



### Current Affairs - March 2018 to May 2018

Month  Type



- ▶ 45 Current Affairs were found in **Last Three Months** for Type - **Defence**

#### Defence

- ▶ 3rd ship of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV project, named as INLCU L53 has been inducted into Indian Navy.
- ▶ 4th of 8 Mark IV LCU vessels – L54, built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) Kolkata has been Commissioned Into Indian Navy.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Bilateral joint training exercise *Harimau Shakti 2018* between India and Malaysia Armies will be conducted in Hulu Langat (Malaysia) in April - May 2018.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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 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-IDDM) category.
- ▶ 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 guns be procured from BAE Systems of USA, for over 3000 crores.
- ▶ Defence Ministry will now fully fund education of martyrs' children, removing earlier limit of Upto INR 10000 a month.
- ▶ First-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea *MILES-18* began at Andaman sea with 8 countries and India Participating.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Goa Shipyards Limited (GSL) delivered 2nd Sri Lanka Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel (SL AOPV), as largest and most advanced ship in Sri Lankan Navy fleet. This is 4th Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) delivered in the current financial year.

17. ▶ 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.
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. ▶ INS Ganga, an indigenously built frigate of the Indian Navy, has been decommissioned.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ 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.
22. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted Exercise Gaganshakti 2018 as an air combat exercise along Pakistan, China borders.
23. ▶ Indian Air Force's (IAF) largest transport aircraft C-17 Globemaster made a historic landing at Tuting Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) in Arunachal Pradesh. It is strategically important as China Claims Arunachal Pradesh as part of its territory (McMahon Line).
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ Indian Army signed MoU with HDFC Bank and Axis Bank for Defence Salary Package, as renewed version of first MoU signed 2011 and renewed in March 2015. It is tailor made to suit requirements of defence personnel.
26. ▶ Indian Army's South Western Command conducted month long Vijay Prahar exercise in Suratgarh (Rajasthan).
27. ▶ Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned interceptor boat ICGS C-437.
28. ▶ Indian Coast Guard commissioned ICGS Vikram, first of seven new-generation offshore patrol vessels.
29. ▶ 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.
30. ▶ 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*.
31. ▶ Indian Navy conducted *Prasthan*, a security exercise, off the coast of Mumbai.
32. ▶ Indian Navy conducted multi-agency humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) exercise named Chakravat (cyclone) with coordination of Kerala Government off Kochi Coast.
33. ▶ Indian Navy's INS Tarkash carried out joint training exercise with U.S. Navy's Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group (TRCSG) and guided-missile destroyers USS Preble, USS Halsey and USS Sampson.
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 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 begun in Goa.
36. ▶ Indian and French navies conducted third (final) phase of Varuna naval exercise 2018 in Indian Ocean region (IOR).
37. ▶ Indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas successfully fired an air-to-air beyond visual range (BVR) missile, demonstrating its overall capability as an effective combat jet.
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ Indo-Korean Joint Coast Guards Exercise *Sahyog- Hyeoblyeog 2018* conducted off Chennai coast (Tamil Nadu).
40. ▶ 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.
41. ▶ Larsen & Toubro (L&T) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed an MoU to cater to needs of evolving domestic and export markets for defence products and systems, to help make India self-reliant in defence sector.
42. ▶ Ministry of Defence released draft policy on defence production, aiming to bring India among top 5 manufacturers of defence platforms. Objectives Include -
  - ✎ Achieve turnover of INR 170000 crore and export of 35000 crores in military equipment and services by 2025.
  - ✎ Attract additional investment of nearly Rs 70,000 crore and create employment for nearly 2 to 3 million people.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ Three Minesweeper ships of Indian Navy - INS Konkan, INS Cannanore and INS Cuddalore have been decommissioned.

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