair echelons in Army - To include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Station Workshops in field Army.
 - ▶ Redeployment of Ordnance echelons - To include Vehicle Depots, Central Ordnance Depots and Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.
 - ▶ Other Reforms - Better utilization of Supply and Transport echelons and Animal Transport units, Closure of army postal establishments and military farms in peace locations and Improving efficiency of National Cadet Corps (NCC) etc.

16. ▶ Central Government has approved INR 32,000 crore five-year action programme for Indian Coast Guard to enhance its capability in maintaining vigil on coastal waters.
17. ▶ DRDO signed Rs.17,000 crore deal with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for producing advanced medium—range surface to air missile (MRSAM) system for Indian Army by 2020. The deal envisages developing 40 firing units and around 200 missiles.
 - ✍ MR-SAM is land-based version of long range surface to air missile (LRSAM) of Indian Navy, with strike range of up to 70 km.
18. ▶ DRDO successfully test fired Made-In-India Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM), capable of deceiving enemy radars making it difficult to be detected. It can strike within 30 KMs and will supplement medium-range surface-to-air missile Akash.
19. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman accorded acceptance of necessity (AoN) for procurement of 111 naval utility helicopters (NUHs) worth Rs 21,738 crore for Indian Navy.
 - ✍ DAC is Defence Ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement. After DAC gives AoN, request for proposal can be issued to firms, seeking their bids.
20. ▶ Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) jointly developed by India and Israel, to Indian Navy.
21. ▶ Defence Ministry approved procurement of 260 Software Defined Radios (SDR) for Indian Navy at a cost of 490 crores to ramp up surveillance on high seas, developed by DRDO's Defence Electronics & Applications Laboratory (DEAL). These SDRs will be the first batch of indigenously designed and developed software defined radio sets to be procured by any of the three services.
22. ▶ Defence Ministry launched 'ARPAN Version 3.0' software for Defence Security Corp, developed by Tech Mahindra. It would simplify personal documentation and all issues related to DSC Personnel's progression.
23. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched the Muntra (Mission UNmanned TRacked) as India's first unmanned, remotely operated tank at its Chennai lab. It has been launched in 3 variants - Muntra-S, Muntra-M and Muntra-N for surveillance, mine detection and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and biological threats.
24. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested India's first indigenously developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile - *NIRBHAY*. It has an operational range of 1000 - 1500 KM.
25. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) test-fired 3rd generation Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) NAG. It has an operational range of 500m to 4km (Land version) and 7-10km (when air-launched).
26. ▶ Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Exercise (DANX) conducted by Army's Andaman & Nicobar Command.
27. ▶ Exercise INDRA-2017, First ever Tri Services Joint Exercise between Indian and Russian Armed Forces conducted in Eastern Military District of Russia.
28. ▶ First India-Myanmar Bilateral Military Exercise 2017 (IMBAX 2017) started at Umroi Joint Training Node in Meghalaya (6 days long).
29. ▶ IN LCU L52 ship has been inducted into Indian Navy, as 2nd Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class vehicle to be inducted into Indian Navy.
30. ▶ INS Kalvari, first of 6 Scorpene-class submarines has been commissioned into Indian Navy, as a significant success for the Make in India initiative. Submarines are being indigenously built by Mazagaon Dockyard in Mumbai under Project 75 in collaboration with French industrial group DCNS.
31. ▶ INS Sukanya Arrived in Indonesia for participating in 30th CORPAT (Coordinated Patrol) and 3rd Joint Naval exercise between India and Indonesia.
32. ▶ INS Tarasa (T94), fourth and last ship in series of Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) commissioned into Indian Navy.
33. ▶ India and Oman Navies completed 11th Joint exercise *Naseem Al Bahr* OR *Sea Breeze*.
34. ▶ India and Russia for the first time will conduct Indra tri-services exercise (Indra 2017), involving their armies, navies and the air forces in October 2017 to further ramp up military ties.
35. ▶ India cancelled a \$500 million deal for procuring Spike ATGM (Anti-Tank Guided Missile) from Israel, keeping in view the fact that importing a foreign ATGM would negatively impact indigenous development of weapon systems by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
36. ▶ India, Japan and USA navies completed 2017 MALABAR trilateral naval Exercise near Chennai in Bay of Bengal. This is the 21st edition of Malabar naval exercise.
37. ▶ Indian Air Force successfully fired BrahMos air version anti shipping missile from Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.
 - ✍ BrahMos missile is a 2.5 ton supersonic air to surface cruise missile with ranges of more than 400 kms. IAF is the first Air Force in the world to have successfully fired an air launched 2.8 Mach surface attack missile of this category.
38. ▶ Indian Army approved huge procurement plans for infantry modernization at a cost of nearly Rs 40,000 crore to replace aging weapons. Under this, approx 7 lakh rifles, 44,000 light machine guns (LMGs) and nearly 44,600 carbines will be procured.

39. ▶ Indian Army launched Integrated Quarter Master Package (IQMP) software application for automating various logistics related functions of an Army Unit, developed by Army Software Development Centre in association with TCS.
 - ✎ It will replace numerous legacy applications such as 'Vastra' and 'Quarter Master Package' and will automate all logistics functions of Indian Army at unit level.
 - ✎ IQMP will help in effective logistics management and decision making, assisting Indian Army units to be battle ready all time.
40. ▶ Indian Army launched an independent and fully-integrated Joint Training Node (JTN) at Umroi cantonment in Shillong, aimed at hosting foreign armies in joint military exercises. It is the first of its kind in eastern command and is different from other joint training centres in Belgaum, Varangte and Bakloh.
41. ▶ Indian Army organized Operation Sadbhavana for National Integration in Jammu & Kashmir and North East states respectively
42. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to raise 5 regiments of advanced Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAM) with 60 Missiles. MRSAM air defence system can shoot down enemy missiles, aircraft at range of over 50 km. It is land-based variant of long-range surface-to-air missile (LRSAM) or Barak-8 naval air defence system.
43. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned two high-speed interceptor boats C-433 and C-434 boats. Interceptor boat V-409 has also been launched.
44. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaurya has been commissioned, fifth in series of six 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).
45. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship *Sujay* (6th (last) in series of 105m Offshore Patrol Vessels) has been commissioned.
46. ▶ Indian Coast Guard conducted Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise *Clean Sea - 2017* at sea off Port Blair (Andaman and Nicobar Islands).
47. ▶ Indian Naval Ships Satpura and Kadmatt participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Japanese Marine Self Defence Force (JMSDF) held at Sasebo (Japan).
48. ▶ Indian Navy signed contract with Tata Power SED under *Buy and Make* category, through which Tata Power SED will supply Portable Diver Detection Sonar (PDDS) for Indian Navy.
49. ▶ Indian Navy's second LCU (landing craft utility) Mark IV L52 ship built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) Kolkata has been launched. These vessels are designed for multipurpose amphibious operations carried out Indian Navy and Army to ensure maritime security of Andamans and Lakshadweep islands.
50. ▶ Indian Ocean Naval Symposium's (IONS) maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) will be held in November 2017 in Bay of Bengal under chairmanship of Bangladesh. IONS is a regional forum of Indian Ocean littoral states launched by India in February 2008, which now has 35 members.
51. ▶ Indian and Japan Navies initiated an intensive air anti-submarine warfare exercise in Indian Ocean. It has P-8 I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance Anti Submarine Warfare of Indian Navy and 2 P-3 Orion Anti Submarine Warfare aircraft of Japanese Navy.
52. ▶ India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition *Navika Sagar Parikrama* flagged off in Goa, onboard Sailing Vessel *INSV Tarini*. It will circumnavigate globe in approximately 165 days and is expected to return to Goa in April 2018.
53. ▶ India's first ingeniously built INS Kalavari submarine handed over to Indian Navy, built by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai. INS Kalavari is first of six Scorpion class submarines built in India under Project-75 by Mazagon Docks Limited with technology transfer from France's DCNS (Direction des Constructions Navales Services).
54. ▶ India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility (a 51:49 joint venture between Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems) inaugurated near Hyderabad (Telangana).
55. ▶ Indigenously developed Prithvi Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile has been successfully test-fired.
56. ▶ Indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kiltan has been commissioned into Indian Navy.
 - ✎ It is India's first major warship to have a superstructure of carbon fibre composite material resulting in improved stealth features, lower top weight and maintenance costs.
57. ▶ Larsen and Toubro (L&T) handed over offshore patrol vessel (OPV) *Vikram* to Indian Coast Guard. It is country's first-ever such defence vessel to be built in a private shipyard.
58. ▶ Ministry of Defence (MoD) will raise 3 new tri-service agencies - Defence Cyber Agency, Defence Space Agency and a Special Operations Division. These will be headed by officers of rank of Major General (equivalent in Navy and Indian Air Force).
 - ✎ Defence Cyber Agency will work in close coordination with National Cyber Security Advisor and It will focus on non-civilian cyber issues, including safeguarding critical infrastructure. It will have over 1,000 personnel.
 - ✎ Defence Space Agency will work closely with ISRO and DRDO for better utilisation and integration of space resources. It will have over 200 personnel.
 - ✎ Special Operations Division will have components of Special Forces of Army, Navy and IAF and will be trained together for various external contingencies.

59. ▶ Ministry of Home Affairs launched full-fledged intelligence wing of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), paramilitary force that guards India's borders with Bhutan and Nepal. It will have 650 field and staff agents to gather actionable information. Intelligence wing of and Welfare and Rehabilitation Board App (WARB) was also launched.
60. ▶ Navy, the Air Force, Coast Guard Initiated *Operation Synergy* as a joint rescue mission to save fishermen stranded in seas after cyclone Ockhi, in Kerala.
61. ▶ New Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels Shachi and Shruti launched at Pipavav Shipyard in Gujarat. These are first set of warships that have been manufactured by a private defence sector entity - Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited.
62. ▶ Odisha and West Bengal held joint coast guard security exercise *Sagar Kavach*, to tighten existing coastal security mechanism.
63. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind awarded President's Colour to Submarine Arm of Indian Navy.
 President's Colour is highest honour which can be bestowed upon any military unit.
64. ▶ Six-member all-woman team of Indian Navy will set sail to circumnavigate globe on sailing vessel INSV Tarini, making it first-ever Indian circumnavigation of globe by an all-woman crew.
65. ▶ Surface to Air Missile AKASH has been tested successfully with indigenous radio frequency seeker.
 AKASH missile is being inducted into Army as Short Range Surface to Air Missile (SRSAM) with range under 25 KM. This is first Surface to Air Missile with indigenous seeker that has been test fired.
66. ▶ USA will provide Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System(EMALS) technology to India for aircraft carriers. It will help to launch heavy combat planes from short runway of an aircraft carrier using electromagnetic force, instead of old steam-powered catapults.

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