



Current Affairs - August to October 2018

Month Type



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

Defence

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 1st India-United States tri-services exercise will take place in 2019 in India, including all services of both countries (also talks are on to include special forces).
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) bagged order worth INR 9200 crores for supply of seven Long Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LRSAM) systems to Indian Navy.
- ▶ Cyient Solutions & Systems (JV of IT firm Cyient and BlueBird Aero Systems of Israel) bagged order from Indian Army to supply SpyLite mini UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) systems for high altitude aerial surveillance. SpyLite mini UAV unmanned aerial system has endurance of 4-5 hours and maximum flight ceiling of 30,000 feet, making it ideal for Indian Army operations along border with China and Siachen glacier.
- ▶ DRDO conducted test of Ballistic Missile Interceptor Advanced Area Defence (AAD) at Abdul Kalam Island (Odisha). It is capable of intercepting incoming targets at an altitude of 15 to 25 kms.

13. ▶ 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.
14. ▶ 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.
15. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved procurement of 1,000 engines for fitment in T-72 tanks of the Army at an approximate cost of over 2,300 crore rupees.
16. ▶ 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.
17. ▶ Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved procurement of 6 indigenously manufactured Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for Indian Navy, to be built in India at approx 4941 crores.
18. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested a low-weight indigenously developed man-portable anti-tank guided missile (MPATGM).
19. ▶ Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested indigenously developed surface-to-surface tactical missile 'Prahar', with operational range under 350 KM.
20. ▶ 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.
21. ▶ First indigenously overhauled Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet to Indian Air Force, by 11 Base Repair Depot (BRD) in Nashik (Maharashtra). Sukhoi Su-30MKI is a twin-jet multi-role air superiority aircraft developed by Russia's Sukhoi.
22. ▶ First-ever joint air force exercise Between India and Malaysia commenced at Subang Air Base in Malaysia.
23. ▶ 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).
24. ▶ 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.
25. ▶ Govt. launched Defence India Startup Challenge in Bengaluru. Recognised Defence Incubators at IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Mumbai, Forge IIT Madras, and T hub will provide solutions for requirements in Armed Forces. Raksha Mantri Nirmala Sitharaman also launched SPARK (support for prototype and research Kickstart) in defence, framework for IDEX partners, and promotion of start ups under Make II procedure.
26. ▶ ICGS Varuna (Indigenously-designed training vessel built by Reliance Naval and Engineering Limited) launched for service in Indian Coast Guard.
27. ▶ 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.
28. ▶ 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'.

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 China will resume their annual bilateral military exercise 'Hand-in-Hand' in December 2018, which has been upheld since 2016.
31. ▶ 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.
32. ▶ India and Thailand Armies conducted Joint Military Exercise called *Maitree*, in Thailand.
33. ▶ 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.
34. ▶ India and USA conducted their annual army exercise *Yudh Abhyas 2018* at Chaubatia in Uttarakhand, as 14th edition of this exercise.
35. ▶ India successfully tested Indigenously developed Helicopter launched Anti-Tank Guided Missile 'HELINA'.
36. ▶ India tested Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) with an interceptor missile test off Odisha coast, as a major milestone in developing a two-layer Ballistic Missile Defence system.
37. ▶ 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).
38. ▶ 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.
39. ▶ Indian Air Force (IAF) launched Trans-Himalayan Mountain Terrain Biking Expedition (THE MTB), from Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) in Ladakh for Kibithu in Arunachal Pradesh (2 forward most outposts of India in North and in East). Aim is to promote spirit of adventure among Air Warriors to undertake daunting challenges and 'Go Green' initiative.
40. ▶ Indian Airforce formally launched The Stores, Proactive, Efficient and Expeditious Despatch of Extra Size/ Wt Consignment (SPEDEX) contract, concluded in June 2018 between with Balmer Lawrie & Co Ltd and Ashok Travel and Tours for air and surface component respectively.
- ▶ It aims to overcome delay in piecemeal dispatch of consignment and to move operationally urgent stores by air and normal consignments by surface mode.
41. ▶ Indian Army completed indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile's First night trial. Its a surface-to-surface missile, with strike range of 350 km.
42. ▶ 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.
43. ▶ 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.
44. ▶ 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.
45. ▶ 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.
46. ▶ Indian Navy signed contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) located in Visakhapatnam for construction of two Diving Support Vessels (DSV), each of 118 m in length and 7,650 tonnes displacement capacity. These will be equipped with Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel (DSRV), which significantly enhances its Submarine Rescue Capabilities.

47. ▶ India's aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya for first time will be fitted with marine hydraulic system to boost its air operations, named *GS-1MF* and *GS-3*. It will be used for refuelling, cleaning and pressurisation of hydraulic systems of aircraft and helicopters on board INS Vikramaditya.
48. ▶ 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.
49. ▶ Indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) Astra successfully test fired by the Indian Air Force from Su-30 aircraft.
50. ▶ Indo-Mongolia joint exercise Nomadic Elephant-2018 held in Ullanbaatar (Mongolia).
51. ▶ 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.
52. ▶ Israeli Navy will procure multi-purpose Barak 8 missile defence system, jointly developed by India and Israel.
 - ▶ Barak-8 (Lightning 8 in Hebrew), also known as also known as LR-SAM / MR-SAM. Its Features include maximum speed of Mach 2 with maximum operational range of 70 km (increased to 100 km now).
 - ▶ It has dual pulse rocket motor and Thrust vector control and possesses high degrees of maneuverability at target interception range.
53. ▶ Joint exercise of India and Vietnam, named *Sahyog-Hop Tac 2018* began off Chennai coast.
54. ▶ 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.
55. ▶ National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) will raise 4 more battalions (adding to existing 12), to be stationed in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and NCR Delhi.
56. ▶ Next edition of Aero India will be held in Bengaluru (Karnataka) in February 2019, as a five-day event with major trade exhibition for the aerospace and defence industries with public air shows.
57. ▶ Project Roshni by Indian Army is illuminating homes in remote villages of Jammu and Kashmir, distributing over 17000 solar lamps in remote areas.
58. ▶ SLINEX 2018, the joint Naval Exercise of India Sri Lanka navies held in Trincomalee.
59. ▶ Southern Naval Command Operation *Madad* for assisting the state administration and undertaking disaster relief operations in Kerala, after unprecedented flooding in many parts of state. Indian Army also launched Operation Sahyog for helping distressed people in Kerala.
60. ▶ USA based Aerospace firm Lockheed Martin announced that wings of its F-16 fighter jets will be produced in India, under an agreement with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL).

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