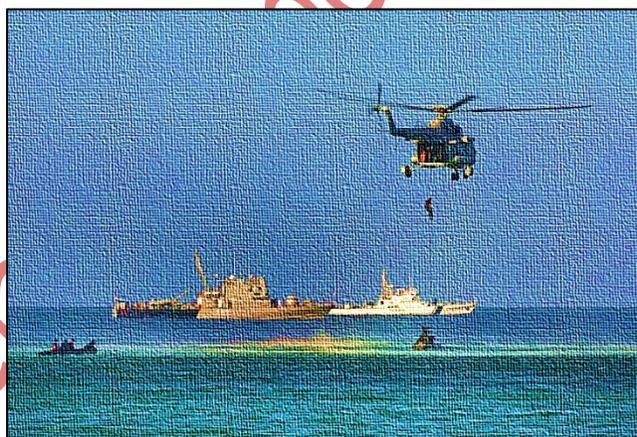


Defence News

OAS PRELIMS 2020 CURRENT AFFAIRS

January 2020

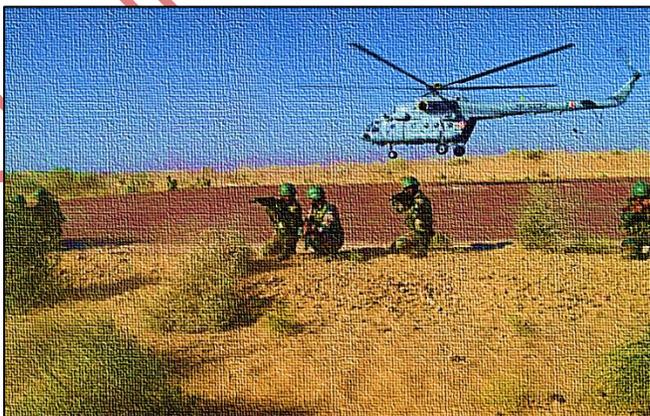
- The Central Industrial Security Force will observe 2020 as the 'year of mobility' that will have a special focus on the creation of more residential units and implementation of various welfare measures for the troops.
- India and Oman will conduct 12th edition of bilateral maritime exercise 'Naseem Al Bahr' in Mormugao Port, Goa. Indian Navy ships Beas and Subhadra and Oman Navy ships RNOV Al Rasikh and RNOV Khassab are participating in the exercise.
- Indian Navy starts 1st Maha-Navy Connect 2020 Tri-Dimensional Expedition from Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Visakhapatnam will host naval exercise "" with the theme 'Synergy Across the Seas'.
- India's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant will be commissioned by early 2021 into Indian Navy and will be fully operated by 2022.
- India has deployed its aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya in Arabian Sea amid the PakistanChina naval exercise "Sea Guardians" taking place in North Arabian Sea.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicates the 51st K9 Vajra-T guns to the nation. This gun is selfpropelled Howitzer gun made by L&T's Armoured System Complex at Hazira in Gujarat.
- Russia has started production of S-400 long-range surface-to-air missile systems for India. All five units will be delivered to India by 2025.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, has approved the procurement of Indigenous Equipments valued at Rs 5100 crore.
- The Indian Air Force has inducted its 1st squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI aircraft carrying the BrahMos missiles, in the South at its Thanjavur based in Tamil Nadu.
- India has successfully test-fired nuclear-capable K-4 ballistic missile at Vizag coast in Andhra Pradesh. The missile was developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) with a range of 3,500-kilometre.
- Defence PSU Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) is set to deliver anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti to the Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy has launched "Operation Vanilla" to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at Madagascar.



- The Assam Rifles has constructed a combined war memorial in Nagaland. The memorial has been built for the 357 Army and Assam Rifles personnel killed while fighting insurgency in the northeastern state.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned a highspeed interceptor boat C-448 in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- The 9th edition of joint military training exercise between India-Bangladesh SAMPRITI-IX will be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- The AN-32 aircraft of Indian Air Force powered with 10% blend of bio-jet fuel took off and landed successfully in Leh airport.
- Union Home Minister laid the foundation stone of Directorate General Building of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in New Delhi. The Home Minister also launched a new logo "Garud" for those engaged in providing security to the common man and VIPs.

February 2020

- Indian Army Major Anoop Mishra has developed first bulletproof helmet of the world under the Indian Army's project "Abhedya". The helmet can stop an AK-47 bullet round fired from a distance of 10 meters.
- Union government has set a defense export target of 5 billion dollars in the upcoming five years (approx. 35,000 crore rupees).
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited has signed a partnership pact with Israel Aerospace Industries to manufacture advanced Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) in India.
- India hosted the Ministerial-level Defence dialogue between India and South Korea in New Delhi to deepen bilateral defence cooperation between the two countries.
- The Indian Navy conducts a coastal security exercise named 'Malta Abhiyan' in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- The 11th edition of the mega defence exhibition, DefExpo 2020 begins at Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. The theme of DefExpo India-2020 is "India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub".
- India and the United Kingdom will conduct their 5th edition of joint military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior-2020' at Salisbury Plains, the United Kingdom from February 13-26.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has started developing a 200-km strike range tactical ballistic missile 'Pranash'.
- Seminar on Indian Defence Equipment was organized in Dhaka by the High Commission of India in Bangladesh to pursue further cooperation between India and Bangladesh in the field of defence technologies.



- The Chief of the Defence staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat has announced the plan of establishing the first Integrated Tri-Services Command which will be responsible for handling the air defence of the entire country.
- The 5th edition of the Exercise Indra Dhanush 2020 commenced on 24th February. It is a joint air force exercise between Indian Air Force (IAF) and British Royal Air Forces (RAF) has commenced at Air Force Station Hindan in Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the new Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Production Hangar at Helicopter Division in Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Complex at Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The 6th Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) "VAJRA" has been launched in Chennai. The Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel is expected to strengthen the efforts Indian Coast Guard in securing the vast coastline of over 7500 km, including an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of over 20 lakh sq kms.

March 2020

- A unit of Indian Army has organized a Self Defence Training demonstration for Women with a theme of "Stronger You Stronger Society" in Nalbari district of Assam.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has designed a casualty evacuation bag to transport or isolate persons infected with Covid-19. The bag is water and air-proof and treated to deal with biological agents.
- The Indian Army's International Seminar "Pragyan Conclave 2020" was held at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, organised by Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS).
- High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune has organised the National Workshop on Explosive Detection (NWED-2020) at Pune, Maharashtra.
- RaiDer-X, an explosive detection device capable of detecting the explosives from a stand-off distance has been jointly developed by IISc, Bangalore and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune.
- The Ministry of Defence has signed the capital acquisition contract of worth Rs 880 crore with Israel Weapons Industries for the procurement of Negev 7.62 X 51 mm Light Machine Guns.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved the procurement of 83 advanced Mk1A version of indigenous Tejas fighter aircrafts for Indian Air Force.
- The Defence Acquisition Council has approved the acquisition of indigenous defence equipments worth Rs 1,300 crore.
- US Marines and UAE Emirati forces conducted the biennial exercise, named Native Fury at Abu Dhabi. The biennial exercise, called Native Fury, shows the close ties between American forces and the United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula home to Abu Dhabi.



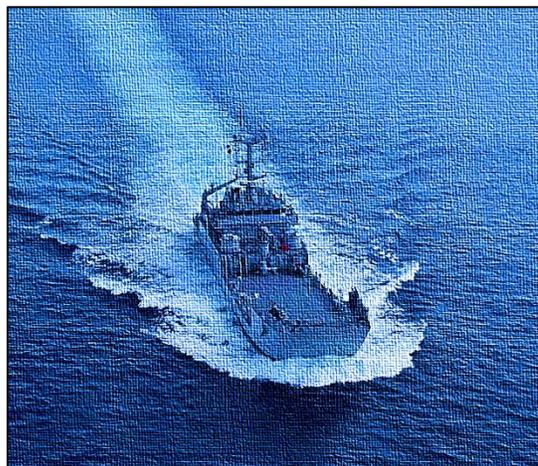
- Army Chief Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane has launched 'Operation Namaste' to extend assistance to the govt in containing the spread of coronavirus and insulate the force from the pandemic.

April 2020

- Indian Navy's Naval Dockyard in Mumbai has designed and developed its own handheld infraredbased temperature sensor gun for the screening of personnel in a bid to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) has launched 'Operation Sanjeevani' and air-lifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medical supplies to the Maldives via transport aircraft C-130J as assistance in the fight against the COVID 19.
- United States has approved the sale of Harpoon air-launched anti-ship missiles and Mark 54 lightweight torpedoes to India to enhance India's deterrent capabilities against "regional threats" and also to strengthen its homeland defence.
- Indian Navy's Naval Aircraft Yard (Kochi) has formed "Air Evacuation Pod (AEP)" for the safe evacuation of COVID-19 patients from remote areas. The pod is made up of aluminium, nitrile rubber and perspex.
- Central Industrial Security Force has launched an e-office application named 'e-karyalay' to enable the movement of files and documents of CISF without physical touch. This has been done to prevent coronavirus infection due to frequent touching of files by many persons.
- Australia has cancelled "Pitch Black 2020" premier multilateral air combat training exercise between India and Australia.

May 2020

- Lieutenant General Raj Shukla has assumed the command of the Army Training Command (ARTRAC).
- An operation named "Samudra Setu" has been launched by the Indian Navy. "Samudra Setu" means "Sea Bridge". This operation is a part of India's effort to bring back Indian citizens who are stranded overseas amid COVID-19 pandemic.
- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh has commissioned Indian Coast Guard Ship "Sachet" and 2 interceptor boats (IBs) C-450 and C-451 in Goa.
- Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) has been approved by the Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with an outlay of Rs 400 crore. It has been approved to offer private sector defence and aerospace companies affordable facilities to test as well as validate the weaponry designed by them.
- Landing Craft Utility Ship 'INLCU L57' commissioned into Indian Navy in Port Blair. It has been built by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE). The "INLCU L57" is the seventh LCU Mark IV class warship.



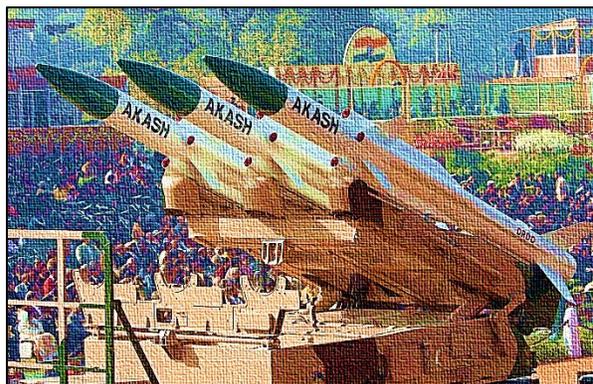
- Tejas Mk-1 FOC aircraft has been inducted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) into the recently resurrected No 18 Squadron the "Flying Bullets" at Air Force Station Sulur.
- The Army Commanders' Conference commenced in New Delhi to brainstorm on current emerging security as well as administrative challenges, and will also find out the future course for Indian Army.
- The foundation stone for a missile park "Agnepurastha" was laid at INS Kalinga, Naval base in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

June 2020

- Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex was inaugurated at Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Indian Air Force has indigenously designed, developed and manufactured an Airborne Rescue Pod for Isolated Transportation (ARPIT) for the evacuation of critical patients with infectious diseases, from high altitude area, isolated and remote areas.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has delivered ICGS Kanaklata Barua, the fifth and last boat in the series of Fast Patrol Vessels (FPV) for the Indian Coast Guard.
- India will send its Tri-Service contingent to take part in the 75th Victory Day Parade of World War II in Moscow, Russia. Russia is conducting a military parade on 24th June 2020 in Moscow on the 75th anniversary of the victory in the Second World War.
- Indian Navy has inducted an advanced anti-torpedo decoy system called 'Maareech'. This system has been designed and developed indigenously by the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

July 2020

- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has signed License Agreement and Transfer of Technology (ToT) with Defence Research and Development Organisation– Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDO–DRDL) for Akash Missile Weapon System (Indian Army Variant).
- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has entrusted capital procurement powers to Armed Forces. With this, the Armed Forces will now be able to progress urgent Capital Acquisition Cases upto Rs 300 crores to fulfil their emergent operational requirements.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System which is capable of para dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft.
- Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a contract with Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) for procurement of 1,512 Mine Plough (MP) for Tank T-90 S/SK. The procurement will cost approximately Rs 557 crore.
- Indian Navy has conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX), a high-end joint naval exercise with the US Navy in the Indian Ocean.



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has provided drones named 'Bharat' to the Indian Army to provide accurate surveillance along the Line of Actual Control in high altitude and mountainous terrains of Eastern Ladakh.

August 2020

- India will take part in the multilateral military "Russian Kavkaz 2020" strategic command-post exercise to be held in Astrakhan, Russia. The Indian contingent includes 150 Army personnel and a smaller number of personnel from the Navy and Air Force.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has launched an Interceptor Boat 'ICGS C-454' in Surat, Gujarat. The Interceptor Boat 'ICGS C-454' has been built by Larsen and Toubro and it has a maximum speed of 45 nautical miles or 83 kilometers per hour.
- Chief of the Air Staff, Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria has launched a mobile application named 'MY IAF' to provide career-related information and details to the aspirants who wish to join the Indian Air Force.
- India Pavilion at the Army-2020 International Military and Technical Forum was inaugurated by Secretary (Defence Production) Raj Kumar and Indian Ambassador DB Venkatesh Verma at Moscow, Russia. The 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) was held virtually. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr Chan Heng Kee co-chaired the virtual dialogue.
- Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App has been launched to provide support in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets as it has been affected adversely due to the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.



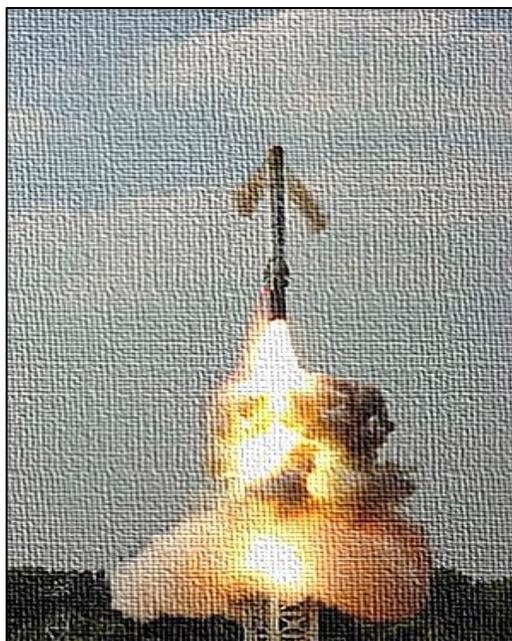
September 2020

- India has withdrawn its participation from the multilateral Military Exercise "Kavkaz 2020" to be held in Russia.
- Acquisition Wing of Ministry of Defence has signed a contract worth Rs 2580 Cr with M/s. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd., M/s. Tata Power Company Ltd. and M/s. Larsen & Toubro for the supply of six Pinaka Regiments to the Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army and hence will enhance the operation preparedness of our Armed Forces.
- Indian Navy and Russian Navy has commenced the 11th edition of a biennial bilateral maritime exercise "INDRA NAVY" in the Bay of Bengal.
- The first batch of five Rafale fighter jets was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 10 September 2020 at the Air Force Station in Ambala. They have been inducted in the Indian Air Force's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' based in Ambala. The first five Rafale aircraft had arrived from France on 27 July 2020.
- The 13th edition of Aero India-21 is scheduled to be held at Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka from 3 to 07 February 2021.

- The 10th Defense Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Group Meeting was held virtually by the Indian and U.S. Defense Delegations. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Raj Kumar, Secretary, Defence Production, from the Indian Ministry of Defence and Ms. Ellen M. Lord, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, from the U.S. Department of Defence.
- The Indian Navy (IN) has commenced a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in the East Indian Ocean Region. The exercise would involve participation of HMAS Hobart from the Australian side and Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Karmuk.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted a successful flight test of ABHYAS, a High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) from the Interim Test Range, Balasore in Odisha. ABHYAS can be used as a target for evaluation of various missile systems. ABHYAS has been designed and developed by the Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE) of the DRDO.
- Flight Lieutenant, Shivangi Singh to become the first woman fighter pilot of India to fly the Rafale combat aircraft that was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) September 10, 2020. She is one of the 10 Indian women fighter pilots in IAF. Five Rafale Aircraft were formally inducted into the IAF's 17 Squadron 'Golden Arrows' on September 10, 2020, at a function held at Air Force Station, Ambala (Haryana).
- The fourth edition of biennial Japan-India Maritime bilateral Exercise (JIMEX) kicked off in the northern Arabia Sea. It is being conducted in a 'non-contact atsea-only format', in view of COVID-19 restrictions. From India, the warships Chennai, Teg, Tarkash and fleet tanker Deepak will represent the Indian Navy, while Japanese warships Kaga and Ikazuchi will represent Japan in the drill.
- BrahMos surface-to-surface supersonic cruise missile featuring indigenous Booster and Airframe Section along with many other 'Made in India' subsystems was successfully flight tested from ITR, Balasore in Odisha.

October 2020

- The second edition of Indian Navy (IN) – Bangladesh Navy (BN) Bilateral Exercise Bongosagar commences in Northern Bay of Bengal. Exercise Bongosagar, is aimed at developing interoperability and joint operational skills through conduct of a wide spectrum of maritime exercises and operations.
- The Indian Coast Guard Vessel Karnaklata Barua was commissioned at Kolkata. It is the fifth and last in a series of Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd. The FPVs are upgraded versions of the inshore patrol vessels with a modified form of the hull and can achieve a speed of 34 knots. Such vessels have also been delivered to Indian Navy by GRSE.



- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired a new version of the surface-to-surface nuclear-capable ballistic missile "Shaurya" at Balasore, off the coast of Odisha.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested the "Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo" (SMART) from Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha.
- The seventh offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), "Vigraha" was formally unveiled at the Kattupalli port, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The vessel, built by Larsen and Toubro, is the last in the series of seven OPVs contracted to the company by the Ministry of Defence in 2015.
- The DRDO has successfully flight-tested a new generation Anti-Radiation Missile (RUDRAM-1) at the Wheeler Island off the coast of Odisha. The missile was launched from SU-30 Mk1 fighter aircraft.
- A two-day Coastal Security Exercise namely 'Sagar Kavach' conducted by the Indian Navy along with Indian Coast Guard and all stakeholders involved in Coastal Security from the coast of Kerala. The exercise was monitored from Joint Operations Centre, Kochi.
- Indian Army and Maharashtra Police organised an anti-terror exercise "Suraksha Kavach" at Lullanagar, Pune, Maharashtra. The aim of the exercise was to harmonize the drills and procedures of both Army and Police for activating anti-terrorist Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) to counter any terrorist actions in Pune.
- India successfully flight-tested its indigenously developed Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) missile from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast. The missile was test-fired from a roof-top launcher of the ground-based platform. It is an upgraded version of the anti-tank missile, Helicopter Launched Nag (HeliNa).
- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) successfully carried out the final trial of the third generation, anti-tank guided missile 'NAG', from the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan.
- The Chief of Army Staff, General MM Naravane has commissioned the 'INS Kavaratti', the last of four indigenously-built anti-submarine warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes, into the Indian Navy in Visakhapatnam.
- India successfully test-fired the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, from the Indian Navy's indigenously built stealth destroyer INS Chennai with the weapon hitting a pre-designated target in the Arabian Sea.
- India has invited Australia to participate in its trilateral naval exercise "Malabar-2020" which is scheduled to be held in November 2020, in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea. In 2020, the exercise will be held in a 'non-contact – at sea' format. It aims to increase cooperation and enhance safety and security in the maritime security domain.



November 2020

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired an air-launched version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi fighter aircraft in the Bay of Bengal. The aircraft took off from an airbase in Punjab & reached the Bay of Bengal after mid-air refuelling.
- The Navies of India, the US, Japan and Australia began the four-day-long phase first of the Malabar naval exercise in the Bay of Bengal. From the Indian side, destroyer Ranvijay, frigate Shivalik, off-shore patrol vessel Sukanya, fleet support ship Shakti and submarine Sindhuraj will be part of the drill. US Navy Ship USS John S McCain (Guided-missile destroyer), Australian Navy Ship HMAS Ballarat (long-range frigate) and Japan Maritime Self Defence Ship (JMSDF) Ship JS Onami (destroyer) are participating along with Indian Navy units.
- The enhanced version of PINAKA rocket system was successfully flight tested by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha. This enhanced version of the Pinaka rocket would replace the existing Pinaka Mk-I rockets. While Mk-1 had a range of 40 km, the new variant can hit a target 45 to 60 km away.
- India receives the second batch of three Rafale Aircraft, bringing total Rafale Jets with IAF to eight. The second batch of three Rafale jets landed in Jamnagar, Gujarat on 4th November 2020, after flying non-stop from France.
- Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) has conducted a three-day Tri-Service Combat Exercise code-named "Bull Strike" at Teresa Island in Nicobar Group of Islands. The exercise focussed on interoperability and synergy among three services – Army, Navy and Air Force to maximise combat potential.
- A two-day joint coastal security exercise, "Sagar Kavach" was launched at Paradip Coast, Odisha. The exercise is being carried out by a joint effort of the state of Odisha and West Bengal governments.
- A model of Anti Satellite (A-SAT) Missile installed inside DRDO Bhawan was unveiled by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The installation of the A-SAT model will inspire the DRDO fraternity to take up many more such challenging missions in future.
- The Indian Navy has launched the fifth Scorpene submarine "Vagir" at Mazagon Dock of south Mumbai. The submarine is capable of taking missions such as anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, mine laying, intelligence gathering and area surveillance.
- India successfully test-fired the Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile (QRSAM) system off the coast of Balasore in Odisha. The system achieved a major milestone by a direct hit on to a Banshee Pilotless target aircraft at medium range and medium altitude. Indian forces have carried out at least seven tests earlier of the missile system.
- The second phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 has been organised in the Northern Arabian Sea from 17 to 20 November 2020. The first Phase of Exercise Malabar 2020 was conducted in the Bay of



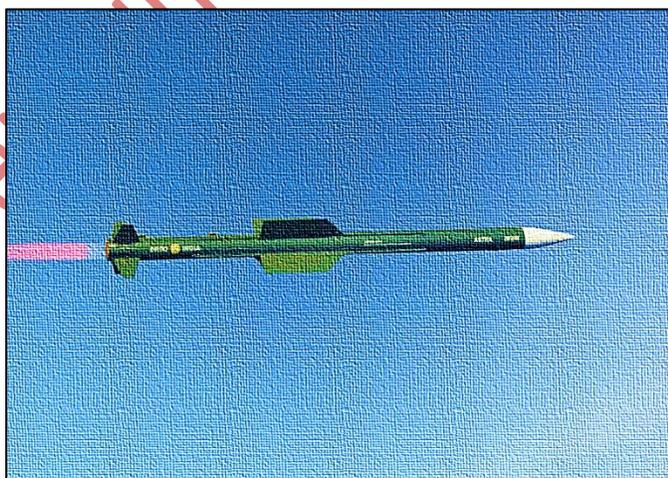
Bengal from 03 to 06 November 2020. Exercise Malabar 2020 is the 24th edition of MALABAR. The second phase will witness joint operations, centred around the Vikramaditya Carrier Battle Group of the Indian Navy and Nimitz Carrier Strike Group of the US Navy.

- The 30th edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) was held between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Karmuk, an indigenously built Missile Corvette and Thailand Ship (HTMS) Kraburi, a Chao Phraya Class Frigate along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both the navies participated in the CORPAT.
- The 2nd edition of India, Singapore and Thailand Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20 was conducted from in the Andaman Sea. The 2020 edition of the exercise is being hosted by Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). Indian Navy (IN) Ships including indigenously built ASW corvette Kamorta and missile corvette Karmuk participated in the exercise.
- Indian Navy has got its ninth Boeing P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft, part of the nearly \$1 billion deal with the US for four additional planes signed in 2016.
- The 27th edition of India – Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20 has been organised from 23 to 25 November 2020 in the Andaman Sea. Indian Navy (IN) is the host for the 2020 edition of SIMBEX. The SIMBEX series of exercises are being held between the Indian Navy and Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), annually since 1994.
- Indian Army successfully test-fired a land-attack version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory. The supersonic cruise missile successfully hit its target, which was on another island.
- The Defence Research and Development (DRDO) Chairman G Satheesh Reddy has flagged off the first Production unit of Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT), Varunastra. The Varunastra has been designed and developed by Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL) of DRDO while Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), Vishakhapatnam has manufactured the torpedo for the Indian Navy.
- Konark Corps of Indian Army has launched a 1971 kilometres cycling expedition in Gujarat and Rajasthan to commemorate the commencement of the Golden Jubilee Victory Celebrations of Indian Armed Forces in the Indo-Pak War of 1971.

December 2020

- India successfully test-fired the anti-ship version of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory. The test was conducted as part of the ongoing trials being conducted by the Indian Navy. The DRDO-developed BrahMos supersonic cruise missile with a strike range of 300 Km was launched from Indian Navy's INS Ranvijay and it successfully hit its target ship near the Car Nicobar Islands in the Bay of Bengal.
- The Indian Navy (IN) and the Russian Federation Navy (RuFN) are undertaking Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Eastern Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The exercise will help in enhancing interoperability, improving understanding and imbibing best practices between both the friendly navies. It involves advanced surface and antisubmarine warfare exercises, weapon firings, seamanship exercises and helicopter operations.
- Himgiri, which is the first of the three Project 17A ships being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata was launched. The launch of 'Himgiri' has showcased GRSE's commitment towards the building of three state-of-the-art warships of P17A for Indian Navy.

- The interceptor boat C-454, built by Larsen and Toubro at its Hazira plant, will operate from Gujarat under the control of the Commander Coast Guard Region North-West of the Indian Coast Guard. It was commissioned by Surat Police Commissioner Ajay Tomar.
- Indian Coast Guard's (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) 'Sujeet', which is second in the series of 5 OPVs was commissioned at the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) in Vasco Town, Goa by Raj Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production).
- Ashraf Patel, the founder member and Board member of Pravah and ComMutiny – The Youth Collective (CYC) has been declared as the winner of the Social Entrepreneur of the Year (SEOY) Award – India 2020. The award was presented by the Union Minister of Women & Child Development & Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani.
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Asia Regional Office awarded Paul Sein Twa, for Goldman Environmental Prize 2020 for Asia. This award is given to him for his efforts in promoting the self-determination of the Karen people in managing their natural resources.
- Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has been awarded with the prestigious Golden Peacock Environment Management Award for the year 2020 in the Steel Sector by the Institute of Directors.
- The Bayern Munich striker, Robert Lewandowski has been named The Best FIFA Men's Player 2020, beating off competition from last year's winner Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo. The 32-year-old Lewandowski, top scorer in Europe and winner of the Champions League with Bayern. Manchester City full-back, Lucy Bronze won the women's best player award, becoming the first female English player to take the prize.
- Vidyut Mohan was one of the "Young Champions of the Earth" winners by United Nations Environment Programme. A 29-year-old Indian entrepreneur is among the seven winners of the prestigious "Young Champions of the Earth" 2020 prize given by the UN environment agency to global change-makers using innovative ideas and ambitious action to help solve some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- The chairman emeritus of the Tata group Ratan Tata, will be honoured with 'Global Visionary of Sustainable Business and Peace' award. The award is given by the Indo-Israel Chambers of Commerce for promoting innovation that supports sustainability and peace in the region, including with the Palestinians.
- The Defence Minister, Rajnath Singh recently handed over three indigenously developed high technology systems to chiefs of the three armed forces: the Indian Army, the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force. The three systems namely, Border Surveillance System (BOSS), Indian Maritime Situational Awareness System (IMSAS) and ASTRA Mk-I Missile, have been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Union Minister of Defence, Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the advanced Hypersonic Wind Tunnel (HWT) test facility of the DRDO in Hyderabad, Telangana. The state-of-the-art HWT Test facility has



made India as the only third country in the world, after the US and Russia, to have such a huge facility in size and capability.

- The Indian Navy and Vietnamese Navy undertook the naval passage exercise PASSEX in the South China Sea. The two-day exercise was conducted as part of efforts to boost maritime cooperation between the two countries. The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kiltan took part in the exercise.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal to export indigenously-developed Akash Missile System. The Cabinet has also approved to set up of a committee for faster approvals of exports. The export version of Akash will be different from System currently deployed with Indian Armed Forces.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) along with the Indian Navy conducted the successful maiden test trial of 'SAHAYAK-NG' India's first indigenously designed and developed Air Dropped Container from IL 38SD aircraft (Indian Navy) off the coast of Goa.

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