

Indian Forces (Defence)

3rd Edition of AUSINDEX-19 set to begin

- Third Edition of Bilateral Maritime Exercise between Royal Australian and Indian Navies – AUSINDEX-19 set to begin with a Durance-class multi-product replenishment oiler at Visakhapatnam on 02 April 19.

Visit of Chief of the Army Staff to USA

- General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff is scheduled to visit United States of America from 02 April to 05 April 2019 on an official visit.
- General Bipin Rawat is also an alumnus of Command and Staff College, Fort Leavenworth. The visit to US aims to give impetus to the military ties and enhance strategic engagements.

U.S sale of 24 MH-60R multi-mission helicopters to India

- The U.S Department of State has approved the sale of 24 MH-60R multi-mission helicopters to India under its Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. The value of the potential is \$2.6 billion.

Sri Lankan Navy Vice Admiral visited India

- Vice Admiral Piyal De Silva, Commander of the Sri Lanka Navy visited India from 30 Mar to 02 Apr 19 on an official visit. This is the first visit of the Admiral to India after taking over as Commander, Sri Lanka Navy.

Indian Army patrol discovers wreckage of World War II us aircraft

- A 12 member Indian Army patrol along with a police representative recovered wreckage of a World War II vintage US Air Force aircraft in Roing district of Arunachal Pradesh

Indian Navy wants to get lethal submarine

- The Indian Navy has initiated the process to acquire six lethal submarines under the ambitious project -75, India likely to cost over Rs. 50, 000 crore.

Qatar Navy Major General Visits India

- Staff Major General (Navy) Abdulla Hassan M A Al-Sulaiti, Commander, Qatar Emiri Naval Forces (QENF) visited India from 02 to 05 April.

Army Commanders' Conference: April 2019

- The biannual Army Commanders' Conference shall commence on 08 April 19. The opening address will be given by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The Conference was chaired by General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff.

Range of Brahmos missiles may be increased from 400km to 500 km

- The range of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, produced jointly by Russia and India, is planned to be increased to 500 km (311 miles) from 400 Km.

Indian Army to test AK – 203

- The Indian Army is planning to use a modified version of the AK-203 assault rifle in carbine role for its troops deployed during counter-insurgency operations in Jammu and Kashmir. The AK-203 assault rifle would be manufactured at Uttar Pradesh's Amethi facility in a joint venture between the Ordnance Factory Board and Russia.

Army gets first batch of Dhanush, home-made Bofors artillery guns, from OFB

- The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) handed over the first batch of six Dhanush artillery guns to the Army. Dhanush is the indigenously upgraded gun of the Swedish Bofors gun procured in the 1980s.
- By the end of 2019, the indigenization level of the gun will go up to 91% (from 81%).

1TS Ships visit to Port Victoria, Seychelles

- Ships of the First Training Squadron (1TS) INS Tarangini, INS Sujata, INS Shardul and ICGS Sarathi entered Port Victoria, Seychelles. The First Training Squadron is currently on the last leg of its Overseas Deployment, known as Sambandh 05/18-19.

INS Shikra hosts Naval Investiture Ceremony

- The Naval Investiture Ceremony for 2019 was held at the naval helicopter base INS Shikra of Western Naval Command (WNC), Mumbai. Naval Dockyard (Vizag) and INS Dwarka were awarded the ‘CNS Trophy for Best Green Practices’ for their environment friendly green initiatives.

Indo-Singapore Joint Training Exercise Bold Kurukshetra

- The 12th edition of joint military exercise between India and Singapore, BOLD KURUKSHETRA 2019, culminated on 11 April 2019 after an impressive closing ceremony held at Babina Military Station.

"Virtual reality centre" of Indian Navy

- Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC the Chief of the Naval Staff, inaugurated the maiden ‘state-of-the-art’ Virtual Reality Centre (VRC) at the Directorate of Naval Design (Surface Ship Group). This centre would provide major boost to the Indigenous warship design capabilities of Indian Navy, and greater fillip to warship construction under “Make in India” initiative of the Indian government.

Indian Air Force organises Half Marathon

- A Half Marathon was conducted in Delhi on 14 Apr 19 to mark the 100th birth centenary of the legendary Marshal of the Indian Air Force (MIAF) Arjan Singh, Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).
- Late Marshal of the Indian Air Force Arjan Singh DFC was the first and only “Five Star” rank officer of Indian Air Force.

Trial of 'Nirbhay' Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile

- Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test fired indigenously designed & developed Long Range Sub-Sonic Cruise Missile “Nirbhay” from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur Odisha. It is the sixth development flight trial with objective to prove the repeatability of boost phase, cruise phase using way point navigation at very low altitudes.

AUSINDEX-19 Concludes

- The Australian and Indian Navy have concluded a two-week long bilateral maritime exercise code-named AUSINDEX. Personnel from the Eastern Fleet bid farewell to Her Majesty's Australian Ships

Canberra, Newcastle, Paramatta. For the first time, 55 American and 20 New Zealand military personnel embarked onboard the RAN ships and witnessed the exercises during AUSINDEX-19.

Thailand Visit of Admiral Sunil Lanba

- Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff is on a bilateral visit to Thailand from 17 to 19 April 2019.
- The two countries established formal diplomatic relations in 1947. The Defence relationship between India and Thailand has matured over the years, with the two countries signing a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation in January 2012.

Exercise SEA VIGIL

- The debrief of Exercise Sea Vigil was held on 16 Apr 19. The debrief was chaired by Vice Admiral MS Pawar. The maiden national level Coastal Defence Exercise SEA VIGIL was conducted by Indian Navy from 22-23 Jan 19.

Second Edition of Indian Navy-Vietnam Peoples' Navy Bilateral Exercise Concludes

- Indian Navy undertook the second edition of the bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Vietnam Peoples' Navy at/ off Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam from 13 to 16 Apr 19.

Himalayan Heights Motorcycle Expedition Reaches Karakoram Pass

- The 11 member 'Himalayan Heights Motorcycle Expedition' which was flagged off from Karu (Leh) on 07 April 2019 traversed the challenging terrain of Eastern Ladakh, across the Chang La pass and has reached the mighty 'Karakoram Pass' situated at an altitude of 18,176 feet on the Karakoram Ranges on 16 April 2019.

IN Ships to participate in International Fleet Review at Qingdao, China

- IN Ships Kolkata and Shakti are scheduled to arrive Qingdao, China on 21 Apr 19 to participate in the International Fleet Review as part of 70TH Anniversary celebrations of PLA (Navy).

HAL resumes tests of jet trainer

- Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has resumed test-flying its intermediate jet trainer (IJT) in a modified version after a gap of almost three years.

Launch of Yard 12706

- Admiral Sunil Lanba PVSM, AVSM, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff launched the third ship of Project 15B, Guided Missile Destroyer Imphal, at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai. This launch marks yet another significant milestone in the annals of the indigenous warship design and construction programme of India.

Indian, US Navies hold anti submarine warfare exercise

- Indian and the US Navies have held a joint submarine-hunting exercise in the Indian Ocean, aiming to lay the groundwork for coordinating maritime patrol and reconnaissance. The Indian P-8I Neptune aircraft from the Naval Air Squadron 312 based at Naval Station Rajali in Arakkonam, Tamil Nadu, joined the US P-8A Poseidon aircraft from Patrol Squadron VP-8 “Fighting Tigers”, based in Jacksonville, Florida, in the exercise.

Commissioning of Indian Coast Guard Vessel C-441

- A new Coast Guard vessel is commissioned by Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala Sri Tom Jose at Vizhinjam harbour, under the aegis of Regional Commander Western Region, Inspector General Vijay D. Chafekar. The Indian Coast Guard Ship C-441 is commanded by Assistant Commandant Amit K Choudhary.

India set to have Defence Cyber Agency in May

- India is all set to have Defence Cyber Agency (DCA) by next month, headquartered in the capital. Senior Navy officer Rear Admiral Mohit Gupta will be the first head of the DCA.

Curtain Raiser - Naval Commanders' Conference

- The first edition of Naval Commanders' Conference of 2019 is scheduled at New Delhi from 23 to 25 April 2019. The Hon'ble Raksha Mantri is scheduled to address the Naval Commanders on the opening day and interact with them.
- The themes of 'Functional Reorganisation of Indian Navy towards improving Operational Efficiency' and 'Optimal Manning' will form the core of discussions towards finalising long term road map for the IN.

Cyber Exercise on Scenario Building & Response

- Directorate of Indian Defence University is organising a two day Cyber Exercise on Scenario Building & Response on 29-30 Apr 19 at Purple Bay, Jodhpur Officers' Hostel, New Delhi. The Exercise is represented by Services, NSCS, NTRO, CERT-in, DRDO, NIC, CSRC, Academia and Industry.

Army invokes emergency powers for missile deal

- The Army is in the process of procuring Spike-LR Anti-Tank Missiles from Israel and Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORAD) from Russia through a set of new financial powers for emergency procurements sanctioned by the Defence Ministry.

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