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2021 Defence

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2021 Defence - January

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Sea Vigil-21	Conducted along the entire 7516 Km coastline & Exclusive Economic Zone of India	The Second Edition of the Biennial Pan-India, Largest Coastal Defence Exercise 'Sea Vigil-21' coordinated by Indian Navy took place from January 12-13, 2021. It was conducted along the entire 7516 Km coastline & Exclusive Economic Zone of India. The Defence Exercise involved 13 Coastal States/Union Territories. It also included the fishing and coastal communities. The exercise was conducted to assess the Strengths and Weaknesses of India's Coastal Defence & Maritime Security.
Exercise Desert Knight-21 (Ex DK-21)	Air Force Station, Jodhpur & India and French	Indian Air Force (IAF) and French Air and Space Force (FASF) participated in the 1st Edition of Bilateral Air Exercise 'Exercise Desert Knight-21 (Ex DK-21)' held at Air Force Station, Jodhpur for 5 days from January 20-24, 2021. The Bilateral 1st of its kind exercise involved the participation of Rafale fighter jets from both sides. India & France are also jointly set to conduct wargames codenamed Exercise SKYROS in January at Jodhpur.
AMPHEX-21	Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands	Indian Navy conducted a Joint Tri-Service Amphibious Military Exercise 'AMPHEX-21' in Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands from January 21-25, 2021. Defence Exercise 'KAVACH' for defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands was also a part of AMPHEX-21 exercise. KAVACH took place in Andaman Sea & Bay of Bengal under the command of Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC), which is the sole Joint Services Command of the Country.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
Kalam-5	Private Test Facility at Nagpur, Maharashtra	Skyroot Aerospace, an Indian Space Startup successfully test fired a solid propulsion rocket engine named 'Kalam-5' from a Private Test Facility at Nagpur, Maharashtra. It is the 1st Private company of India to successfully design, develop & test a full solid-fuel rocket stage.
Fatah-1	-	Pakistan successfully Test-Fired its indigenous 'Fatah-1' - Guided Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS) which has capability of precision target engagement deep into the enemy territories. The guided MLRS is capable of hitting

		targets without leaving behind the unexploded ordnance. It is a variant of the guided MLRS family which has an extended range of up to 150 kms.
Shaheen-III	-	Pakistan successfully Test Fired a Nuclear-Capable Surface-to-Surface 'Shaheen-III' Ballistic Missile. The Missile has a range of 2, 750 Kms and is the Longest-range missile developed in Pakistan. This is the 2nd Test of the Missile, the First Test was carried out in March, 2015. On January 7, 2021 Pakistan successfully test fired the Indigenous 'Fatah-1' – Guided Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS).
Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)	Coast of Odisha	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) successfully Test Fired the Indigenous Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW) from the Hawk-i aircraft close to the coast of Odisha. It is the 1st Smart Weapon to be fired from an Indian Hawk-Mk132. It has been developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) under HAL's Hawk-i Program. SAAW is a precision strike weapon of 125 kg category, it has a range of 100 kms.
Akash-NG	Integrated Test Range of Balasore, off the coast of Odisha	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the maiden launch of Akash-NG (New Generation) Surface to Air Missile (SAM) from Integrated Test Range of Balasore, off the coast of Odisha, along with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL). It has strike range of 30 km. It was developed by the DRDO laboratory, Research Centre Imarat (RCI) 96% indigenous content. It has been developed for the Indian Air Force (IAF) use with an aim of intercepting high maneuvering low Radar cross-section (RCS) aerial threats.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

DRDO, Indian Navy Conduct Maiden Trial of First Air-Droppable Container 'SAHAYAK-NG'

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) & Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' which is India's 1st indigenously designed and developed Air Droppable Container. It was dropped from IL 38SD aircraft of the Indian Navy at Goa.

GRSE Delivers 8th & Final Ship of MK IV class 'IN LCU L-58' to Indian Navy

On December 31, 2020, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal delivered the Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK IV class vessel 'IN LCU L-58' (Yard 2099) to the Indian Navy (IN). The ship will serve in the Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC), which is India's 1st & only tri-service command. LCU L-58 is the final ship in the series of 8 LCUs being manufactured by GRSE for the Indian Navy.

Harsh Vardhan Inaugurates Coastal Research Vessel 'Sagar Anveshika' at Chennai Port

Union Minister for Earth Sciences, Harsh Vardhan launched Coastal Research Vehicle (CRV) 'Sagar Anveshika' at the Chennai Port. The vehicle will be used to carry out environment indexing and bathymetric (mapping underwater features) in both coastal and offshore waters. It will be used for research purposes by National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and has been built by Titagarh Wagons, Kolkata, West Bengal.

CVRDE Develops Retractable Landing Gear Systems for Tapas & SWiFT UAVs

Retractable Landing Gear (RLG) Systems Indigenously developed by Combat Vehicles Research and Development of Establishment (CVRDE) (An DRDO Lab) for TAPAS (Tactical Airborne Platform for Aerial Surveillance-Beyond Horizon-201 or Tapas BH-201 also known as Rustom-II) & SWiFT (Stealth Wing Flying Testbed) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) was handed over to Dr. S. Venugopal, Director of Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru, Karnataka. The systems were handed over by V. Balamurugan, Director of CVRDE, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

DRDO & Indian Army Developed India's 1st Indigenous Machine Pistol ASMI

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune (Maharashtra) in collaboration with the Indian Army's Infantry School, Mhow has developed India's first indigenous 9mm machine pistol ASMI. It will replace the 9mm pistols used by defence forces. Notably it has been developed by a young officer 'Lt Col Prasad Bansod' from Infantry School.

Indian Army signs Contract with ideaForge to Procure SWITCH UAVs

Indian Army has signed USD 20 Million (~ INR 140 Crores) contracts with idea-Forge to procure unmentioned numbers of high-altitude variant of Indigenous SWITCH UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) over a period of 1 year. SWITCH is a Fixed-Wing-Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) UAV and is capable of being deployed at high altitude and harsh environments. It will serve the purpose of Surveillance, Reconnaissance missions of the Indian Army in its borders.

India to Procure 21 MiG-29 Fighter Jets and 12 Sukhoi-30 MKI Aircrafts from Russia

Indian Government is set to procure 21 MiG(Mikoyan-Gurevich),29 fighter jets and 12 Sukhoi(Su)-30 MKI(Modernizirovannyi, Kommercheskiy, Indiski) aircrafts from Russia. In addition to this, existing 59 MiG-29 aircrafts will also be upgraded.The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the 21 MiG-29 will shortly be issued to Russian state-run defence export arm,'Rosoboronexport'.

Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft (IN FAC) T-81 Decommissioned

Indian Naval Fast Attack Craft (IN FAC) T-81 of the Super Dvora MK II class was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The 25 meters long vessel with 60 tonnes displacement has served India for more than 20 years. Rear Admiral V Srinivas, Flag Officer Commanding Maharashtra Naval Area was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

2021 Defence - February

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Yudh Abhyas 20	India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan, India and the United States (US)	The 16th edition of an annual joint military exercise between India and the United States (US), "Yudh Abhyas 20" was initiated as a part of defence cooperation at the Mahajan Field Firing Range (MFFR), near the India-Pakistan border in Rajasthan on February 8, 2021. The Indian side is represented by the 11th Battalion of Jammu and Kashmir Rifles.
Biennial Military Exercise – 'Aero India 2021: A Big	Yelahanka Air Force Base, Bengaluru, Karnataka	The 13th Edition of the Biennial Military Exercise – 'Aero India 2021: A Big Step

Step Towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat'		Towards Aatmanirbhar Bharat' took place at the Yelahanka Air Force Base, Bengaluru, Karnataka from February 3-5, 2021. It was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. Aero India 2021 was centered on the theme 'Conceive, Indigenize, Collaborate'. Click here
Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21)	-	Indian Navy's Largest War Game – the Biennial 'Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX 21)' is currently taking place at the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Operational assets of the Indian Navy as well as Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard were participating in the Exercise.
'PASSEX' (Passage Exercise)	Arabian Sea, India & Indonesia	Indian Navy conducted a Bilateral Military Exercise 'PASSEX' (Passage Exercise) with the Indonesian Navy in the Arabian Sea. The main aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability & strengthen the Bilateral Maritime Cooperation between the two navies. Indian Navy Ship INS Talwar & Indonesian Navy's multirole Corvette KRI Bung Tomo participated in the exercise. Indian Navy undertook a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR) from December 4-5, 2020.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
Combat Kh35E anti-ship missile	Indian Ocean Region (IOR)	Indian Navy's long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft, Ilyushin 38SD successfully fired 'Combat Kh35E' anti-ship missile during the Theatre level Readiness and Operational Exercise 2021 (TROPEX-21) being carried out in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). TROPEX-21 is a Biennial exercise which aims to test the combat readiness of the Navy with the assets of the Air Force, Army & Coast Guard. The IL38SD is a maritime patrol & anti-submarine aircraft developed by Soviet Union.
Ghaznavi (Hatf-III)	-	Pakistan's Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) successfully Test Fired the Nuclear-Capable Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile 'Ghaznavi (Hatf-III)'. Ghaznavi has a range of 290 Kms & can carry both Nuclear & Conventional Warheads. It was launched by ASFC as part of its Annual Field Training Exercise. It is a Hypersonic Missile developed by National Development Complex (NDC), Pakistan.
Babur		On February 11, 2021, Pakistan successfully test-fired a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile namely "Babur" from a state-of-the-art Multi Tube Missile Launch

	-	Vehicle. The missile is capable of hitting land and sea targets with a range of 450 Kilometer & has a high precision up to 490 kilometers (about 280 miles) away.
HELINA & Dhruvastra	Pokhran, Rajasthan	DRDO (Defence Research & Development Organization) successfully conducted the trials of HELINA (Helicopter Launched Nag) (Army version) & Dhruvastra (Air Force Version) of the Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) from Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) platform in Pokhran, Rajasthan. The Missiles have been developed indigenously by DRDO.
VL-SRSAM	Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha	Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted 2 launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Odisha. This is the maiden launch of the missile system. The missile has been indigenously designed and developed by DRDO for Indian Navy. It has a Strike Range of 40-50 kms. Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated DRDO Skill Development Centre (SDC) for Fire Safety Training at Pilkhuwa, Uttar Pradesh. It is a first-of-its-kind facility in India.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

Indian Navy Ship 'Pralaya' participates in NAVDEX-21 & IDEX-21 held at Abu Dhabi, UAE

Indian Navy Ship (INS) 'Pralaya' participated in NAVDEX 21 (Naval Defence Exhibition) & IDEX 21 (International Defence Exhibition) held at Abu Dhabi, UAE (United Arab Emirates) from February 20-25, 2021. Participation of INS Pralaya in NAVDEX 21. Middle-East Region's leading naval defence & maritime security exhibition & IDEX 21, the only International Defence Exhibition and conference in the MENA (Middle East & North Africa) region showcases the close relations between UAE & India.

Third Batch of 3 Rafale Aircraft From France Landed At an IAF Base

On 27th January 2021, The 3rd batch of 3 Rafale Aircrafts which got airborne from Istres Air Base, France landed at an Indian Air Force Base, India. The non-stop flight for 7000 km was supported by the inflight refuelling by Multi Role Tanker Transport (MRTT), UAE Air Force. The Rafale jets are manufactured by French aerospace major Dassault Aviation. This is India's 1st major acquisition of fighter planes in 23 years after the Sukhoi jets from Russia.

HAL to Launch Tejas Mark II in 2022; High-speed trials to be conducted in 2023

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is planning to launch the Indigenous Tejas Mark II Multirole Combat Jet in August-September of 2022. The 1st high-speed trial of the jet will be started in 2023 and productions are expected to begin in 2025. The new version of Tejas will have Bigger fuselage, longer range, better maintainability, greater load carrying capability, stronger engine power & superior net-centric warfare systems.

AEPL Enters into a Framework Agreement with MiG For Post-Warranty Support to Indian Navy fighter Jets

Aviatech Enterprises Pvt Ltd (AEPL), a part of Crown group company which deals defence aerospace maintenance, entered into a 'framework agreement' with Russian Aircraft Corporation (RAC) MiG. to provide post-warranty product support to Mikoyan-Gurevich (MiG)-29K and MiG-29KUB fighter

jets. The group has also signed a MoU with Russian company United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC) for maintenance and servicing of Indian Navy ships.

Supreme Court stays dismantling of India's first aircraft carrier INS Viraat

Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice of India (CJI) S A Bobde stayed dismantling of the decommissioned India's first aircraft carrier INS Viraat (world's longest-serving warship), was purchased by Shree Ram Group for a sum of ₹38.54 crore at an auction conducted by the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation Limited in July 2020 and was proposed to preserve it as a maritime museum. This aircraft carrier was inducted into the Indian Navy in 1987 and decommissioned in 2017.

BHEL bags order to Supply Super Rapid Gun Mounts for Indian Navy frontline ships

On February 11, 2021, an Indian Navy has placed an order with engineering firm BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited) under which the latter will supply two Super Rapid Gun Mounts (SRGM) to the former. These are the main guns standardised for all Warships of the Indian Navy. These guns are being manufactured with the aim of making defence industry self-reliant on the lines of Atmanirbhar Abhiyan.

Indian Navy signs Contract with Titagarh Wagon for Constructing 5 DSCs

On February 12, 2021, Indian Navy signed a contract for construction of 5 Diving Support Crafts (DSCs) with Titagarh Wagons Ltd, Kolkata (West Bengal) under the 'Make in India' initiative of Government of India. The value of order is about Rs.174.76 crore only. As per the contract, the DSC has to be supplied within 30 months approximately.

MDL delivers 'INS Karanj' – India's 3rd Kalvari-Class Submarine to Indian Navy

On February 15, 2021, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) delivered the Third of Six Kalvari-class submarines based on 'Scorpene Class' to the Indian Navy at Mumbai, Maharashtra. The submarine will be commissioned into the Indian Navy in March, 2021 as 'INS Karanj'. The submarine has been designed by French company 'The Naval Group' (formerly known as DCNS) & constructed in MDL, Mumbai under Project 75 (P-75).

L&T delivers 100th & Final K-9 Vajra Howitzer Gun to Indian Army

On February 18, 2021, Larsen & Toubro (L&T) delivered the 100th & Final K-9 Vajra-T 155 mm/52 calibre self-propelled Howitzer guns to the Indian army from L&T's Armoured Systems Complex (ASC) situated at Hazira near Surat, Gujarat. The K-9 Vajra was flagged off by Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane. K-9 Vajra has a range of 38 kms and is an indigenized version of K-9 Thunder of South Korea. The Howitzers have been produced by L&T with technology transfer from South Korean defence major Hanwha Defense.

Indian Coast Guard's C-453 Interceptor Boat Commissioned at Chennai

Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) C-453 Interceptor Boat was commissioned in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. C-453 is the 17th of 18 Interceptor Boats which are being indigenously built by Larsen & Toubro Ltd. The ship was commissioned by Leena Nanda, Secretary, Department of Consumer Affairs. It will be commanded by Assistant Commandant Animesh Sharma and will be based at Chennai under Coast Guard Region (East).

Israel, US commence works to develop 'Arrow-4' – Air Defense System Missile

Israel Missile Defense Organisation & United States Missile Defense Agency have commenced work on the development of 'Arrow-4' anti-ballistic missiles which will be part of Israel's multi-layered Ballistic Missile Shield. Missile Defence/shield is a system, weapon, or technology which is used for

detecting, tracking, intercepting & destroying incoming attack missiles (Ballistic Missiles & other short tactical missiles) in the atmosphere and in space.

India to start trials of Astra Mark2 BVRAAM Missile in 2021

India is set to begin the trials of Astra Mk2 Missile in 2021. Astra Mark2 is a Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) which has a strike range of 160 kms. It is capable of flying at a speed of Mach 4.5, and is set to be integrated into the indigenous LCA Tejas. The missile will be fully developed by the end of 2022.

Defence Acquisition Council approves Procurement worth INR 13, 700 Crore

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved 3 Acceptance of Necessities (AoNs) worth INR 13, 700 Crore for procurement of various weapons/platforms/equipment/systems for the Indian Army, Indian Navy & Indian Air Force. All 3 AoNs have been placed under the 'Buy [Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)]' Category of India's new Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

Cochin Shipyard bags Indian Navy order for 6 Next Generation Missile Vessels

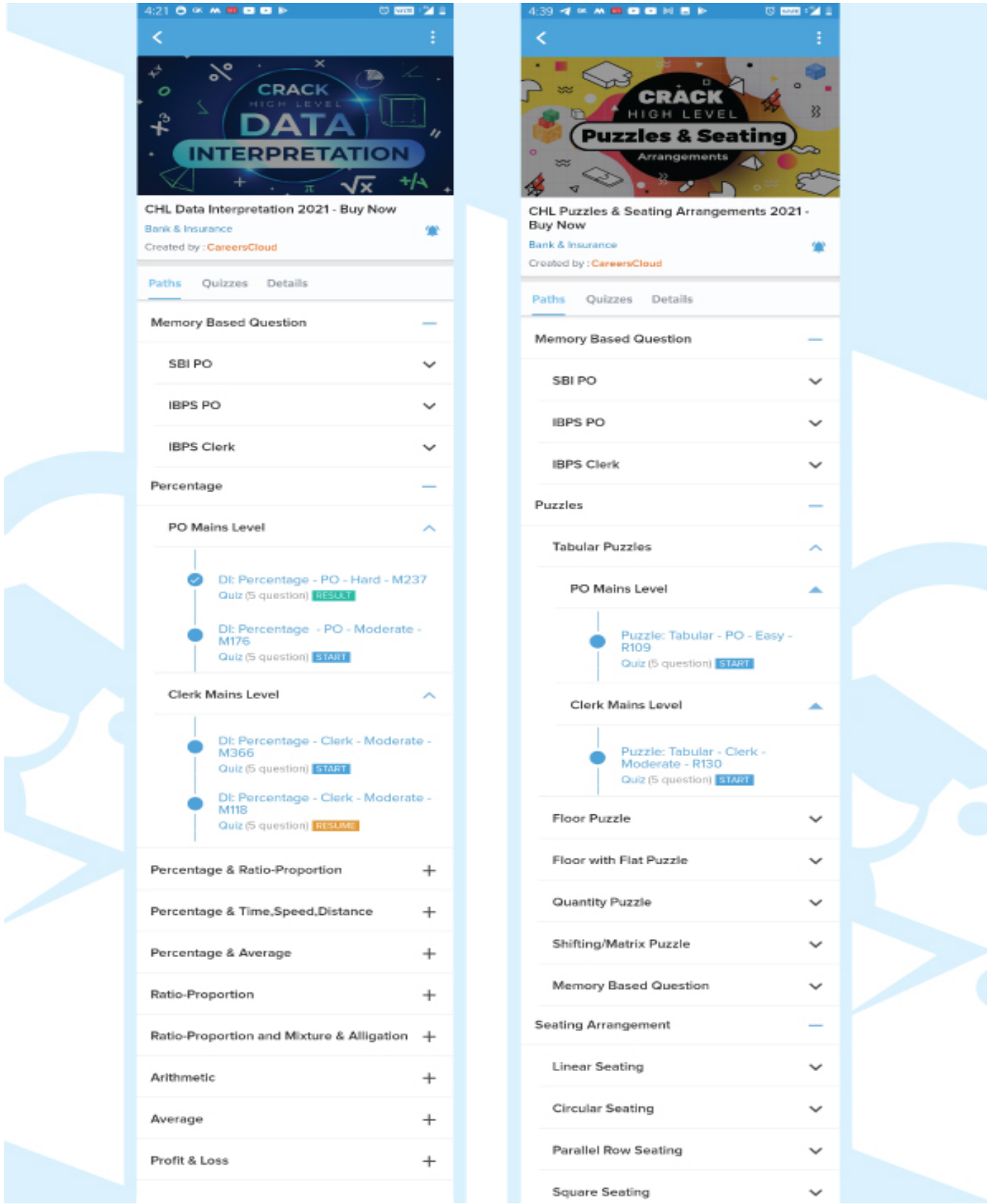
Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) emerged as the Lowest Bidder in a tender floated by the Ministry of Defence for construction of 6 Next-Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV) to be utilized by the Indian Navy. The order is estimated to be around INR 10, 000 Crore. NGMVs are a planned class of anti-surface warfare corvettes for the Indian Navy. At Present, CSL is also building India's First Indigenous Aircraft Carrier called 'INS Vikrant' (also known as Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 1 (IAC-1)).

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2021 Defence – March

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Desert Flag VI	Al-Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates(UAE)	For the First Time, Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the Annual Multinational Large force employment warfare exercise 'Desert Flag VI' held at the Al-Dhafra Air Base, United Arab Emirates(UAE). The exercise is hosted by the UAE Air Force from March 3-27, 2021. It is the 1st time that IAF is participating in a multilateral exercise in the Gulf Region.
DUSTLIK-II	Chaubatia, near Ranikhet, Uttarakhand, Indian Army & Uzbekistan Army	The 2nd Edition of Annual Bilateral Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK-II' between the Indian Army & Uzbekistan Army is being held from March 10-19, 2021 at Chaubatia, near Ranikhet, Uttarakhand. The exercise focused on Counter Insurgency (CI) & Counter-Terrorism (CT) skills of both sides. The 1st Edition of 'Dustlik-I' was hosted by Uzbekistan in Chirchiq Training Area near Tashkent from November 4-13, 2019.
AsterX	Space	On 8th March, 2021 France started its 5-day long 1st Military Exercise in Space, "AsterX" to analyse its ability against attacks on its Satellites & other defence equipment. The exercise was named on the memory of its Astérix, the 1st satellite launched in 1965. Alongside the French Space Forces Command, the new US Space Force and German space agencies also participated in the space exercise. AsterX" is the 1st Space Military Exercise of France & also the 1st among European Countries.
Passage Exercise (PASSEX)	Persian Gulf, India- Bahrain	On March 17, 2021, the Indian Navy & Royal Bahrain Naval Force (RBNF) undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Persian Gulf under Operation Sankalp. From India's side 'INS Talwar' Warship took place in the exercise, while the RBNF was represented by the Corvette 'Al Muharraq'. It aims to enhance interoperability, strengthen Maritime cooperation, Reassure safety of Diaspora.
Pabbi-Antiterror-2021	India, Pakistan, China & other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)	India, Pakistan, China & other members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will take part in a Joint Anti-Terrorism Exercise called 'Pabbi-Antiterror-2021' scheduled to take place in 2021. The decision to hold a Joint

		Anti-Terrorism exercise was taken during the 36th meeting of the Council of RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure) of SCO held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on March 18, 2021. RATS, headquartered in Tashkent is a permanent organ of SCO.
Passage Exercise PASSEX	India & Madagascar	On March 24, 2021, the 1st ever Joint Naval Patrol took place between the navies of India & Madagascar at Madagascar's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). To ensure maritime security in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). On March 11, 2021, The PASSEX exercise between India & Bangladesh was conducted at the end of the 3-day visit by Indian Navy vessels to the Mongla port in Bangladesh. From the Indian side INS Shardul, an amphibious warfare vessel participated in the Defence Exercise; From Madagascar's side, Malagasy Naval Ship 'Trozona' took part.
Passage Exercise 'PASSEX'	Bay of Bengal, The navies of India & United States	The navies of India & United States conducted a 2-day Passage Exercise 'PASSEX' in Bay of Bengal (Eastern Indian Ocean Region) from March 28-29, 2021. For the 1st time, Indian Air Force (IAF) fighters also took part in the exercise. Indian Navy deployed its warship 'Shivalik' & Long-range maritime patrol aircraft P8I in the 'PASSEX' exercise. The US navy was represented by USS Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
'Starship SN10' prototype rocket	-	SpaceX successfully tested its 'Starship SN10' prototype rocket after two failed attempts. The rocket successfully up to an altitude of 10,000 Kms & safely landed back on the ground, but exploded six minutes after the landing. The test launch was considered successful as the Starship prototype successfully landed after attempting the belly-flop maneuver (a type of free fall in which the atmosphere gradually slows down its speed). Starship is being developed by SpaceX to get people & payloads to moon, Mars & other distant destinations.
Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology	Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur in Balasore, Odisha	On March 5, 2021, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted the flight demonstration of Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) technology from Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur in Balasore, Odisha. With this test, DRDO achieved a technological advantage of developing long range air-to-air missiles (AAMs) with SFDR.

Shaheen 1-A	-	On March 26, 2021, Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of 'Shaheen 1-A' (Hatf IV) a Nuclear capable Surface-to-Surface ballistic missile. It has a range of 900 Kilometres. The test was aimed at re-validating various design and technical parameters of the weapon system including the Advanced Navigation System. The missile is jointly designed and developed by the Joint venture of NESCOM (National Engineering & Scientific Commission) & the National Defence Complex (NDC).
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DEALS & MoU's

MoD, BDL sign deal for supply of 4, 960 MILAN-2T ATGMs to Indian Army

Acquisition wing of Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed INR 1, 188 Crore deal with Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) for acquiring 4, 960 MILAN-2T Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) for the Indian Army. The deal will boost the 'Make in India' initiative of the Indian Government. The induction of 4, 960 tanks is expected to be completed in three years. MILAN-2T missiles have a range of 1, 850 meters. They are capable of being fired from ground as well as vehicle-based launchers.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

IAF gifts 1971 war helicopter to Bangladesh: Golden Jubilee of 1971 war

In order to mark the Golden Jubilee of 1971 War of Liberation, IAF (Indian Air Force) Chief RKS Bhadauria gifted a Legacy Alouette III Helicopter to Bangladesh Air Force (BAF), in return BAF gifted a legacy F-86 Sabre aircraft to the IAF. The exchange of aircraft took place in Dhaka during RKS Bhadauria's 4-day visit to Bangladesh in February, 2021. Both Legacy gifts will be placed in museums of both countries.

Indian Army Leases 4 Heron UAVs from Israel

Indian Army has leased 4 Heron TP medium-altitude, long-endurance (MALE) Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) from Israel for 3 years. The leases were done under the emergency procurement programme of the Indian army. The drones made by Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) will be delivered between August & September 2021. The estimated cost of Leasing is USD 200 Million; the leasing agreement can be further extended up to 2 years.

Indian Navy Signed a Contract with 'Suryadipta Projects' for Constructing 11 ACTCM Barges

On March 5th, 2021 the Indian Navy signed a contract for the construction of 11 Ammunition-Cum-Torpedo-Cum-Missile (ACTCM) barges, with Thane based MSME Suryadipta Projects Private Limited. The MSME will start delivering the barges from 22nd May, 2021. Assigning of this project to a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) marks another milestone to Indian Government's Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiative.

INS Karanj, India's 3rd Scorpene Class Submarine Commissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai

On 10th March 2021, the Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karanj, India's 3rd Scorpene class submarine was commissioned into the India Navy at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Ship was commissioned in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh and Navy Chief Admiral (Retired) VS Shekhawat, the commanding officer of earlier INS Karanj (1971 Indo Pak War). INS Karanj, a class of diesel-electric attack submarines designed by the Naval Group of France, was constructed at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited under the Make in Indian Program.

Indian Navy Deploys Women Officers On Warship After 23 Years

On 8th March 2021, International Women's Day, For the first time in 23 years since 1998, the Indian Navy has deployed 4 women officers onboard its warships. 2 of the 4 officers were posted on the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya and the other 2 were deployed on the tanker ship INS Shakti. Recently Indian Navy has posted Lieutenant Commander Karabi Gogoi as the first women defence attach abroad in Moscow, Russia.

India successfully conducts Maiden flight trial of Indigenous Torpedo 'Shyena'

On March 8, 2021, the maiden flight trials of the indigenously developed 'Advanced Light Torpedo (TAL) Shyena' was conducted successfully, it was fired from Indian Navy's Ilyushin Il-38 Patrol Aircraft. TAL Sheyna is an anti-submarine torpedo developed by the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory (NSTL), a lab of the Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). The trial was the first of its kind in India, as 'TAL Shyena' was fired from a fixed-wing aircraft.

DRDO successfully developed the Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) System

On March 10 2021, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was achieved in the development of Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) by proving the land-based prototype. Naval Materials Research Laboratory (NMRL), an Indian defence laboratory of DRDO has developed this system. Air Independent Propulsion (AIP) has a force multiplier effect on the lethality of a diesel-electric submarine and it will enhance the power to the submerged durability of the boat when compared to other technologies.

INS Jalashwa reaches Comoros to deliver 1,000 tonnes of rice: Mission Sagar-IV

On 14 March 2021, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Jalashwa, the largest amphibious ship of Indian Navy reached Port Anjouan, Comoros to deliver 1,000 Metric Tonnes of rice as part of Mission Sagar-IV. Mission Sagar was India's initiative to deliver Covid-19 related assistance to the countries in the Indian Ocean region, which was launched on 10 May 2020.

The capital and currency of Comoros is Moroni and Comorian franc respectively.

India commissions 'INS Dhruv' Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel; Becomes 5th Country in the World

India commissioned its Ocean Surveillance & Nuclear Missile Tracking Vessel called 'INS Dhruv' (codenamed as VC 11184) and became the 5th country after USA, France, Russia & China to possess such a Tracking vessel. It was constructed at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd, Visakhapatnam under the Make in India initiative at a cost of INR 725 Crores. It is one of the Largest Warships to be built at an Indian Yard. Developed by Joint Crew of National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Navy.

MoD signs contract with MDSL for supply of 1, 300 Armored Light Specialist Vehicles to Indian Army

Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract worth INR 1, 056 Crore with Mahindra Defence Systems Ltd (MDSL) for supply of 1, 300 Armored Light Specialist Vehicles (ALSV) to Indian Army. The Light Specialist Vehicle will be indigenously designed and developed by MDSL. The induction of 1, 300 ALSV is expected to be completed in 4 years. It is the 1st major contract for an ALSV that was designed and developed completely by the private sector in India with Intellectual Property Rights within India.

Indian Army decommissions 2 Artillery: 130mm Self-propelled Guns & 160mm Mortars

On 16th March 2021, Indian Army decommissioned 2 of its longest serving Artillery – 130mm Self Propelled M-46 Catapult Guns and the 160mm Tampella Mortars, after making a customary firing of their last salvos in Mahajan Field Firing Range. The decommissioning event saw the presence of

Director General Artillery, Lieutenant General K Ravi Prasad. It is a hybrid Self-propelled gun developed by DRDO, by merging 2 existing weapons systems – India's Vijayanta tank & Russian 130mm M-46 field gun.

KRAS begins Delivery of MRSAM Missile kits to Indian Armed Forces

Kalyani Rafael Advanced System (KRAS), a joint venture of India's Kalyani Strategic Systems (KSSL) and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense System has started the delivery of BARAK-8 Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) kits to the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. The kits will be delivered from the Hyderabad plant of KRAS. Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is the custodian of the missile programme & Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) the integrator. Designed by RAFAEL Advanced Defense Systems Ltd (100% Rafael design output & Indigenous content less than 30%).

Indigenously Built Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility 'L58' Commissioned at Port Blair

On March 18, 2021, Indian Naval Landing Craft Utility (LCU) 'L58', the 8th and last ship of the LCU Mark IV Class was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The L58 (amphibious ship) has been indigenously designed and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata. LCU 58 will be based at Port Blair and will be under the command of Andaman & Nicobar Command (which is the sole Joint Services Command of India).

10 tonnes Unexploded Ordnance Safely disposed under "Operation Thiruvallur"

Indian Army's Southern Command Troops, Pune launched "Operation Thiruvallur" in Tamil Nadu (TN) to safely dispose of around 10 tonnes of unexploded ordnance collected by factories. The Ministry of Defence has directed the Indian Army for conducting the operation under the aegis of "Aid to Civil Authorities". The ordnance was collected from the State Industries Promotion Corporation of Tamil Nadu (SIPCOT) Industrial Estate in Gummidipoondi, Thiruvallur district, TN.

ICGS OPV 'Vajra' commissioned into service at Kattupalli, Chennai

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Vajra' (meaning Thunderbolt), the 6th Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) was formally commissioned into service at Kattupalli in Chennai. It has been indigenously designed and built by L&T Shipbuilding Ltd under the 'Make in India' initiative. ICGS Vajra will be commanded by Deputy Inspector Alex Thomas and will be based at Tuticorin under the operational control of Coast Guard Eastern Region. 'Vajra' is the 6th OPV in the series of 7 OPV. The contract was awarded by the Ministry of Defence to L&T Shipbuilding Ltd.

North Korea fires 2 Ballistic Missiles in Sea

On 24th March, 2021 the United States and Japan announced the firing of 2 Ballistic Missiles by the North Korean military into the Sea. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has banned North Korea from testing ballistic missiles & holding Nuclear programs. North Korea also fired 2 Non-ballistic missiles in the Yellow Sea in March.

2021 Defence – April

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Vajra Prahar 2021	Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh, India & United States	11th Edition of the India-US Special Forces Exercise 'Vajra Prahar 2021' was conducted at Special Forces Training School at Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh in March, 2021. The main objective of the exercise is to enhance interoperability between the Special Forces of the two countries. The navies of India & United States conducted a 2-day Passage Exercise 'PASSEX' in Bay of Bengal (Eastern Indian Ocean Region) from March 28-29, 2021.
La Perouse	Eastern Indian Ocean Region, India, US, Japan and Australia	Navies of India & Three other QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) countries namely US, Japan and Australia participated in the Multilateral French Maritime Exercise 'La Perouse'. The Exercise took place in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region and was led by the French Navy. It is the 1st time ever that Indian Navy assets are participating in the French defence exercise.
Shantir Ogroshena 2021	Bangabandhu Senanibas (BBS), Bangladesh	Indian Army participated in the Multinational Military Exercise 'Shantir Ogroshena 2021' (Front Runner of Peace) held at Bangabandhu Senanibas (BBS), Bangladesh from April 4-12, 2021. It is an UN-mandated Counterterrorism exercise. Theme – 'Robust Peacekeeping Operations'. It aims to strengthen the procedures and enhance interoperability among neighbourhood countries. The exercise was held to mark the Birth Centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who is the 'Father of the Nation' of Bangladesh.
Khanjar	Kyrgyzstan	8th Edition of India-Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Force Military Exercise, 'Khanjar' was inaugurated on April 16, 2021. The exercise is taking place at the Special Forces Brigade of National Guards of Kyrgyz Republic in Bishkek, Capital of Kyrgyzstan. The 2-week Long exercise will focus on aspects like high-altitude, mountains and counter-extremism. 'Khanjar' exercise has been held annually between the two countries since 2011, it intends to boost the strategic partnership between India & Kyrgyz Republic.

VARUNA-2021	Arabian Sea, Indian and French Navy	19th Edition of the Indian and French Navy Bilateral Exercise 'VARUNA-2021' took place in the Arabian Sea from April 25-27, 2021. Indian side was led by Rear Admiral Ajay Kochhar, while the french side was led by Rear Admiral Marc Aussedat, Commander Task Force 473. Japan is set to conduct Joint Military Drill with US & French troops in Japan's Southwest region from May 11-17, 2021. It will be the 1st large-scale exercise in Japan involving ground troops from all three countries.
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TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
Python-5 Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (AAM)	Goa	Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully conducted the Maiden trial of 5th Generation Python-5 Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) in Goa. The missile would add to the air-to-air combat capability of India's Indigenous LCA Tejas (Light Combat Aircraft). Python-5 Missile is an infra-red guided missile manufactured by Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, Israel and has a range of 20 km. Both missiles were fired from Tejas aircraft of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA).

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

Indian Navy's INAS 310 celebrates Diamond Jubilee

Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 310, popularly known as the 'Cobras' celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 21st March 2021. The air squadron was commissioned in 1961 in France. It has been continuously serving Indian Navy from INS Hansa for the last 60 years. INAS 310, equipped with Surveillance & Electronic Warfare equipment continuously monitors Indian Coastline. INAS 310 has participated in Operation Vijay (1961), Indo-Pakistani War (1965), Indo-Pakistani War (1971), Operation Pawan (1987), Kargil War (1999) and Operation Parakram (2001-02).

Fourth batch of 3 Rafale Jets reached India

Indian Air Force (IAF) received the fourth batch of 3 Rafale fighter jets from France, raising the total fleet count to 14. Previously, India ordered 36 fighter jets from French aerospace major Dassault Aviation for a cost of Rs. 59,000 crores. The 1st batch of 5 Rafale jets reached India in July 2020. Notably, this is India's 1st major acquisition of fighter planes in the last 23 years, only after Russia's Sukhoi jets. The 1st Rafale squadron is under operation in the Ambala air force station.

Bharat Dynamics Ltd Starts Delivery of 'Akash Missile' to Indian Army

On April 1, 2021, Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL) started the delivery of the 'Akash Missile' (surface-to-air Missile System) to the Indian Army. The delivery was flagged off by Lt Gen A P Singh, Director General & Senior Colonel Commandant, Army Air Defence. BDL manufactures AKASH Missile for both the Indian Army and Indian Air Force. The Missile system has been designed and developed by DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) with 96% Indigenous content.

1st Unit of the Indigenously ALH MK-III Aircraft commissioned into Indian Navy

Indian Naval Air Squadron (INAS) 323, the 1st Unit of the Indigenously built ALH (Advanced Light Helicopter) Mk-III Aircraft was commissioned into the Indian Navy at INS Hansa, Goa. INAS 323 Squadron will comprise of 3 ALH Mk IIIs. It will be commanded by Commander Samik Nundy. The ALHs are designed and developed Indigenously by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Indian Army initiated wellness project in Ladakh

Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army initiated the “Ladakh Ignited Minds Project: A Centre of Excellence and Wellness” in Ladakh, in association with the partner Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) and executing agency National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO), a Kanpur based NGO. On 26th April 2021, The Fire and Fury Corps on behalf of the Indian Army signed some MoU with the HPCL and NIEDO in Leh.

2021 Defence – May

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
DEFENDER-Europe 21	US and NATO Countries	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) launched the Joint Multinational Military Exercise ‘DEFENDER-Europe 21’ in the port of Durres in Albania. DEFENDER-Europe 21’ is led by the United States (US). Duration - April 26, 2021 to June 10, 2021.
PASSEX	Southern Arabian sea, Indian and Indonesian Navies	Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Southern Arabian sea. Aim - To improve interoperability and understanding between the Navy units of two countries. Indian participants - Indian Navy, INS Sharda, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) with a Chetak helicopter. Indonesian participants - Indonesian Navy, KRI Sultan Hasanudin, a 90m Corvette took part in the exercise.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

Indian Navy Launches Operation Samudra Setu-II

Operation Samudra Setu-II - Shipment of Liquid oxygen-filled cryogenic containers & associated medical equipment to India from other countries.

- ❖ Indian Navy deployed 7 Indian Naval ships (INS) viz. INS Kolkata, INS Kochi, INS Talwar, INS Tabar, INS Trikand, INS Jalashwa and INS Airavat for this operation.

❖ It is part of the ongoing national mission for meeting Oxygen requirements in India.

Indian Navy hosts GMS-21 Virtually

Indian Navy hosted ‘**GOA MARITIME SYMPOSIUM(GMS)-21**’ virtually for 2 days, from 11th & 12th May 2021,

Theme for GMS-21 : “Maritime Security and Emerging Non-Traditional Threats: A Case for Proactive Role for IOR Navies”.

Participants - 13 Indian Ocean Littoral countries (India, Bangladesh, Comoros, Indonesia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Thailand).

BEML launches Minefield Marking Equipment for Indian Army

BEML Ltd (formerly known as Bharat Earth Movers Ltd) launched the first prototype of Mechanical Minefield Marking Equipment Mk-II (MMME Mk-II) for the Indian Army. The equipment has been built on BEML TATRA 6X6, ‘Atmanirbhar’ product.

It has been developed through Technology of Transfer (ToT) from Research & Development Establishment Engineers (R&DE Engineers), a lab of DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation).

Indian Navy’s 1st Destroyer ‘INS Rajput’ decommissioned after 41 years of Service

Indian Navy’s 1st destroyer **INS Rajput** was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, **Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh** after 41 years of service (commissioned on May 4, 1980). It was the 1st Indian Navy ship to be associated with an Indian Army Regiment – ‘Rajput regiment’, and the 1st ship to be fitted with anti-ship supersonic cruise missile ‘Brahmos’ in 2005.

The destroyer was built by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) under her Russian name ‘Nadezhny’ in Nikolaev, present-day Ukraine.

2021 Defence – June

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Indo-Thai CORPAT	Andaman Sea, Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy	31st Edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol Indo-Thai CORPAT , a Bi-Annual event between the Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy was conducted from June 9-11, 2021 in the Andaman Sea. From the Indian side, INS Saryu, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) took part in the exercise. The main purpose of the exercise is to keep the Indian Ocean safe and secure for International trade. It aims to consolidate interoperability between Indian Navy & the Royal Thai Navy.
Joint naval exercise	Indian Ocean, Indian Navy (IN) and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force	Indian Navy (IN) and Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) conducted a joint naval exercise at the Indian Ocean under the motive ‘Free and Open Indo-Pacific’(FOIP). The Indian side was represented by INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kulish (P63) while JS (Japanese Ship) Kashima (TV3508) and JS

		Setoyuki (TV3518) participated from the Japanese side.
Joint Naval Exercise	Gulf of Aden, Indian Navy (IN) & European Union Naval Force Somalia	The inauguration edition of the Joint Naval Exercise between Indian Navy (IN) & European Union Naval Force Somalia (EU NAVFOR also known as Operation Atalanta) took place at Gulf of Aden from June 18-19, 2021. From the Indian side, Indian Naval Ship Trikanth participated in the exercise. They are Italian Navy Ship ITS carabinieri, Spanish Navy Ship ESPS Navarra, and two French Navy Ship FS Tonnerre and FS Surcouf.
Passage Exercise (PASSEX)	Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy & United States (US) Navy	Indian Air Force (IAF) and Indian Navy participated in the two days Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with the United States (US) Navy during its asset transit through Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The exercise was carried out south of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on the western seaboard under the responsibility of the Southern Air Command. ✓ India was represented by Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kochi and INS Teg along with P8I and MiG 29K aircraft.
Joint Exercises	Indian Navy Ship Tabar, Africa and Europe	Indian Navy Ship (INS) Tabar has been deployed to participate in Russian Navy Day celebrations (from June 22-27, 2021) and joint exercises with friendly navies in Africa and Europe. INS Tabar started its journey on June 13, 2021 and will visit a number of places till September, 2021. It is also set to participate in bilateral exercises like Exercise Konkan with the UK, Exercise Varuna with French Navy, and Exercise Indra with Russian Navy.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
Airborne high-power laser weapon system	Mediterranean Sea	Military of Israel successfully tested an airborne high-power laser weapon system that can shoot down drones mid-air. It was developed by Elbit Systems. The test was conducted over the Mediterranean Sea by mounting the weapon on a civilian plane and resulted in successful shot down of several drones within a range of about 1 kilometer (0.6 mile). The weapon system is capable of intercepting rockets, mortar shells and UAVs, is expected to be in use by end of 2024.
Nirbhay	Odisha	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the nuclear capable subsonic cruise missile ' Nirbhay ' from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha. It is India's 1st indigenously developed cruise missile. 'Nirbhay' is designed and developed in India

		by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) which comes under DRDO.
Pinaka rocket & 122mm Caliber rocket	Odisha	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Extended range version of indigenously developed Pinaka rocket & Enhanced range versions of indigenously developed 122mm Caliber rocket from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha. Both rockets have been developed by Pune-based Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
Surface-to-Surface Missile 'Agni-P (Prime)	Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired the nuclear capable, Surface-to-Surface Missile 'Agni-P (Prime)' from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam island, Balasore, Odisha. Agni-P is a new generation advanced variant of the Agni class of missiles. It is a canisterised missile and has a range capability between 1,000 and 2,000 kms. The missile has been designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

DEALS & MoU's

DAC approves RFP for Constructing 6 Submarines & Rs 6,000 Crore for Air Defence Guns

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approves **Request For Proposal (RFP) for the construction of 6 Conventional Submarines** under Strategic Partnership Model at a cost of Rs. 43,000 crores and allocated Rs. 6,000 crores for modernization of Indian Army's Air Defence Guns and Ammunition under Buy & Make (India) category.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

Indian Navy decommissions Oldest Hydrographic Survey Ship – INS Sandhayak

Indian Navy decommissioned its **Oldest Hydrographic Survey Vessel, "INS Sandhayak"** at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam. The ship served the Indian Navy for 40 years, conducting over 200 Hydrographic surveys and as a part of other important missions of Indian Navy.

Sixth Batch of Rafale Fighter Aircraft Lands In India

The sixth batch of three Rafale fighter aircrafts have deployed in Hasimara, West Bengal. These aircrafts were developed by the France-based Dassault Aviation. India has ordered 36 of these planes from France in 2016.

Indian Navy receives 1st Set of 3 MH-60 Romeo Helicopters from the US in July

Indian Navy is set to receive the first set of 3 MH-60 Romeo helicopters, a multi-role helicopter from the United States of America (USA) in July 2021. MH-60 Romeo helicopters are equipped with multi-mode radars and night-vision devices along with Hellfire missiles, torpedoes, and precision-guided weaponry.

- ✓ India and the US have signed a deal of over **Rs 15,157 crore (2.13 billion USD) to procure 24 MH-60 Romeo helicopters** from Lockheed Martin in 2020.

Indian Navy Inducts 3 Indigenous ALH MK-III at INS Dega, Andhra Pradesh

Indian Navy inducted 3 Indigenous Advanced Light Helicopters (ALHs) into its Eastern Naval Command (ENC) during the '322 Dega Flight' induction ceremony held at INS Dega (Naval Air Station), Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

- ✓ The ALH Mk-III has been designed & built by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) as part of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative.

India's 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier to be Commissioned by 2022: Defence Minister

Union Minister for Defence Rajnath Singh has stated that India's 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) will be commissioned into Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command as 'INS Vikrant' by mid-2022. It is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The commissioning of INS Vikrant will enhance the combat capability, reach and versatility to India's defence.

- ✓ Rajnath Singh visited the Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka which is being developed under Project Seabird. The ongoing Phase-IIA of Project Seabird aims to make it the largest Naval base in Asia.

2021 Defence - July

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Military Exercise	East China Sea, Indian Navy & Republic of Korea Navy Ship	Indian Navy's indigenous ASW (Anti-submarine warfare) Corvette INS (Indian Naval Ship) Kiltan conducted a Navy Partnership Exercise in East China Sea with Republic of Korea Navy Ship (ROKS) Gyeongnam, a Daegu-class frigate. This military exercise is aimed at enhancing interoperability and exchange of best practices in the maritime domain.
Maritime Partnership Exercise	Tyrrhenian Sea, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar & ITS Antonio Marceglia	Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise with ITS Antonio Marceglia, a frontline frigate of the Italian Navy, on 4- 5 July in the Tyrrhenian Sea . They conducted a wide range of naval operations including - Air defence procedures, replenishment at sea, communication drills and cross deck helo operations by day and night.
Trilateral Tabletop Exercise 2021 (TTX-2021), 'Exercise Shield'	India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives	Defence Officials from India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives participated in a virtual Trilateral Tabletop Exercise 2021 (TTX-2021), 'Exercise Shield' on Maritime Security. TTX-2021 was organized by Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai from July 14-15, 2021. Enhancing mutual understanding, exchanging best practices & procedures for countering common transnational crimes like curbing narcotics and assistance in maritime search and rescue were discussed.
Bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX)	Bay of Bengal, Indian Navy & United Kingdom's (UK) Royal Navy	Indian Navy (IN) participated in a Bilateral Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with United Kingdom's (UK) Royal Navy in Bay of Bengal from July 21-22, 2021. The Maritime Exercise aimed at sharpening the ability of two navies to operate together in the maritime domain.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ IN ships Satpura, Ranvir, Jyoti, Kavaratti, Kulish and a submarine participated in the exercise from an Indian side. <p>The exercise covered a spectrum of maritime operations like Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Anti-Air and Anti-Surface warfare.</p>
Maritime Exercise	Bay of Biscay, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar & French Navy	In July 2021, Indian Naval Ship (INS) Tabar participated in a 2-day maritime exercise with French Navy on the Bay of Biscay. They conducted a wide range of exercises, including anti-submarine and air defence drills. From the French Navy side, 4 Rafale Fighter Aircrafts & NH 90 – a twin-engine helicopter participated in the exercise.
Exercise Cutlass Express 2021 (CE21)	East Coast of Africa	Indian Naval Ship (INS) Talwar visited Mombasa, Kenya to participate in Exercise Cutlass Express 2021 (CE21) . The Annual Maritime Exercise is to be conducted from 26 July, 2021 to 6th August, 2021 along the East Coast of Africa. The main objective of the exercise is to promote national and regional maritime security in East Africa and the Western Indian Ocean.
INDRA Navy-21	Baltic Sea, Indian Navy & Russian Federation Navy	12 th Edition of Biennial bilateral maritime Exercise ' INDRA Navy-21 ' was held between the Indian Navy & Russian Federation Navy in the Baltic Sea from July 28-29, 2021. Stealth Frigate INS Tabar represented the Indian Navy, while Corvettes RFS Zelyony Dol and RFS Odintsovo of the Baltic Fleet represented the Russian Federation Navy. The focus of exercise was on enhancing interoperability, understanding and procedures for various maritime operations.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
Zircon (also known as Tsirkon) Hypersonic Cruise Missile	White Sea	<p>Russia successfully test-fired the Zircon (also known as Tsirkon) Hypersonic Cruise Missile from Russian Navy's Admiral Gorshkov warship in White Sea. The missile successfully hit a target situated more than 350 Kms (217 miles) away.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Zircon meaning 'Invincible' is a winged, anti-ship hypersonic cruise missile. During the testing, the missile reached speeds of up to Mach 7.
S-500 Air Defence Missile Systems	Kapustin Yar Training ground, Russia	Russia successfully test-fired its new S-500 Air Defence Missile Systems in a Kapustin Yar Training ground, Russia.

		<p>The missile, considered as the most advanced anti-missile system, successfully hit a high-speed ballistic target. S-400 Triumf is a Long-range Surface-to-Air Missile Defence System.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ It is an interceptor-based missile system which can destroy incoming hostile aircraft, missiles, and drones at ranges of up to 600 kms. <p>It is manufactured by Almaz-Antey (Russian State-owned company).</p>
Surface-to-Air missile 'AKASH-NG' Missile	Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha	<p>Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO) successfully tested the New Generation (NG) Surface-to-Air missile 'AKASH-NG Missile for the Indian Air Force (IAF) & Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) for the Indian Army.</p> <p>The Akash-NG missile was flight tested from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha. While the MPATGM missile was launched from a man portable launcher.</p>

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

Indian Army names firing range in Gulmarg as 'Vidya Balan Firing Range'

Indian Army named a military firing range in Gulmarg, Jammu and Kashmir as "**Vidya Balan Firing Range**". This comes as a move to honour the veteran Bollywood actress Vidya Balan, for her varied accomplishments in the field of Cinema & as a woman. Notably, she was the only actor to join the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, the governing body behind the Oscars.

Indian Navy receives 10th P-8I Aircraft from Boeing

US-based Aerospace company Boeing has delivered the 10th P-8I Maritime Surveillance Aircraft (**Poseidon 8I**) to the Indian Navy at INS Hansa, Goa. It is the **2nd P-8I Aircraft** to be delivered by Boeing to Indian Navy under the Option Contract signed by the Ministry of Defence in 2016.

- ✓ P-8I is used for maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare. They are part of the 312A Naval Air Squadron and are based at Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu.

Indian Navy receives 1st Batch of MH-60R helicopters from US Navy

Indian Navy received the 1st batch of 2 MH-60R Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) from the United States (US) Navy during an event, which was attended by Taranjit Singh Sandhu – Indian Ambassador to US.

- ✓ India has ordered a total of 24 MH-60R Helicopters to the US government at an estimated cost of USD 2.4 billion. The Helicopters will be manufactured by Lockheed Martin.

OFT hands over 25 Indigenous SRCG Systems to Indian Navy & ICG

Ordnance Factory, Tiruchirappalli (OFT) handed over the 1st Batch of 25 Indigenously produced 12.7 mm **Stabilized Remote Control Gun (SRCG)** systems to the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard (ICG). C.S. Vishwakarma, Director-General of Ordnance Factories and Chairman of Ordnance Factory Board handed over the 1st batch to K.S.C. Iyer, Director-General of Naval Armament, Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, Navy (IHQ, MoD, Navy).

- ✓ 15 SRCG were handed over to the Indian Navy & 10 to ICG.
- ✓ SRCG has been assembled at OFT through Transfer of Technology (ToT) initiative with the support of Elbit Systems, Israel.

Rajnath Singh Flags in ARMEX-21 in New Delhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh flagged-in (ended) the **Indian Army Skiing Expedition 'ARMEX-21'** in New Delhi. The Expedition activity began at Karakoram Pass in Ladakh on March 10, 2021 and ended at Malari, Uttarakhand on July 06, 2021, covering 1,660 kms. The expedition was conducted to promote adventure activity in India. It was led by Major AK Singh.

2021 Defence – August

EXERCISE

EXERCISE NAME	VENUE / PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES	KEY NOTES
Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)	Indian Ocean region (IOR), Navies of India and Indonesia	36 th Edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was held between the Navies of India and Indonesia from July 30-31, 2021 in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) . Indian Naval ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) along with Indonesian Naval ship KRI Bung Tomo took part in the coordinated patrol. Objective - It aims to enhance the maritime cooperation between the two navies and forge strong bonds of friendship across the Indo Pacific region.
DefExpo-2022	Gandhinagar, Gujarat	DefExpo-2022 (12th Edition) , the land and naval systems show of the Ministry of Defence has been scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from March 11-13, 2022. It is a biennial event and is organised by the Ministry of Defence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The last edition of Defence Expo 2020 was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry of Defence organises military exhibitions each year in the form of Defence Expo and the Aero India.
Table-Top (TT) war-gaming exercise	India's 3 Armed Services	For the 1st time, a Table-Top (TT) war-gaming exercise was held between India's 3 Armed Services (Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Indian Navy). During the exercise, Scenarios like facing a two-front war from China and Pakistan were war-gamed. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to announce the creation of 4 new Integrated theatre commands from the Red Fort on August 15, 2021.
Zayed Talwar 2021	Coast of Abu Dhabi, Indian Navy and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy	Indian Navy and United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy undertook Bilateral Naval Exercise Zayed Talwar 2021 off the coast of Abu Dhabi. The Indian Navy deployed INS Kochi and 2 Integral Sea King MK 42B helicopters,

		whereas the UAE participated in the exercise with Al-Dhafra, a Baynunah class guided missile corvette and one AS-565B Panther helicopter.
AL-MOHED AL-HINDI-2021	Indian Navy and the Royal Saudi Naval Forces	The Maiden Naval Exercise “ AL-MOHED AL-HINDI-2021 ” between Indian Navy and the Royal Saudi Naval Forces commenced on August 9, 2021. INS Kochi, the flagship Destroyer of the Indian Western Naval Fleet, arrived at the Port-al-Jubail, Saudi Arabia representing India. The exercise was originally scheduled to be held in 2020, but was postponed due to COVID-19. Indian Navy deployed INS Shivalik and INS Kadmatt to Muara, Brunei to participate in various bilateral professional interactions with the Royal Brunei Navy (RBN).
Exercise Konkan- 2021	Portsmouth, United Kingdom (UK) & Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain	‘Exercise Konkan- 2021’, a bilateral Naval Exercise held between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Britain in Portsmouth, United Kingdom (UK). Indian Naval Ship (INS Tabar), a Talwar class stealth frigate of Indian Navy and HMS Westminster of the Royal Navy undertook the exercise in non-contact form due to Covid-19 pandemic. It aims to enhance interoperability, synergy and cooperation between both the Navies.
Exercise INDRA-2021	Volgograd, Russia & Indian Army and the military forces of Russian Federation	12th Edition of Exercise INDRA-2021 , a bilateral Military Exercise held between Indian Army and the military forces of Russian Federation in Volgograd, Russia (from 1st to 13th August,2021). It will further strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies and enable sharing of best practices between the contingents of both the countries.
Bilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise	Manama, Bahrain in the Persian Gulf region & Indian Navy and Royal Bahrain Naval Force (RBNF)	Indian Naval Ship, INS Kochi, 2nd ship of the Kolkata class stealth guided missile destroyer participated in the exercise. Prior to the exercise, a coordination and operational planning conference was held between the Indian Navy and Royal Bahrain Navy.
Bilateral Maritime Exercise	South China Sea, India and Vietnam	India and Vietnam had conducted a Bilateral maritime exercise in the South China Sea as a part of maritime cooperation between the two countries. This maritime exercise aims to build trustworthiness and enhance cooperation in the region of South China Sea. The India-Vietnam maritime exercise would enhance the interoperability between the countries. India

		<p>is offering to Vietnam many defence equipment and providing assistance in training its army.</p> <p>India was represented by INS Ranvijay and INS Kora & Vietnam was represented by Vietnam's People's Navy (VPN) frigate VPNS Ly Thai To(HQ-012).</p>
Bilateral Maritime Exercise	Persian Gulf, Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF)	<p>2nd edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise Zair-Al-Bahr (Roar of the Sea) 2021 between the Indian Navy and Qatar Emiri Naval Force (QENF) was conducted in the Persian Gulf. It consisted of a three-day harbour phase followed by a two-day sea phase. Indian Navy Guided Missile Stealth Frigate INS (Indian Naval Ship) Trikand arrived at Qatar's capital city, Doha for participation in the sea phase. It was commanded by Captain Harish Bahuguna.</p>
South East Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) 2021	Singapore, Indian Navy participated in the United States (US) Navy	<p>Indian Navy participated in the United States (US) Navy led Exercise South East Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) 2021, an annual Multilateral Naval Exercise held in Singapore virtually. This is the 20th Edition of the Exercise. It aims to foster enhanced cooperation between Southeast Asian countries by incorporating tactics, standardized training, and procedures to combat contingencies or illegal activities in the maritime domain.</p>
Maritime Partnership Exercise	South China Sea region, Indian Navy with the Philippines Navy	<p>Indian Navy conducts a 'Maritime Partnership Exercise' with the Philippines Navy in the West Philippine Sea at the South China Sea region on 23rd August 2021. It aims to further strengthen bilateral collaboration in the maritime domain to ensure a stable, peaceful & prosperous Indo-Pacific region.</p> <p>Indian Navy was represented by Indian Naval Ship (INS) Ranvijay and INS Kora, with the Philippine Navy's BRP Antonio Luna, Frigate FF151.</p>
Gandiv	National Capital Region (NCR), Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat	<p>The 3rd Edition of the annual Counter Terrorism Exercise named 'Gandiv' is being conducted by the National Security Guard (NSG) across National Capital Region (NCR), Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh & Gujarat. The Exercise will be held from August 22nd-28th, 2021.</p> <p>Objective: It aims to validate the planning parameters of the NSG in the event of a terrorist attack, hijack of an Aircraft or hostage situation.</p>

Naval Exercise Malabar	Western Pacific Ocean, India Navy, the United States (US) Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) & the Royal Australian Navy (RAF)	25 th Edition of Naval Exercise Malabar is conducted between the India Navy, the United States (US) Navy, Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) & the Royal Australian Navy (RAF) in the Western Pacific Ocean. The exercise is hosted by the US Navy from 26th-29th August, 2021. It aims to support free, open & inclusive Indo-Pacific and remain committed to a rule based international order.
Joint Maritime Exercise	Gulf of Aden near Yemen, Navies of India and Germany	On August 26, 2021, a joint maritime exercise was held between the Navies of India and Germany in the Gulf of Aden near Yemen. The Indian Navy was represented by frigate 'Trikanth' while frigate 'Bayern' participated from the German Navy. This exercise was held as Bayern is placed in the Indian Ocean leg as a part of Indo-Pacific Deployment 2021.

TESTING

MISSILES NAME	TESTING LOCATION	FEATURES
INS Vikrant	Kochi, Kerala	India's 1st Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC-1) INS Vikrant has been launched for sea trials off the coast of Kochi, Kerala. A sea trial is the last phase of testing. INS Vikrant has been designed by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND), Indian Navy and is built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The total cost of the project is around INR 23,000 crore. Over 76% of the material and equipment on board is indigenous.
Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM)	Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha	Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired the Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM) with a new Made-in-India Turbofan Engine ' Manik ' from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Odisha. The missile flew for around 150 km with an indigenous cruise engine. The missile has been designed and developed by DRDO. It is an Advanced version of Nirbhay Missile – a Subsonic Cruise Missile.
Nuclear capable Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile Ghaznavi (Hatf-III)	-	Pakistan successfully test-fired the Nuclear capable Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile Ghaznavi (Hatf-III). It has a range of upto 290 Km. It is designed and developed by National Development Complex (NDC). The missile is equipped with a proper terminal guidance system and will enhance the operational readiness of Army Strategic Forces Command (ASFC) and revalidating technical parameters of the Weapon system.
Fatah-1	-	Pakistan has successfully test-fired Fatah-1, an Indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System (MLRS) which has the capability of precision target engagement

		deep into the enemy territories. It is capable of carrying conventional warheads & has a range of 140 km.
Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System	Tamil Nadu	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully conducted the first hot test of the System Demonstration Model (SDM) of the Gaganyaan Service Module Propulsion System for duration of 450 seconds at the new test facility of ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC), Mahendragiri, Tamil Nadu. The system met with all the objectives.

ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE NEWS

INS Khanjar becomes the 1st Indian Navy Ship to call at Heritage Port of, Odisha

INS Khanjar became the **1st Indian Navy Ship** to call at the Heritage Coastal Port of Gopalpur, Odisha. The visit was aimed at enhancing ties & spreading awareness among the local population on coastal security & maritime operations.

- ✓ It was organized as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (75th Anniversary of Indian Independence) & Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations (50th Anniversary of the 1971 War).

IAF builds One of the World’s Highest Mobile ATC tower in Ladakh

One of the world’s Highest **Mobile Air Traffic Control (ATC)** towers has been built by the Indian Air Force (IAF) in the Nyoma area of Ladakh at the Advanced Landing Ground. Main purpose of ATC is to control the operation of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters in the East Ladakh region. It will help in controlling China’s activity in the Pangong Tso region of Ladakh and boost surveillance in Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Navy Vice Admiral S N Ghormade laid keels of the 1st ASW Shallow Water Craft

Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral Satish Namdeo Ghormade virtually laid keels of the 1st Warship of Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) and 3rd Warship of Survey Vessel Large (SVL) Project for Indian Navy. 8 ships are being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) Ltd at Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Shipyard in Kattupalli port, Tamil Nadu under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.

India finalizes deal with Russia to buy AK-103 Rifles under Emergency Procurement

India finalized a deal with Russia for the procurement of a sizeable number of AK-103 series of assault rifles for the Indian Army under the provisions of emergency financial powers granted to the three services to make urgent purchases. This deal is on the lines of the mega infantry modernization programme by the Indian Army for the replacement of its ageing and obsolete weapons with a large number of light machine guns, battle carbines and assault rifles.

DRDO’s DLJ & HEMRL developed Advanced Chaff Technology for IAF jets

On the lines of ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’, The Defence Research and Development Organisation’s (DRDO) Defence Laboratory, Jodhpur (DLJ), Rajasthan and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune (Maharashtra) have developed an advanced Chaff material and chaff cartridge-118/I for Indian Air Force (IAF). This technology will safeguard IAF fighter jets against hostile radar threats.

MoD Approves Contract for MDS to Supply Anti-submarine Systems

Ministry of Defence (MoD) has approved contracts worth INR 1349.95 crore to Mahindra Defence Systems Limited (MDS), a group firm of Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, for supplying **14 Integrated Anti-submarine warfare Defence Suite (IADS)** to the warships of the Indian Navy. It is the 1st of its kind technology developed by an Indian company.

Indian Army Receives 1st Batch of MMHG from EEL

Indian Army received the delivery of 1st batch of Multi-Mode Hand Grenade (MMHG) manufactured by Nagpur based private company Economic Explosives Limited (EEL). MMHG has been designed by Chandigarh based Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratories (TBRL) of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) & is manufactured by EEL, Nagpur.

Rajnath Singh Commissioned ICG Offshore Patrol Vessel- 'Vigraha'

Union Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh has commissioned the Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) 7th Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV), 'Vigraha' at the Chennai Port. The OPV will be placed at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. This is the 1st time that a private sector shipyard (L&T) has designed & constructed an OPV ship.

- ✓ Vigraha is the last in the 7 OPVs contracted to Larsen & Toubro (L&T) by the Defence Ministry in 2015.

GA Questions Asked in Exams

- [GA Questions asked in RRB PO Mains Exam 2021 - Jan 30](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO Mains 2021 - Jan 29](#)
- [SBI Clerk Mains 2020](#)
- [IBPS RRB Officer Scale II GBO Exam 2020](#)
- [RBI Assistant Mains 2020](#)
- [GA Questions Asked in IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2020 - 90% Questions Covered by AC](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI PO 2019 Main Exam](#)
- [GA Questions asked in SBI Clerk Main Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS PO Main Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in RBI Grade B Prelims Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS RRB Clerk Mains Exam 2019](#)
- [GA Questions asked in IBPS RRB PO Mains Exam 2019](#)

All The Best for Your Exams!!!

Suggestions & Feedback are welcomed

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