



Current Affairs - May to July 2018

Month Type



- ▶ [47 Current Affairs were found in Last Three Months for Type - Defence](#)

Defence

- ▶ India and Indonesia Navies Participated in their 31st Joint Coordinated Patrol (IND-INDO CORPAT).
- ▶ 13th Joint Military Exercise of India and Nepal, named SURYA KIRAN-XIII conducted at Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).
- ▶ 6 global aircraft manufacturers have responded Indian Air Force's (IAF) Request for Information (RFI) to supply 110 fighter aircrafts to replace its ageing fleet of MiG-21s and MiG-27s. Out of bids received, *Lockheed Martin F-16 and SAAB Gripen are single-engine fighters*, while *Dassault Rafale, Boeing F-18, Eurofighter Typhoon and United Aircraft Corporation MiG-35 are twin-engine fighters*.
- ▶ 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 Sulur in Coimbatore district, which may house permanent base of Tejas squadron.
- ▶ Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) signed MoU with Swedish aerospace and defence firm *Saab*, for marketing L-Band 3D air surveillance radar (RAWL-03). Its system is based on state-of-the-art GaN TR module technology and incorporates the latest signal processing techniques.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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-IDDMM)' 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.
- ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of equipment for Defence Forces valued at INR 6900 crores. It Includes -
 - ▶ Thermal Imaging (TI) Night Sights for Rocket Launcher (RL) used by Army and the Force under 'BUY(Indian) IDDM' category, to be used by troops to facilitate accurate engagement of enemy targets complete darkness.
 - ▶ Development of Long Range Dual Band Infrared Imaging Search and Track System (IRST) for SU-30 MKI aircraft under 'Make II' sub category, for procurement of at least 100 IRSTs under 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM) category.
- ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved procurement of equipment for Defence Forces worth inr 5500 crores. It includes -
 - ▶ 12 High Power Radars for Indian Air Force, to provide long range medium and high altitude cover with capability to detect and track high speed targets following parabolic trajectories.
 - ▶ Air Cushion Vehicles (ACVs) will be procured for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) and Indian Army from Indian Shipyard. These vessels offer great advantage over conventional boats and crafts as they have ability to travel at very high speeds over shallow water, sand banks, mud flats and swamps which are non-navigable by boats.

12. ▶ Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stated that India will buy Russian S-400 Triumf air defence missile despite US sanctions on military transactions with Russia.
13. ▶ Defence Ministry approved construction of 17 new baffle firing ranges at various Military establishments across country, to facilitate firing from 300 to 500 meters. These will be in addition to 60 similar firing ranges existing all over the country.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ Fourth Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IVclass, LCU L54 has been inducted into Indian Navy. Remaining 4 ships of same class are in advanced stages of construction at GRSE, Kolkata.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ 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 10×10 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.
18. ▶ Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced family of a paramilitary jawan who dies in action will be given a minimum compensation of 1 crore rupees.
19. ▶ 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.
20. ▶ 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 increased to 450 km after India's entry into MCTR (Missile Technology Control Regime). It is planned to rise to 600km soon.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ 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.
23. ▶ 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.

24. ▶ Indian Army announced to observing year 2018 as *Year of Disabled Soldiers in Line of Duty*. Indian Army also drawn detailed plan to develop Jaisalmer Military Station in Rajasthan as smart facility patterned on Central Government's Smart Cities Mission.
25. ▶ Indian Army finalised INR 15000 crores indigenous ammunition project under which range of ammunition for its critical weapons and tanks will be produced indigenously. It aims to cut dependence on imports and create inventory to enable forces to fight 30-day war. 11 private firms will be involved and implementation will be monitored by Defence Ministry.
26. ▶ Indian Army will resume trials of US-made M777 ultralight howitzer in Pokhran firing range of Rajasthan. Trials were suspended in September 2017 following a barrel burst caused by faulty ammunition during firing.
 - ▶ M777 Howitzer artillery gun is 155-mm, 39-calibre towed artillery gun, manufactured by US based BAE Systems. It has effective firing range of 24 km.
 - ▶ Induction of M777 Howitzer artillery guns will add much needed operational advantage to Indian Army as they will be deployed in high-altitude areas in Arunachal Pradesh and Ladakh, bordering China.
27. ▶ Indian Army's South Western Command conducted month long Vijay Prahar exercise in Suratgarh (Rajasthan).
28. ▶ 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.
29. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned interceptor ship ICGS C 439 at Mumbai.
30. ▶ Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Vikram, first of seven new-generation offshore patrol vessels.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ Indian Naval Ship Sunayna has been directed to evacuate 38 Indians stranded on Yemeni island of Socotra in aftermath of cyclone Mekenu, under Operation Nistaar. Evacuated Indians were embarked onboard and immediately provided with appropriate care.
33. ▶ Indian Navy conducted *Prasthan*, a security exercise, off the coast of Mumbai.
34. ▶ 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.
35. ▶ Indian and Bangladesh Coast Guards conducted a 2 day bilateral table-top exercise on maritime pollution in Kolkata.
36. ▶ Indian and French navies conducted third (final) phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 in Indian Ocean region (IOR).
37. ▶ India's first Defence incubators will come up at T-Hub in Hyderabad (Telangana), India's missile development centre and fast emerging hub for aerospace industries. It will be funded through Ministry's Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme.
38. ▶ 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).
39. ▶ Indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas of No 45 Squadron (The Flying Daggers) of Indian Air Force (IAF) formally commenced operations from Sulur Air Force Station in Tamil Nadu. Tejas is first advanced fly-by-wire Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) developed indigenously by Hindustan Aeronautical Limited (HAL). It is pegged as world's lightest supersonic fighter.
40. ▶ Indigenously developed Rustom-II Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be delivered to armed forces by 2020. Rustom-II is part of Rustom line of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) indigenously designed and developed by DRDO that includes Rustom-I, Rustom-H and Rustom-C.
 - ▶ It is a long-endurance UAV that has an 20 hours approximate flight time. Its medium-altitude prototype can fly at over 22,000 feet. It can fly at around 280 km/h.
41. ▶ 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.
42. ▶ 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 MALABAR
13	USA	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

43. ▶ L&T Defence inaugurated 2nd production line for BRAHMOS Transport Launch Canister (TLC) at Ranoli (Gujarat), To cater to serial production requirements of BRAHMOS Supersonic Cruise Missile System.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ Navies of India and Indonesia participated in Passage Exercise (PASSEX) 2018.
46. ▶ Tri service joint military exercise Indra-2018 between India and Russia will be held in India in second half 2018.
47. ▶ 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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