



Current Affairs - December 2017 to May 2018

Month Type



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Defence

- ▶ 14-day long Combined India-UK Military exercise *Ajeya Warrior- 2017* began in Rajasthan.
- ▶ 2nd indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) *Vijaya* has been commissioned into Indian Coast Guard.
- ▶ 5th Indo-Kyrgyzstan joint training exercise 'Khanjar V' concluded in Mizoram.
- ▶ 6th Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) and Conclave of Chiefs held in Tehran (Iran). Indian Navy Chief Sunil Lanba Visited Iran on this occasion. IONS was conceived by Indian Navy in 2008.
- ▶ 8th Biannual Indo-Seychelles joint counter insurgency/counter terrorism exercise named *Lamitye* held in Seychelles.
- ▶ 8th India - Maldives bilateral military exercise EKUVERIN 2017 held in Belagavi (Karnataka).
- ▶ *DefExpo India 2018* will be hosted by Chennai (TN) for the first time in April 2018.
 - ▶ DefExpo India is a largest event of India's defence sector, held biannually. It displays latest technologies and products manufactured by both Indian and foreign companies.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Biennial Joint exercise by Indian and Japanese Coast Guards held in Bay of Bengal, as 8th in series of *National Maritime Search and Rescue Workshop and Exercise*.
- ▶ Bilateral joint training exercise *Harimau Shakti 2018* between India and Malaysia Armies will be conducted in Hulu Langat (Malaysia) in April - May 2018.
- ▶ Central Government cancelled plan to produce 114 Single-engine Fighters with foreign collaboration under *Make in India* framework, in wake of political conflict between BJP and Congress over 36 French-manufactured Rafale fighter jets.
 - ▶ Point of contention in original plan was restriction on only single-engine fighters, which limited competition to just two jets (American F-16 and Swedish Gripen-E) Thus, Defence Ministry directed Indian Air Force to come up with a new proposal that will take both, single and twin-engine fighters into account.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Chetak corps of South Western Command of Indian Army conducted military exercise Gandiv Vijay in Rajasthan.
- ▶ Coastal security exercise *Sagar Kavach* held by Indian Coast Guard along Kerala coast to strengthen and assess loopholes in coastal security mechanism.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.

17. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved Proposals worth INR 9435 Crores for Tri Services and Coast Guard. It includes procurement of 41000 LMGs and over 3.5 Lakh Close Quarter Battle Carbines under Buy and Make (Indian) category.
18. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved Acquisitions Worth 3687 crores. It Involves procuring DRDO's NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at cost of INR 524 crores. DAC also approved procurement of thirteen 127 mm calibre guns for Navy, with range of 24 kilometres. These guns be procured from BAE Systems of USA, for over 3000 crores.
19. ▶ Defence Ministry Nirmala Sitharaman cleared 2 procurement proposals -
 - ▶ 131 Barak missiles will be procured from Israel's Rafael Advance Defence Systems of Israel for INR 460 crores.
 - ▶ 240 precision guided bombs will be procured from JSC Rosonboron Exports (Russia) for INR 1254 crores.
20. ▶ Defence Ministry approved procurement of P-8I Training Solution for Indian Navy and Low Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS) for Indian Army at total cost of INR 2419 crores.
 - ▶ Low Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS) will be procured from Bharat Electronics Limited for 470 crores.
 - ▶ P-8I Training SolutionThe P-8I Training Solution will be brought from Boeing (USA) for Rs.1949.32 crore.
21. ▶ Defence Ministry sanctioned raising Territorial Army (TA) battalion comprising ex-servicemen of Indian Army as part of its mission to clean Ganga by 2020, named as Composite Ecological Task Force (CETF) battalion.
 - ▶ CETF will be raised in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh as a pilot project for which INR 167 crores are allocated. It will be commanded by Colonel-rank officer. It will have 8 officers, 20 JCOs and around 500 other ranks on its roll.
22. ▶ First-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea *MILES-18* began at Andaman sea with 8 countries and India Participating.
23. ▶ Government formed a new integrated institutional mechanism, Defence Planning Committee (DPC) to reform process of higher defence planning. It is expected to drive military and national security strategy, draft capability development plans and guide and accelerate defence equipment acquisitions. It will be under chairmanship of National Security Advisor Ajit Doval.
24. ▶ Government sanctioned construction of 14460 bunkers at cost of INR 416 crores for people living along Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in Jammu & Kashmir. It is aimed at protecting locals from ceasefire violations from Pakistan.
25. ▶ Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) conducted first flight of Hawk-i Trainer Jet, with indigenous Real Time Operating System (RTOS).
 - ▶ Hawk-i is first indigenous RTOS developed in India and certified by Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC).
 - ▶ RTOS is system software that provides standard run-time environment for real-time applications execution in a safe and reliable manner.
26. ▶ 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.
27. ▶ INS Karanj, the 3rd Scorpene class submarine constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited has been commissioned into Indian Navy.
28. ▶ India and Oman Navies completed 11th Joint exercise *Naseem Al Bahr* OR *Sea Breeze*.
29. ▶ 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 SystemIt 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.
30. ▶ 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 Mashinostroyenia 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 increasead to 450 km after India's entry into MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime). It is planned to rise to 600km soon.
31. ▶ India-Vietnam Bilateral Army Exercise (VINBAX-2018) conducted at Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh, as first military exercise between India and Vietnam.
32. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise Gaganshakti 2018 as an air combat exercise along Pakistan, China borders.

33. ▶ Indian Army will contribute 2300 personnel to support United Nations Peacekeeping Missions to South Sudan (UNMISS) in order to bring peace and normalcy in the war-torn african country. It includes deployment of 7 Garhwal Rifles Infantry battalion group of Indian Army.
34. ▶ Indian Army's South Western Command conducted month long Vijay Prahar exercise in Suratgarh (Rajasthan).
35. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned *Charlie-435* patrolling vessel at Karaikal in Puducherry.
36. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship *Sujay* (6th (last) in series of 105m Offshore Patrol Vessels) has been commissioned.
37. ▶ Indian Coast Guard Ship C-161 (ICGS C -161) commissioned at Porbandar in Gujarat.
38. ▶ Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Vikram, first of seven new-generation offshore patrol vessels.
39. ▶ Indian Coast Guard interceptor boat *V-410* has been launched. It is 6th in series of 15 interceptors for which BDIL had been given a contract.
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ Indian Navy concluded 2 month long War Games on both Seaboards of India, Eastern and Western. War Game on Eastern seaboard was codenamed ENCORE (Eastern Naval Command Operational Readiness Exercise) and on Western seaboard the codename was *Exercise Paschim Lehar*.
42. ▶ Indian Navy conducted multi-agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named Chakravat (cyclone) with coordination of Kerala Government off Kochi Coast.
43. ▶ Indian Navy's Andaman & Nicobar Command will host a multinational Naval Exercise MILAN 2018 in March, With underlying theme of *Friendship Across the Seas*, with 16 nations participating. Theme of 2018 MILAN International Maritime Seminar is *In Pursuit of Maritime Good Order - Need for Comprehensive Information Sharing Apparatus*.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ Indian and French Navies will conduct 16th bilateral Joint maritime exercises called *Varuna - 18* in three sea areas - Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and South Western Indian Ocean. Phase 1 has began in Goa.
46. ▶ Indian and French navies conducted third (final) phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 in Indian Ocean region (IOR).
47. ▶ Indian and Indonesian Armies begun 6th Garuda Shakti Joint exercise in West Java province of Indonesia.
48. ▶ Indigenously developed Prithvi Advanced Air Defence (AAD) supersonic interceptor missile has been successfully test-fired.
49. ▶ Indo-Korean Joint Coast Guards Exercise *Sahyog-Hyeoblyeog 2018* conducted off Chennai coast (Tamil Nadu).
50. ▶ Indo-US joint military exercise *Vajra Prahar* will be held at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Seattle (USA) in last week of Jan 2018.
51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ 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.
53. ▶ 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.
54. ▶ Samvedna 2018, first multilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise of Indian Air Force (IAF) in association with South Asian Region nations held off coast of Kerala.
55. ▶ Supersonic cruise missile BrahMos was successfully flight-tested for first time with indigenously developed seeker. So far, *seeker's* technology in missiles was imported from Russia.
 - ▶ Brahmos is capable of carrying warhead of 300 kilogram (conventional / nuclear) and has top supersonic speed of Mach 2.8 to 3 (3 times speed of sound). After India's entry to Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), its range was extended to 450 km.
56. ▶ 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.

57. ▶ Tri-service maritime exercise *Paschim Lehar* held off India's western coast, to build interoperability between Three forces and Coast Guard.

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