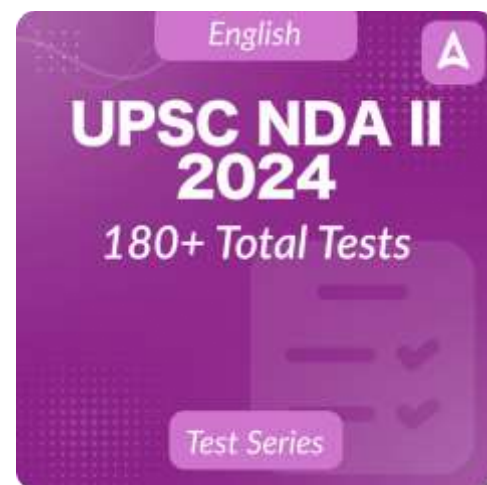




## Last 6 Months Defense Current Affairs for NDA and CDS Exam 2024

### Defense Current Affairs of July 2024

- India has taken a significant leap in military technology with the development of **SEBEX 2**, a powerful new explosive. Certified by the Indian Navy, SEBEX 2 is reported to be twice as lethal as the standard Trinitrotoluene (TNT), marking it as one of the most powerful non-nuclear explosives globally. This breakthrough is set to revolutionize artillery shells and warheads, enhancing their destructive capabilities without increasing their weight.
- July 1, 2024, marks the beginning of an important event in India-Thailand relations. The **Maitree Exercise**, a joint military exercise between the **Indian Army** and the **Royal Thai Army**, kicks off at Fort Vachiraprakan in Tak Province, Thailand. This two-week exercise, running until July 15, 2024, is a significant step in strengthening military ties between the two nations.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, **Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari**, inaugurated the **Weapon Systems School (WSS) in Hyderabad**, marking a significant advancement for the IAF. Established to recalibrate and transform the IAF into a future-oriented force, the WSS aims to provide contemporary, effect-based training to officers of the newly formed Weapon Systems (WS) branch.
- **Indian army** has inducted the first-ever indigenous **chip-based 4G mobile** base station, which it procured from **Bangalore-based firm** Signaltron through the government e-marketplace portal. **Signaltron** founder **Himamshu Khasnis** told PTI that the chip used in the **Sahyadri LTE base stations** has been developed by **Signalchip**.
- **India's defence sector** has achieved a remarkable milestone in the fiscal year 2023-24, with total annual defence production reaching an all-time high of **Rs 1,26,887 crore**. This unprecedented achievement, announced by the **Union Ministry of Defence on July 5, 2024**, marks a significant leap in India's journey towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- India has unveiled the '**Zorawar**' **light tank**, developed jointly by **DRDO and Larsen & Toubro**, aimed at bolstering military capabilities in high-altitude environments. Designed within a record two-year timeframe, the tank features advanced weaponry and protection systems, including a 105mm rifled cannon and composite modular armor. **Named after General Zorawar Singh**, the tank is slated for extensive trials before potential deployment in Ladakh, Sikkim, or Kashmir.
- The Border Security Force (BSF), in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), organized the "**Grow with the Trees**" plantation drive at the **BSF Headquarters in Srinagar**. The initiative aimed to create a greener environment and promote the importance of tree plantation, involving BSF officials, jawans, SBI officials, and school children.
- **Azerbaijan Army** servicemen have arrived in **Kazakhstan to take part in the "Birlestik-2024"** operational-tactical command-staff exercise. This joint military drill, scheduled from July 11 to July 17, will be conducted at the Oymasha training ground and Cape Tokmak in the Caspian Sea. The exercise is part of a collaborative effort between the Defense Ministries of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.
- The Armed Forces Medical Services witnessed a significant change in leadership as **Lt Gen Shankar Narayan, NM, VSM**, assumed the role of Commandant at the **Army Hospital (Research & Referral)**, widely recognized as the apex hospital of the Indian Armed Forces. This appointment marks a new chapter in the hospital's illustrious history and promises to bring fresh perspectives to military healthcare.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded the scope of remittances to **International Financial Services Centres (IFSCs)** under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**. This allows resident Indians to open fixed deposits in dollars at GIFT IFSC, facilitating various financial services and products as per the **International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019**.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has embarked on a significant international engagement by participating in **Exercise Pitch Black 2024**, hosted by the **Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF)** at their Base Darwin, Australia. This biennial, multi-national exercise, scheduled from July 12 to August 2, 2024, represents a crucial platform for enhancing international military cooperation and showcasing air combat capabilities.





- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has taken a significant step towards promoting self-reliance in the defense sector by awarding seven new projects to industries under the **Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme**. These projects aim to address various requirements of the Armed Forces and the aerospace & defense sectors, while simultaneously nurturing the growth of industries, particularly **MSMEs and start-ups**, in these domains.
- On July 14, 2024, **Visakhapatnam** hosted the prestigious **Fleet Awards Function** to honor the **Eastern Fleet's exceptional operational achievements** over the past year. **INS Delhi** was recognized as the Best Ship of the Eastern Fleet for its outstanding performance and operational prowess.
- Indian Navy's frontline frigate, **INS Tabar** arrived at Hamburg, Germany on **17 July 24** for a three day visit. It will participate in a exercise. During the visit, activities will include **professional exchanges** between the Indian and German Navies, tours of the German Naval Academy, and public visits to the ship. The crew of **INS Tabar** will also engage in community service.
- **Captain Supreetha C.T.** has etched her name in history by becoming the **first woman officer from the Corps of Army Air Defence** to be operationally deployed at the **Siachen Glacier**.
- On July 23, 2024, India's naval prowess took a significant leap forward with the launch of the first of two Advanced Frigates at **Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL)**.
- On July 24, 2024, the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** of India achieved a significant milestone in its ongoing efforts to enhance national security.
- The Indian Army contingent has embarked on its journey to participate in the multinational military exercise **KHAAN QUEST 2024**.
- **Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi** will take over as the next **Chief of the Army Staff (COAS)** on June 30. In his career of over 39 years, he has served as **Northern Army Commander and Director General (DG)** infantry amongst other appointments.
- The **8th edition of the Japan-India Maritime Exercise (JIMEX-24)** has commenced at Yokosuka, Japan, hosted by the **Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force (JMSDF)**. Indian Navy's **INS Shivalik** and Japan's **JS Yugiri** are participating.
- The launch of '**Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 13 (Yard 81)**', the fifth Barge of 08 x Missile Cum Ammunition Barge project, built by MSME Shipyard. **M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd (SEPL)**, Visakhapatnam for Indian Navy, was undertaken on **10 Jun 24** at M/s Vinayaga Marine Petro Ltd, Mira Bhayandar, Maharashtra (launch site of M/s SECON Engineering Projects Pvt Ltd). The launching Ceremony was presided over by **Cmde Manish Vig, General Manager (QA), ND(Mbi)**.
- India has achieved a significant milestone in its defense capabilities with the induction of the **indigenous Nagastra-1 kamikaze drones** developed by **Solar Industries, based in Nagpur**. This deployment addresses the escalating drone-related incidents along India's Northern borders, highlighting the critical need for advanced indigenous drone technologies in combat applications.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to make history this August by hosting its first-ever multinational air exercise, **Tarang Shakti-2024**. The exercise is slated to be held in two phases, with the initial phase commencing in the first two weeks of August in southern India, followed by the second phase in the western sector from **late August to mid-September**.
- The **Indian Army** on June 18, announced the opening of a **state-of-the-art skin bank** facility at the Army Hospital (Research & Referral). The facility offers the latest modern treatment for **severe burn injuries** received by armed forces personnel and their families.
- In a significant move towards self-reliance, the **Northern Command** of the Indian Army has ordered 550 indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured **ASMI submachine guns** worth Rs 4.26 crores from **Hyderabad-based Lokesh Machine Limited**. This marks the first time an indigenously designed and manufactured weapon has been inducted into the Indian Army.
- **Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan** released the **Joint Doctrine for Cyberspace Operations** during the **Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC)** meeting held on **June 18, 2024**, in New Delhi. The Joint Doctrine is a keystone publication that will guide Commanders in conducting Cyberspace Operations in today's complex military operating environment.

### Defense Current Affairs of June 2024

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has deployed its formidable **Rafale fighter jets** for the two-week multinational air exercise **Red Flag**, which commenced on **May 30** in **Alaska**. The IAF contingent, supported by **IL-78 air-to-air refuelers** and **C-17 transport aircraft**, arrived at the **Eielson Air Force Base** in the United States for the advanced aerial combat training exercise.
- A tech-based innovation, an integrated generator monitoring, protection and control system, developed by the Indian Army was launched on June 5. '**Vidyut Rakshak**', developed by the **Army Design Bureau (ADB)** was launched by the **Army's Vice Chief Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi**.





- In a landmark event, the Military College of Telecommunication Engineering (MCTE) of the Indian Army and the **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering & Research (SAMEER)** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on 'Next Generation Wireless Technologies for the Indian Army'.
- **India's defence exports to the United States (US)** has grown to account for **over 50 per cent of the total exports**, exceeding **\$2.8 billion** during the last 5 years, said **Ranjana Khanna**, Director General and CEO – American Chamber of Commerce in India (Amcham).
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) handed over the Medium Range-**Microwave Obscurant Chaff Rocket (MR-MOCR)** to the Indian Navy in a ceremony **held in New Delhi**. This rocket creates a microwave obscurant cloud in space, forming an effective shield against threats with radio frequency seekers.
- **Jaipur Military Station** has become the **second military station in India** to have a road made from plastic waste. The **road, inaugurated on June 26, 2024, by Major General R.S. Godara**, General Officer Commanding of 61 Sub Area, is 100 meters long and stretches from Sagat Singh Road under bridge to Cubs Corner complex.
- The deployment marks sustained participation of an Indian Military Contingent in military parade organized as part of Seychelles National Day **since 1976**. INS Sunayna entered **Port Victoria**, Seychelles on 26 Jun 24 as part of her long range deployment in the **South West Indian Ocean Region**.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully completed six consecutive development trials of High Speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) '**ABHYAS**' with improved booster configuration from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), **Chandipur, Odisha**.
- The Indian Army and the Punit Balan Group joined hands to inaugurate the nation's **first Constitution Park in Pune**. The ceremony, **led by Lt. Gen. Ajai Kumar Singh**, emphasized the importance of citizens honoring their duties outlined in the Constitution to drive India towards development by 2047.
- **Flying Wedge Defence**, a Bengaluru-based defense and aerospace technology firm, recently revealed the **FWD-200B**, India's inaugural indigenous bomber unmanned aircraft. With a focus on cost-effectiveness and self-reliance, the firm aims to position India as a leader in innovative defense solutions.
- Air Marshal **Nagesh Kapoor** has taken charge as the **Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C) of the Training Command (TC) in the Indian Air Force**. With over 34 hundred hours of flying experience, he was commissioned into the Fighter stream in December 1986.
- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has announced the appointment of **Sanjeev Nautiyal** as its **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** for a tenure of three years, effective from July 1, 2024.
- **Visa**, the global digital payments platform, announced on Tuesday that it has appointed **Sujai Raina** as the new **Country Manager for India**. In this role, Raina will be responsible for leading and executing Visa's strategic initiatives in the Indian market, partnering with clients and the broader payments ecosystem.
- The Indian Army's **Kharga Corps**, under the aegis of the Army's Western Command, successfully conducted a three-day joint exercise with the Indian Air Force (IAF) at multiple locations in Punjab. The exercise aimed to refine processes and validate the employment of **attack helicopters** in support of mechanized operations in developed terrain.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bhubaneswar have initiated a partnership aimed at advancing research in **electronics warfare, AI-driven surveillance, power systems, and radar systems**. DRDO has sanctioned nine projects from the **Electronics and Communication Systems (ECS)** Cluster to IIT Bhubaneswar, with an additional seven projects awaiting approval, backed by ₹18 crore in funding.
- **Vice Admiral Sanjay Bhalla, AVSM, NM**, a seasoned naval officer with over 35 years of distinguished service, has assumed the pivotal role of **Chief of Personnel of the Indian Navy on 10 May 2024**. His extensive career has been marked by a series of challenging and fulfilling appointments, both at sea and ashore.

### Defense Current Affairs of May 2024

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and Indian Navy have bolstered their combat capabilities with the induction of the Rampage long-range supersonic air-to-ground missile, previously utilized by the Israeli Air Force in operations against Iranian targets. The missile, known as the **High-Speed Low Drag-Mark 2** within the Indian Air Force, offers a striking range of up to 250 kilometers.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has achieved a significant milestone in enhancing India's anti-submarine warfare capabilities with the successful flight-test of the Supersonic Missile-Assisted Release of Torpedo (**SMART**) system. This next-generation **torpedo delivery system** was successfully flight-tested on **May 01, 2024**, at around 8:30 AM from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.





**Defense Current Affairs of April 2024**

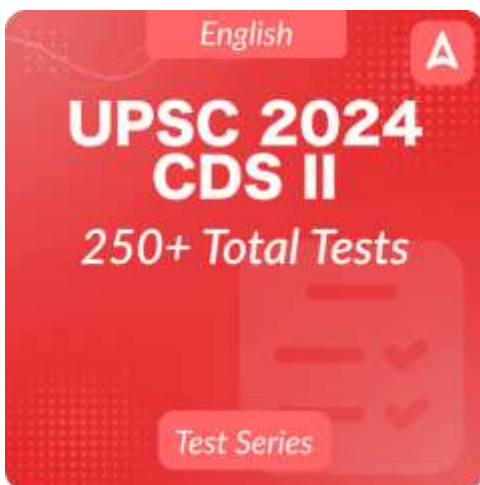
- In a strategic move to bolster its surveillance capabilities along the Pakistan border, the Indian Army is set to induct advanced drones, including the **Drishti-10 (Hermes-900)**. Scheduled for an induction ceremony in **Hyderabad on May 18**, these drones mark a significant addition to the Army's existing fleet, aligning with the **'Make in India'** initiative in Defence.
- The Indian Air Force recently conducted a test in Agra for the BHISHM portable hospital, a crucial component of **"Project BHISHM"** aimed at providing rapid and comprehensive medical assistance during emergencies. These portable cubes, part of a broader initiative, can cater to up to 200 casualties, emphasizing swift response and extensive care.
- Defence Secretary **Giridhar Aramane** unveiled a commemorative Rs 250 coin during the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in New Delhi on May 14, 2024. The event, hosted by MDL, commemorated its evolution from a dry dock in 1774 to a premier naval shipyard under the Ministry of Defence.
- **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Anil Chauhan** attended the **'Exercise Cyber Suraksha – 2024'** on May 22, 2024, emphasizing the critical importance of enhancing India's cyber defence capabilities. Conducted by the Defence Cyber Agency from May 20 to May 24, 2024, this comprehensive cyber defence exercise aims to bolster collaboration and integration among military and national agencies, advancing the nation's cyber defence readiness.
- **Indian Army** has joined hands with the **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** for **demonstration trials of Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology**. This collaboration underscores the Army's commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship.
- **Chennai-based startup Agnikul Cosmos** has achieved a remarkable feat by successfully launching the **world's first space rocket with a single-piece three-dimensional (3D) printed engine**. After four failed attempts, Agnikul triumphed on its fifth try, launching its own rocket, named **Agnibaan**, into space. This launch marks **India's first semi-cryogenic engine-powered rocket**, which was completely designed and manufactured indigenously.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has joined a **16-day multi-nation mega military exercise in Alaska, United States**, designed to provide **realistic training** to participating forces in a **simulated combat environment**. The exercise, known as **'Red Flag 24'**, commenced on **May 30** and will continue until **June 14**.

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is showcasing its might and capability to carry out **high-octane operations** during the upcoming **'Gagan Shakti-2024'** exercise "in a realistic environment" from **April 1-10**. The exercise involves **all air force bases and assets** scattered across the country.
- Highlighting the importance of **"collaboration and interoperability"** among the coast guards personnel of the Maldives, India, and Sri Lanka, Maldivian Defence Minister **Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon** said the trilateral exercise **'Dosti'** will unite the troika to address **"shared maritime security concerns** through collaboration."
- The Ministry of Defence (MoD) announced that India's defence exports surged to a record **Rs 21,083 crore in the fiscal year 2023-24**, marking a remarkable growth of 32.5% from the previous year. This achievement is attributed to the concerted efforts of both the private sector and **Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**, supported by policy reforms and initiatives aimed at facilitating ease of doing business.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has commenced a project in Junput village, West Bengal, to establish a test centre for the country's weapon systems. This initiative aims to address the saturation of testing activities at **Odisha's Chandipur Integrated Test Range (ITR)** by providing an additional operational area.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **India's Strategic Forces Command (SFC)** have successfully conducted a flight test of the new generation ballistic missile called **'Agni-Prime'**.
- The **Army Medical Corps (AMC)** celebrated its **260th Raising Day on 03rd April 2024**. Raised in the year 1764, the Corps has rendered selfless service to the nation over centuries of progress, development, dedication, and sacrifice, both in combat and in peace, living up to the Corps motto of **'Sarve Santu Niramaya'** meaning **'let all be free from disease'**.
- The Indian Army has commenced the induction of the indigenous **Akashteer system**, marking a significant advancement in its air defence capabilities. This automated air defence control and reporting system, developed by **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, aims to integrate the army's air defence units for enhanced operational efficiency.
- **Indian Coast Guard Director General Rakesh Pal** inaugurated the **Indian Coast Guard Aquatic Centre at ICGS Mandapam near Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu**, as part of his four-day visit to the maritime force's bases in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry. The visit aimed to review operational preparedness and infrastructure development in the region, with a focus on ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas.





- A two-day coastal security exercise called **Sagar Kavach 01/24** was conducted off the Lakshadweep Islands from **April 1-2, 2024**. The exercise involved the participation of all maritime security agencies, including the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, Marine Police, Fisheries, Customs, and other security agencies.
- The Indian Army has bolstered its **Very Short Range Air Defence (VSHORAD)** capabilities with the acquisition of **Igla-S Man Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)** from Russia. This procurement, part of a larger deal for 120 launchers and 400 missiles, signifies a significant upgrade over outdated systems.
- The inaugural **Tri-Service Planning Conference, dubbed 'Parivartan Chintan,'** convened in **New Delhi on April 8, 2024, orchestrated by the Ministry of Defence**. This landmark event aimed to foster jointness and integration among the Indian Armed Forces, especially in light of ongoing efforts to establish unified theatre commands.
- Every year on **April 9th, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** celebrates its Bravery Day, or Valour Day, to pay tribute to the brave soldiers who have selflessly served the nation. **This year, 2024, marks the 59th anniversary of this significant day.**
- In a significant training endeavor, the **Trishakti Corps of the Indian Army** executed a rigorous **Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** exercise in Sikkim, operating at an altitude of 17,000 feet. The exercise involved Missile Firing Detachments from Mechanized and Infantry Units of the Eastern Command, emphasizing live firing scenarios against both moving and static targets, simulating battlefield conditions.
- The fifth edition of the India-Uzbekistan **Joint Military Exercise DUSTLIK** is set to commence on **April 15, 2024, in Termez District, Uzbekistan**. This exercise marks another milestone in the strategic partnership between the two nations, fostering mutual cooperation and enhancing military capabilities.
- In a significant milestone for India's defense capability, the **Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO)** and the Indian Army have successfully conducted trials of the indigenously designed and developed **Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Weapon System**. This indigenous development marks a crucial step towards achieving self-reliance in advanced technology-based defense systems, as underscored by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.
- DRDO conducted a successful test flight of the **Indigenous Technology Cruise Missile (ITCM)** from the **Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha**. The missile showcased excellent performance, closely monitored by various sensors and the Indian Air Force.
- During his visit to **Uzbekistan from April 15-18, 2024, Chief of the Army Staff, General Manoj Pande,** marked a significant milestone in bilateral defense cooperation between India and Uzbekistan by inaugurating a state-of-the-art IT Laboratory at the Uzbek Academy of Armed Forces. This initiative stems from a commitment made during the Defence Ministers' meeting in September 2018, highlighting the growing partnership between the two nations.
- The Government of India has appointed **Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, PVSM, AVSM, NM,** currently serving as the **Vice Chief of the Naval Staff,** as the next **Chief of the Naval Staff** with effect from the afternoon of **April 30, 2024**. He will succeed the present Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, who retires from service on the same day.
- In a significant move reflecting the deepening military cooperation between India and the Philippines amid rising tensions in the South China Sea, India has successfully delivered the first batch of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines. This delivery marks the fruition of a **\$375 million deal signed in January 2022,** making the Philippines the first export customer for this **joint venture missile between India and Russia.**
- The Indian Navy conducted a mega exercise, **'Poorvi Leher,'** along the East Coast to validate its procedures and assess its preparedness to meet maritime security challenges in the region. The extensive drill witnessed the participation of ships, submarines, aircraft, and special naval forces.
- **India has emerged as the fourth largest military spender globally in 2023,** allocating \$83.6 billion for defense, following the United States, China, and Russia. This significant investment underscores India's commitment to enhancing its defense capabilities, particularly along the **China border post the Ladakh standoff in 2020.**





- In a move to honour the **courageous Indian soldiers** who fought valiantly in the **First and Second World Wars**, the Brighton and Hove City Council in England has taken a commendable step. They have decided to hold an **annual multi-faith event** at the town's **India Gate memorial** this October, recognizing the pivotal role played by these **warriors from the undivided Indian subcontinent**.

### Defense Current Affairs of March 2024

- The **Indian Navy** is set to inaugurate a new naval base, **INS Jatayu, on Minicoy Island**, marking a significant step in bolstering security infrastructure in the strategically vital Lakshadweep Islands. Scheduled for March 6, the commissioning ceremony will be graced by Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, underscoring the importance of this development.
- The **Indian Navy** is poised to achieve a significant milestone on March 6, 2024, with the commissioning of the **MH 60R Seahawk helicopter at INS Garuda, Kochi**. This induction marks a crucial juncture in India's defense modernization efforts, further bolstering its maritime capabilities. The Seahawks squadron will be designated as **INAS 334**, symbolizing a new era in naval aviation for the country. These helicopters are part of a 24-aircraft Foreign Military Sales (FMS) contract inked with the US government in February 2020.
- **Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh** inaugurated the new **Administrative & Training building at the Naval War College (NWC), Goa** on March 5, 2024. The modern edifice, named the '**Chola**', pays homage to the mighty maritime empire of the Chola dynasty of ancient India. The event marked a significant milestone in the history of the NWC, reinforcing its commitment to excellence in military education and nurturing maritime thought.
- The Indian Navy took a significant stride in fortifying its operational prowess with the commissioning of its new base, **INS Jatayu, at Minicoy island of Lakshadweep**. This strategic move aims to enhance the Navy's capabilities and reach in the vital Indian Ocean region, reinforcing its efforts in anti-piracy and anti-narcotics operations in the Western Arabian Sea.
- The three forces of India – Army, Navy, and Air Force – are going to conduct the biggest exercise called '**Bharat-Shakti**' at **Asia's largest field firing range** located in **Jaisalmer** district of Rajasthan. **PM Modi's Likely Visit** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** may visit **Pokhran** on **March 12, 2024**, to witness this show of strength by the Indian Armed Forces.

- The arrival of the US Coast Guard Cutter Bertholf at Port Blair signals the commencement of '**Sea Defenders-2024**,' a joint exercise between the **United States Coast Guard (USCG)** and the **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)**. Scheduled for March 9-10, 2024, this drill reflects the deepening strategic ties between the two nations and aims to enhance maritime safety and uphold a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has successfully conducted the maiden flight test of the **locally developed Agni-5 missile with multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicle (MIRV) technology**. This new capability allows the weapon system to deliver **multiple nuclear warheads** against different targets spread across hundreds of kilometers, further enhancing India's **strategic deterrence capability**. The test, codenamed "**Mission Divyastra**" (divine weapon), propels India into an exclusive league of countries that possess the capability to deploy **MIRV missile systems**, including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China.
- Coinciding with International Women's Day and the 40th anniversary of INAS 318, the Andaman & Nicobar Command achieved a significant milestone by conducting its **first-ever all-women maritime surveillance mission**. This landmark event underscores the commitment to gender equality and recognizes the indispensable role of women in national defense.
- The **Indian Navy** recently took part in a major maritime exercise called **Exercise Cutlass Express – 24 (CE-24)**. This exercise was held in **Port Victoria, Seychelles** from **26 February to 08 March 2024**.
- On 13th March 2024, a significant milestone was achieved in the **Indian Navy's** shipbuilding program with the launch of '**Agray**' and '**Akshay**', the **5th and 6th ships of the 08 x ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) Shallow Water Craft (SWC) Project**. These ships are being built by M/S Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata for the Indian Navy.
- In a significant stride towards gender equality and inclusivity, the **Railway Protection Force (RPF)** has emerged as a frontrunner among central paramilitary forces in **terms of female representation**. This achievement marks a notable departure from the traditional male-dominated landscape within such organizations. With women now constituting a remarkable **10 per cent of its personnel**, the RPF has set a new benchmark in gender diversity within central paramilitary forces.





- The Indian Navy has finally got its own dedicated **headquarters** building. The newly constructed **Nausena Bhawan** located at **Delhi Cantonment** was formally **inaugurated** by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** on **March 15th, 2024**.
- An Indian Army contingent has departed for Seychelles today to participate in the **Tenth** edition of the **Joint Military Exercise "LAMITIYE-2024"** between the **Indian Army** and **Seychelles Defence Forces (SDF)**. The exercise will be conducted in Seychelles from **18-27 March 2024**.
- A joint military exercise called **Tiger Triumph-24** between **India** and the **United States** started on March 18 and will continue until March 31. This exercise is taking place on the **Eastern Seaboard** (East Coast) of India. The main purpose of this exercise is to improve **cooperation** between the two countries' armed forces for **humanitarian assistance** and **disaster relief** operations.
- The Indian Army has set up a specialized **technology unit** called **Signals Technology Evaluation and Adaptation Group (STEAG)** to research and evaluate **next-generation communication technologies**.
- The **Indian defence industry** is expanding its reach to the **Caribbean** region. The **Guyana Defence Force (GDF)** plans to purchase two aircraft from **India** with a loan of **\$23.27 million** from the **Export-Import Bank of India**.
- The Indian Army has raised its **first squadron**, the **451 Aviation Squadron**, to operate the newly acquired **AH-64E Apache attack helicopters**. The squadron was formally established on **March 15** at **Jodhpur**.
- The Indian Navy is all set to participate in the second edition of the **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise (IMT TRILAT-2024)**, a joint maritime exercise scheduled from **21-29 March 2024**. The Indian Naval Ships **INS Tir** and **INS Sujata** will represent India in this trilateral exercise.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone with the successful landing of **Pushpak, India's first Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV)**, during the RLV-LEX-02 landing experiment at the Aeronautical Test Range in Chitradurga on March 22, 2024. This accomplishment marks a continuation of ISRO's success in space exploration and technology advancement.
- In response to escalating tensions along the northern borders with **China**, the **Indian Army** has initiated significant enhancements to its air defence capabilities. Central to this strategic maneuver is the deployment of cutting-edge **Integrated Drone Detection and Interdiction Systems (IDD&IS)**, developed domestically in collaboration between the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** and **Bharat Electronics**.

- The second edition of the **India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise, IMT TRILAT 24**, concluded successfully in **Nacala, Mozambique** on March 28th, 2024. This week-long exercise aimed to strengthen maritime cooperation and interoperability among the navies of **India, Mozambique, and Tanzania**.

### Defense Current Affairs of February 2024

- The inaugural joint military exercise, **Sada Tansseq**, between the armies of **India and Saudi Arabia**, is poised to commence in **Rajasthan**, showcasing a significant leap in bilateral relations between India and Saudi Arabia. Scheduled from **January 29th to February 10th, 2024**, Sada Tansseq signifies a landmark collaboration, epitomizing the growing strategic partnership between India and Saudi Arabia.
- In the realm of national defense, rapid deployment and robust infrastructure are paramount. The **Indian Army**, under the Ministry of Defence, stands vigilant against external threats, prioritizing cutting-edge equipment like **SARVATRA** – a Multispan Mobile Bridging System. Crafted by **Armament and Combat Engineering Systems (ACE)** under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), SARVATRA epitomizes innovation in bridging solutions, ensuring seamless connectivity for the Indian Army.
- **Visakhapatnam's Naval Dockyard** will witness a momentous occasion as **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** presides over the commissioning ceremony of **INS Sandhayak**. This event marks a significant addition to the Indian Navy's capabilities, reinforcing its presence in the Indian Ocean Region. Distinguished guests, including Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R. Hari Kumar and senior officials from the navy and the **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)**, will be in attendance to celebrate this milestone.
- **Havildar Preeti Rajak**, a distinguished trap shooter in the Indian Army, has reached a historic milestone by being promoted to the esteemed rank of **Subedar**. Her promotion marks a groundbreaking achievement, as she becomes the **first woman in the Indian Army to hold this prestigious rank**, signifying not only her personal accomplishment but also a significant advancement for women in the armed forces.
- In a strategic move to bolster efficiency and bolster the well-being of its civilian workforce, the **Indian Navy** has declared 2024 as the **'Year of Naval Civilians.'** This groundbreaking initiative targets comprehensive Civilian HR Management, with a sharp focus on enhancing administrative efficiency, embracing digital transformation, implementing targeted training programs, and fostering employee welfare activities.





- India's strategic collaboration with the **United States** in defense takes a significant leap forward with the procurement of **MQ-9B armed drones**. This acquisition underscores the strengthening ties between the two nations and represents a pivotal moment in enhancing India's military capabilities.
- **The Indian Air Force (IAF)** is set to conduct **Exercise Vayu Shakti-24**, a grand display of its aerial might, on 17 February 2024, at the Pokhran Air to Ground Range near Jaisalmer. Following the successful execution of the previous edition on 16 February 2019, this year's exercise promises to be an even more impressive demonstration of the IAF's offensive and defensive capabilities, both during the day and night.
- Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) **General Anil Chauhan** made a significant announcement at the Defence Literature Festival, "Kalam and Kavach," in Pune. He unveiled a groundbreaking book titled '**Artificial Intelligence and National Security**,' marking a pivotal moment in blending India's rich cultural heritage with contemporary national security strategies.
- In an endeavor to bolster border security measures, India has embarked on a significant project to fence the entire **1643-kilometer-long Indo-Myanmar border**. Home Minister Amit Shah made the announcement, underscoring the government's commitment to fortifying national borders and enhancing surveillance capabilities.
- India has announced the **replacement of military personnel** operating aviation platforms in the Maldives with competent Indian technical personnel. This decision comes after negotiations between Indian and Maldivian authorities, with the latter expressing a clear demand for the withdrawal of Indian troops.
- In a memorable event at **TonsBridge School in Dehradun**, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** and Uttarakhand's Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** unveiled a statue of General Bipin Rawat, who was India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS). This ceremony was not just about remembering a great leader but also about inspiring the future generations.
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has achieved a significant milestone on the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal**, recording procurement worth **₹1 lakh crore** since the portal's inception in 2016. This achievement underscores MoD's commitment to optimizing public spending in the defense sector through efficient procurement practices on GeM.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri **Shri Rajnath Singh**, has approved various capital acquisition proposals amounting to **Rs 84,560 crore** on February 16, 2024. These approvals emphasize the procurement of equipment from Indian vendors to promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing.
- The **12th edition** of the **MILAN naval exercise** is poised to set sail in the strategic port city of Visakhapatnam from February 19 to 27, marking a significant gathering of naval forces from over 50 countries. This year's theme, "Forging Naval Alliances for a Secure Maritime Future," underscores the exercise's commitment to enhancing global maritime security through cooperation and strategic dialogue.
- The **SAMAR** (Surface-to-Air Missile for Assured Retaliation) air defense missile system marked a significant milestone as it was **fired for the first time during the Vayushakti Exercise** in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer on Saturday, February 17th.
- The Indian Army is embarking on a significant endeavor to modernize its armored forces by replacing its aging Russian T-72 tank fleet with cutting-edge **Future Ready Combat Vehicles (FRCVs)**. These FRCVs, totaling 1,770 units, will be produced indigenously in India with advanced technologies including **artificial intelligence (AI), drone integration, active protection systems**, and enhanced situational awareness. The induction will occur in three phases, each incorporating newer technologies for maximum survivability and lethality.
- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** conducted '**Exercise Vayu Shakti-24**' at the **Pokhran range near Jaisalmer, Rajasthan**, presenting a formidable display of its aerial firepower. The event, attended by the Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, marked a significant demonstration of the IAF's offensive capabilities through a series of meticulously planned aerial manoeuvres and precision strikes.
- India is hosting the **12th edition of the 'Milan' naval exercise in Visakhapatnam**, aimed at bolstering maritime cooperation among like-minded nations. The exercise comes amidst growing global concerns over the deteriorating security situation in the Red Sea.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** in collaboration with the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** embarks on a comprehensive upgrade project worth **Rs 60,000 crore** for the **Su-30MKI** fighter jet fleet. The initiative aims to bolster the aircraft's capabilities through the integration of advanced technologies and indigenous systems.
- **Kathmandu** became the focal point of global peacekeeping efforts as it hosted the commencement of the multinational military exercise '**Shanti Prayas IV**'. This significant event, which draws army representatives from 19 countries actively involved in United Nations Peacekeeping missions, underscores the collaborative spirit and dedication towards maintaining global peace and security.







- The **Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA)** has taken a significant stride towards enhancing the operational capabilities of the **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**. This strategic partnership aims to integrate futuristic weapons and sensors onto the LCA Tejas platform, ensuring its readiness and effectiveness in modern warfare scenarios.
- In a notable stride towards advanced military technology, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** is reportedly gearing up to test a real prototype of its indigenous laser weapon system, **DURGA-2**. The project, designed in secrecy by the Indian defence establishment, has garnered attention in global strategic circles due to its potential to transform warfare dynamics by neutralizing ballistic missiles.
- **Indian and Sri Lankan coast guard ships** joined the **Dosti 16 exercise** held in the **Maldives** from February 22-25. This year marked a significant development with Bangladesh participating as an observer, indicating a widening scope for the exercise and underlining the growing importance of maritime collaboration in tackling evolving challenges.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS)** has approved the acquisition of over **200 BrahMos Extended Range (ER) supersonic cruise missiles** for deployment on Indian Navy warships. The deal, valued at **₹19,000 crore**, signifies a significant step towards bolstering India's naval capabilities.
- The **5th edition** of the **Joint Military Exercise 'Dharma Guardian'** commenced today at the Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan, India. The exercise, scheduled to run from February 25th to March 9th, 2024, brings together the **Indian Army and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF)** for a focused training program aimed at enhancing interoperability and fostering closer military cooperation.
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has taken a significant stride in bolstering the nation's air defense capabilities with the development of the **Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR-2) missile system**. This innovative system leverages repurposed **Russian R-27 air-to-air missiles**, transforming them into a potent surface-to-air defense solution.
- The **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)** launched its largest military exercise in Europe in decades, **Steadfast Defender 2024**, in late January 2024. This large-scale operation, conducted against the backdrop of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict, serves as a potent symbol of NATO's collective military might and unwavering commitment to the security of its member states.

