

Defence News for IDBI JAM CA NBCC

(exam to be held on 8 June 2025)

I. MAJOR INDIAN DEFENCE EXERCISES & OPERATIONS (2025)

Indian Army & Tri-Services

- **“Teesta Prahar” Field Exercise (North Bengal):**
 - Aimed at operational readiness near the strategic ‘Chicken’s Neck’ (Siliguri corridor, 22 km wide land link).
 - **Army Chief:** General Upendra Dwivedi | **Vice Chief:** Lt. Gen. NS Raja Subramani
- **“Operation Sindoor”:**
 - Targeted strikes in Pakistan & POJK, response to the 22 April 2025 Pahalgam terrorist attack (26 civilians killed).
 - **Indigenous “Akashteer” Air Defence System** by BEL played a key role (inducted 2024, contract: ₹1,982 crore).
- **Operation Abhyas (Civil Defence Drill):**
 - Held after 53 years (last in 1971), conducted on 7 May 2025.
- **Exercise Raahat (Nagaland):**
 - Joint exercise by Indian Army and NDRF.
 - **NDRF DG:** Piyush Anand | HQ: New Delhi
- **Exercise “Aakraman”:**
 - Major combat exercise by Indian Air Force.
- **Exercise “Prachand Prahaar”:**
 - Integrated multi-domain tri-service exercise (Army/Navy/IAF), March 25–27, Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Exercise “Devil Strike”:**
 - Jan 16–19, 2025, Northern Borders. Involves elite airborne soldiers (Army & Air Force).
- **Exercise “DUSTLIK-6”:**
 - Joint India–Uzbekistan exercise, 15–28 April 2025, Pune. Focus: Counter-terrorism, urban operations.
 - Indian contingent: 60 JAT Regiment + IAF.
- **Exercise “Dharma Guardian” (6th Ed., with Japan):**
 - Scheduled Feb 25–Mar 9, 2025, Mount Fuji, Japan. India and Japan also hold 'Malabar' and 'Shinnyu Maitri' exercises.

Indian Navy

- **INSV Kaundinya:** Ancient stitched sail ship inducted at Karwar Naval Base.
- **‘Arnala’:** 1st Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (SWC) delivered, built by GRSE Kolkata + L&T Shipyard.
- **INS Sharda at Maldives:** For HADR Exercise 2025.
- **INS Magdala:** 6th ship of the ASW SWC project.
- **INS Surat (Project 15B destroyer), INS Nilgiri (lead ship of Project 17A stealth frigates), INS Vagsheer (last Scorpene-class submarine under Project 75):**
 - Commissioned by PM Narendra Modi, Jan 15, 2025.
- **INSV Tarini (Navika Sagar Parikrama II):** Successfully crossed Cape Horn; crew: Lt Cdr Dilna K, Lt Cdr Roopa A.
- **INS Utkarsh:** Launched by Larsen & Toubro from Kattupalli Shipyard (L&T CEO: S.N. Subrahmanyam).

Indian Coast Guard

- **ICG & Indonesia Coast Guard:** Renewed MoU for 3 years (Maritime Safety & Security).
- **“Sagar Kavach” Exercise:** Security exercise in West Bengal to validate SOPs.

II. JOINT & MULTINATIONAL MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

- **“Talisman Sabre 2025”:**
 - India to join, hosted by Australia (11th edition). Other participants: US, Japan, Australia.
 - Dubbed “Olympics of Military Exercises.”
- **“Desert Flag-10”:**
 - IAF joins at Al Dhafra, UAE (USA, France, UK, Australia, Germany, S Korea).
- **“Indra 2025” (India–Russia Naval Exercise):**
 - 14th edition, Mar 28–Apr 2, 2025, off Chennai.
 - Russian: Pechenga, Rezkiy, Aldar Tsydenzhapov | Indian: INS Rana, INS Kuthar, P8I.
- **“VARUNA 2025” (India–France):**
 - 23rd edition, Mar 19–22, 2025, Arabian Sea.
 - Features INS Vikrant (India) & Charles de Gaulle (France).
- **“AIKEYME 2025” (Africa India Key Maritime Engagement):**
 - First edition, April 2025, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.
 - 10 African nations, Indian Ocean Ship (INS Sunayna).
- **“Amphex 2025”:**
 - Tri-services amphibious exercise in Karwar, Karnataka.
- **“Khanjar-XII 2025”:**
 - India–Kyrgyzstan joint military exercise, Tokmok (Kyrgyzstan).
- **“Cyclone 2025”:**
 - 3rd India–Egypt joint exercise, Rajasthan.
- **“Ekuverin”:**
 - 13th India–Maldives exercise, Maldives.
- **“BONGOSAGOR” & “CORPAT”:**
 - India–Bangladesh (Bay of Bengal), 4th & 6th editions.
- **“Sea Dragon 2025”:**
 - Multilateral naval exercise, Guam. India, US, Australia, Japan, Korea.
- **“Exercise Komodo”:**
 - Indian Navy INS Shardul & P8I, Indonesia.
- **International Fleet Review 2025 (Bali):**
 - INS Shardul & P8I participated; earlier 'LA PEROUSE' with INS Mumbai.
- **Exercise “Jal-Thal-Raksha 2025”:**
 - Bet Dwarka, Gujarat – island security.
- **“Winged Raider”:**
 - Joint Army–IAF exercise.
- **“Yudh Kaushal”:**
 - Joint Army–IAF at Umroi Military Station, Meghalaya.
- **India–Belgium:**
 - Defence Task Force established.
- **India–France–UAE:**
 - 3-day trilateral air combat “Desert Knight,” Arabian Sea.
- **Other India–France exercises:**
 - ‘Shakti’ (Army), ‘Garuda’ (Air Force).
- **LA PEROUSE:**
 - Indian Navy’s INS Mumbai participated, Indonesia.



III. DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY, INDIGENISATION & PRODUCTION

Key Contracts, Deals & Indigenous Systems

- **BEL & Indian Army Air Defence:**
 - Contract for Integrated Drone Detection & Interdiction System (IDDIS). **BEL HQ:** Bengaluru, **CMD:** Manoj Jain.
- **Akashteer (BEL):**
 - Key air defence system, inducted 2024, ₹1,982 crore contract (Mar 2023).
- **Alpha Design (Bengaluru):**
 - Delivered first of six "Surya" VHF stealth-detecting radars to IAF (₹200 crore).
- **SAIPL & ACI:**
 - To manufacture 200 Diamond DA40 NG trainer aircraft, first such private initiative.
- **Nagastra-1 (Solar Industries):**
 - Indigenous loitering munition (75% Indian content).
- **"HIMKAVACH" Multi-Layer Clothing:**
 - DRDO-developed for extreme cold (+20°C to -60°C).
- **Bhargavastra Micro-Missile System (EEL):**
 - Counter drone swarms, tracks >6 km, tested in Odisha.

Missile & Radar Developments

- **Nag Missile System & Light Vehicles:**
 - MoD contract: ₹2,500 crore (Buy Indian-IDDM). FDI in Defence raised to 74%. Defence Budget 2025: ₹6.81 lakh crore (₹1.8 lakh crore for modernisation).
- **DRDO "BM-04" Hypersonic Missile:**
 - Mach 5+, range 400–1500 km.
- **DRDO "Pralay" SRBM:**
 - Surface-to-surface, 350–500 km, 500–1,000 kg payload.
- **Pinaka MBRL:**
 - ₹10,200 crore CCS approval for ammo procurement; current range 75 km (goal: 150–300 km).
- **Ashwini Low-Level Transportable Radar:**
 - BEL, ₹2,906 crore contract, for missile/UAV tracking.

Defence Manufacturing & Exports

- **Defence production target:**
 - ₹3 lakh crore by 2029 (Rajnath Singh at Defence Conclave 2025, Force of the Future); current output ₹1.6 lakh crore; export target: ₹50,000 crore by 2029 (interim ₹30,000 crore in 2025; record exports: ₹23,622 crore FY25, 12% YoY rise, but 21% below target).
- **Indigenised ammunition:**
 - 154 out of 175 types (88%) made in India.
- **India's top export customers:**
 - US, France, Armenia.
- **India sends 2nd BrahMos battery to Philippines:**
 - \$375 mn deal, 290 km, Mach 2.8.
- **Goa Shipyard Ltd:**
 - Launched "Tavasya" (2nd frigate, Project 1135.6, first was "Tripur", July 2024); built "Amulya" and "Akshay" patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard.
- **LSAM 12 Missile Cum Ammunition Barge:**
 - Built by SECON Engineering, Visakhapatnam.

Naval & Submarine Indigenisation

- **INS Vaghsheer (Scorpene-class):**
 - Delivered by MDL Mumbai, Project 75.
- **Fast Patrol Vessels:**
 - "Amulya" & "Akshay" by Goa Shipyard for ICG.

- **Sonobuoys:**
 - Ultra Maritime (USA) + Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL), new Visakhapatnam facility.
- **BDL (Hyderabad):**
 - CMD: A. Madhavarao; MoD contract for MRSAM worth ₹2,960 crore.

Other Innovations

- **DRDO & IIT Hyderabad:**
 - Unveiled India's largest metal 3D printing machine for rocket parts.
- **Indigenous Shakti-Based Semiconductor Chip:**
 - Developed by IIT Madras and ISRO for aerospace.

Defence MoUs

- **Aero India 2025:**
 - India signed MoUs with Yemen, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Gambia, Gabon for military training/capacity building.

HAL Updates

- **HJT-36 Jet Trainer renamed "Yashas"** (from "Sitara") at Aero India 2025.
- **HAL Management Academy & IIIT-Dharwad:**
 - MoU for collaboration in advanced technologies (AI, Data Science, Robotics, AR/VR, Digital Manufacturing).
- **156 Indigenous Light Combat Helicopters (HAL):**
 - ₹62,700 crore MoD contract (90 for Army, 66 for IAF).
- **KC135 Flight Refueller:**
 - Wet lease from Metrea (USA) for IAF.

IV. MAJOR INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE DEVELOPMENTS

Global Military Trends

- **SIPRI 2024:**
 - Global military spending up 9.4%; India 5th at \$86 bn (1.9% GDP).
- **SIPRI Arms Imports/Exports (2024):**
 - **Top Importers:** Ukraine (8.8%), India (8.3%), Qatar (6.8%), Saudi Arabia (6.8%), Pakistan (4.6%)
 - **India's arms supply:** 36% from Russia (biggest customer for Russia & France)
 - **Exporters:** US (43%), France (9.6%), Russia (7.8%), China (5.9%), Germany (5.6%)
- **Russia's "Zircon" Hypersonic Missile:**
 - Mach 9 (~10,000 kph), 1,500 km, test-fired from Admiral Gorshkov.
- **Iran "Etemad" Missile:**
 - Range: 1,700 km.
- **US "Golden Dome" Missile Defence System:**
 - Budget: \$175 bn, operational by Jan 2029.

Notable International Operations

- **Israel's "Operation Gideon's Chariots":**
 - Conducted against Hamas in Gaza.
 - **Pakistan "Operation Bunyan Marsus":**
 - Retaliation to "Operation Sindoor," targeting 26 locations in J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat.
 - **Pakistan's "Fatah" Missile:**
 - Surface-to-surface, 120 km range.
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V. SPECIAL MISSIONS, OUTREACH & DEFENCE EVENTS

- **“ARMEX-24” (Army Mountain Expedition):**
 - 28-day, 146 km high-altitude trek in Sikkim.
- **Community Radio “Voice of Kinnaur” (HP):**
 - Launched under Operation Sadbhavana.
- **“Samudra Pradakshina” (All Women Sailing Expedition):**
 - IASV Triveni; Mumbai–Seychelles–Mumbai (4,000 nm, 12 officers, 55 days, flagged in 30 May 2025).
- **MacGregor Memorial Medal:**
 - Presented by CDS Gen Anil Chauhan to five personnel; book “Bravest of the Brave” released.
- **Defence Innovation Event “Manthan 2025”:**
 - Held in Bengaluru by iDEX-DIO.
- **INSV Tarini crossed Point Nemo** (“Oceanic Pole of Inaccessibility”).

VI. AVIATION, SPACE, & TECHNOLOGY

- **Alpha Design Technologies:**
 - Delivered stealth-detecting radars to IAF.
- **HAL–GE Aerospace:**
 - Maintenance contract for Apache fleet, T700 GE 701D engines.
- **Samudrayaan Mission (2026):**
 - India’s first manned deep ocean mission: 3 scientists, 6,000 meters in Indian Ocean; **Matsya 6000** submersible by NIOT Chennai.

VII. DEFENCE INFRASTRUCTURE, LOGISTICS & CONTRACTS

- **Garuda Aerospace “Drone City”:**
 - Announced in Orvakal, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Ministry of Defence (MoD):**
 - 88% of 175 ammunition types now indigenized.
 - Contracts:
 - BEL: EON 51 Systems for Indian Navy (₹624 crore)
 - Russia’s Rosoboronexport: \$248 mn for 1,000 HP engines (T-72 tanks)

VIII. FAST FACTS & MISCELLANEOUS

- **India’s S400, Barak 8, Akash Missile Systems:**
 - Used after Pakistani attacks on 15 IAF bases/cities.
 - S400 “Sudarshan Chakra”: 600 km, Mach 14; Barak 8: 70 km (India-Israel); Akash: 30 km (DRDO).
 - 5 S400 squadrons: 3 operational, 2 by 2026.
 - Radar tech: “Grave Stone”, “Cheese Board”.
- **TROPEX-25:**
 - Largest Indian Navy maritime exercise (biennial, West coast).
- **Sanjay (Battlefield Surveillance System):**
 - Jointly by Army & BEL; flagged off by Rajnath Singh.
- **DRDO’s Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (Scramjet):**
 - For hypersonic vehicles/missiles.
- **Ultra Maritime + BDL Sonobuoys:**
 - For underwater detection; produced in Visakhapatnam.
- **India’s arms exports to Armenia:**
 - “Trajan” 155 mm artillery (L&T + KNDS, France), inducted by Armenia.