

# Defence & Security

■ NDA GAT Section · CFN01

🎯 NDA Level : High Priority

Defence & Security is the **single highest-scoring area** in NDA GAT Current Affairs. As a future officer yourself, examiners expect you to know what India is inducting, which exercise is with which country, and who commands the forces. Straightforward factual questions — but the sheer volume of data requires systematic memorisation.

## ✦ NDA Exam Pattern — Defence & Security:

- Exercise: partner country + type (land/naval/air) + focus area | • Induction: aircraft/ship name + from where + key feature
- Missile: DRDO system + role (surface-to-air, BVR, etc.) | • Chief: current holder + when appointed
- Infrastructure: tunnel/base name + location + strategic purpose

## 1. Military Exercises

### ✂ Land Exercises

- ▶ **Yudh Abhyas** — India & USA. Land. Focus: mountain & high-altitude warfare, HADR. Held alternately in India and USA. Involves infantry battalions.
- ▶ **Vajra Prahar** — India & USA. Special Forces. Focus: counter-terrorism, COIN, special ops. Involves Indian Para SF and US SOCOM.
- ▶ **Shakti** — India & France. Land. Focus: counter-terrorism, humanitarian ops.
- ▶ **Dharma Guardian** — India & Japan. Land. Focus: jungle warfare, mutual interoperability. JGSDF + Indian Army.
- ▶ **Mitra Shakti** — India & Sri Lanka. Land. Focus: counter-terrorism, HADR. India's neighbourhood engagement.
- ▶ **Garuda Shakti** — India & Indonesia. Special Forces. Focus: jungle warfare, maritime security.

- ▶ **Ekuverin** — India & Maldives. Land. Focus: counter-terrorism, HADR.
- ▶ **Cyclone** — India & Egypt. Special Forces. First bilateral exercise with Egypt; debuted 2023.
- ▶ **Austrahind** — India & Australia. Land. First bilateral exercise; held since 2022.

## Naval Exercises

- ▶ **SIMBEX** — India & Singapore. Naval. *Longest-running continuous bilateral naval exercise* (since 1994). Focus: anti-submarine warfare (ASW), fleet manoeuvres.
- ▶ **Varuna** — India & France. Naval. Indian Navy + French Marine Nationale. Focus: ASW, VBSS (Visit, Board, Search, Seizure).
- ▶ **Indra** — India & Russia. Tri-service. Only tri-service exercise with Russia. Held alternately.
- ▶ **Milan** — Multilateral (50+ nations). Naval. Hosted by India at Visakhapatnam. Largest multilateral naval exercise hosted by India.
- ▶ **Malabar** — India, USA, Japan (+ Australia from 2020). Naval. QUAD naval core. Focus: ASW, advanced naval ops.
- ▶ **Tasman Saber** — India, USA, Australia. Tri-service. HADR and combat.
- ▶ **Zayed Talwar** — India & UAE. Naval. Arabian Sea cooperation.
- ▶ **KONKAN** — India & UK. Naval. Royal Navy + Indian Navy.

## Air & Tri-Service Exercises

- ▶ **Garuda** — India & France. Air. IAF + French Air & Space Force. Rafale jets feature prominently.
- ▶ **Veer Guardian** — India & Japan. Air. *First-ever India-Japan air exercise* (2023). IAF + JASDF. Su-30MKI and F-2 jets.
- ▶ **Desert Knight** — India, France (+ UAE). Air. Desert terrain; extended Garuda format.
- ▶ **Cope India** — India & USA. Air. IAF + USAF; large-force air combat manoeuvring.
- ▶ **Tiger Triumph** — India & USA. Tri-service. *HADR-focused*; all three services of both nations. Amphibious disaster relief operations.

▲ **NDA Trap:** Three exercises involve India and the USA — Yudh Abhyas (land/HADR), Vajra Prahar (Special Forces), Tiger Triumph (tri-service HADR). Questions often give the focus and ask the name. SIMBEX = longest *bilateral naval*; Milan = largest multilateral naval hosted by India. Veer Guardian (2023) = *first* India-Japan air exercise.

## 2. Defence Inductions & Acquisitions

### ✈ Aircraft & Helicopters

- ▶ **Tejas Mk1A (LCA):** India's indigenous Light Combat Aircraft. 83 aircraft ordered from HAL (Rs 48,000 crore). Features: AESA radar, BVR missiles, electronic warfare suite, mid-air refuelling probe. Single-engine, delta-wing. Currently in production.
- ▶ **Rafale (IAF):** 36 French-built jets. All delivered to No. 17 Squadron ("Golden Arrows") and No. 101 Squadron. Omni-role: air superiority, nuclear strike, SEAD. Carries Meteor BVR missile (world's longest range air-to-air, 150+ km).
- ▶ **Rafale-M (Navy):** 26 marine-variant Rafale ordered for INS Vikrant (deck-capable). Delivery from ~2028.
- ▶ **C-295 (Transport):** 56 ordered from Airbus Spain. 16 from Spain; 40 to be built in India by Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) at Vadodara, Gujarat — first military aircraft produced in India under Transfer of Technology (ToT). Replaces HS-748 Avro.
- ▶ **MH-60R Seahawk:** 24 multi-role naval helicopters from Sikorsky (USA). Role: anti-submarine warfare, search & rescue. Now with INAS 334.
- ▶ **Apache AH-64E:** 6 attack helicopters for Army Aviation Corps, Jodhpur. Night-vision, Hellfire missiles.
- ▶ **Prachand (LCH):** India's first indigenous attack helicopter. HAL-built. Deployed at Leh (5,000+ m altitude operations). 15 initial order.

### 🚢 Naval Ships & Submarines

- ▶ **INS Vikrant (IAC-1):** Commissioned Sep 2, 2022. *India's first indigenously designed & built aircraft carrier.* 45,000 tonnes; 262 m. Built at Cochin Shipyard. Carries MiG-29K, Ka-31, MH-60R.
- ▶ **INS Vaghsheer:** 6th & final Scorpene-class (Project 75) submarine. Commissioned Jan 2025. Built at Mazagon Dock, Mumbai. French-designed.

- ▶ **INS Imphal:** 3rd Visakhapatnam-class stealth destroyer. Commissioned Dec 2023. 90%+ indigenous content. BrahMos + VLS SAMs.
- ▶ **INS Jatayu:** New Naval Air Station at Minicoy Island, Lakshadweep (commissioned Feb 2024). Significance: covers Nine Degree Channel; IOR surveillance; forward base near international shipping lanes.
- ▶ **INS Varsha (Rambilli, Andhra Pradesh):** Under construction; India's first dedicated nuclear submarine base (underground facility).
- ▶ **P-75I (Project 75 India):** 6 next-generation submarines with AIP (Air Independent Propulsion). TKMS Germany + Mazagon Dock selected. Longer underwater endurance than Scorpene class.

### 3. DRDO & Missile Systems

#### 🌟 Key Missile Systems — Role-Based

- ▶ **Agni-V (MIRV — Mission Divyastra, Mar 2024):** Ballistic missile. *India's first MIRV test* — Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles. One missile, multiple nuclear warheads, different targets. Range 5,000+ km. India = 4th MIRV nation (after USA, Russia, China).
- ▶ **Agni-P (Agni Prime):** New-gen canisterised ballistic missile. Range 1,000–2,000 km. Road-mobile.
- ▶ **BrahMos:** Supersonic cruise missile (Mach 2.8). India–Russia joint venture. Land, sea, air-launched variants. Range 400–500 km. Philippines = first export customer (shore-based anti-ship, 2022).
- ▶ **Pralay:** India's first quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile. Range 150–500 km. Manoeuvres during final phase (hard to intercept). DRDO-developed.
- ▶ **Astra Mk1:** Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile. DRDO. Range 70–80 km. On Su-30MKI and Tejas. Astra Mk2 (150 km) in development.
- ▶ **VSHORADS:** Very Short Range Air Defence System (man-portable/MANPADS). Infrared homing. Counters low-flying drones, helicopters. Replaces imported Igla-S.
- ▶ **QRSAM:** Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile. Mobile, all-weather. Short-range air defence for army field units.
- ▶ **Akash-NG:** Next-gen surface-to-air missile. Active radar seeker (better than Akash Mk1). Range 40–80 km.
- ▶ **MPATGM:** Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile. Fire-and-forget. Replaces imported

Milan missiles at infantry level.

- ▶ **SMART:** Supersonic Missile Assisted Release of Torpedo. Naval anti-submarine weapon. Delivers torpedo to long-range targets via missile.
- ▶ **Mission Shakti (2019):** India's ASAT (Anti-Satellite) weapon test. Shot down own satellite in LEO. India = 4th ASAT-capable nation.
- ▶ **HSTDV (Hypersonic Technology Demonstrator Vehicle):** Scramjet-powered. Test flight 2020. Building towards hypersonic cruise missiles for future.

## 4. Defence Chiefs & Infrastructure

### CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF

#### General Anil Chauhan

Appointed Oct 2022; 2nd CDS; Para SF background; ex-GoC Eastern Command

### CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF (COAS)

#### General Upendra Dwivedi

Appointed Jun 2024; expert in Himalayan/LAC warfare; ex-Northern Army Commander

### CHIEF OF NAVAL STAFF (CNS)

#### Admiral Dinesh K. Tripathi

Appointed Apr 2024; career submarine officer; focus on undersea capability

### CHIEF OF AIR STAFF (CAS)

#### Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh

Appointed Sep 2024; fighter pilot; 5,000+ flying hours; champions Tejas induction

### Strategic Infrastructure

- ▶ **Sela Tunnel (Arunachal Pradesh, Mar 2024):** World's longest bi-lane tunnel above 13,000 ft (1,555 m main tube). BRO-built. All-weather access to Tawang — strategically critical against China border. PM Modi inaugurated.
- ▶ **Atal Tunnel (Himachal Pradesh, 2020):** Longest highway tunnel above 10,000 ft (9.02 km). Rohtang bypass. BRO-built. Manali-Lahaul-Spiti year-round connectivity.
- ▶ **INS Varsha (Rambilli, AP):** First dedicated nuclear submarine base. Underground caverns protect SSBNs (Arihant class) from satellite detection. Strategic second-strike capability base.
- ▶ **Defence Industrial Corridors:** Uttar Pradesh Corridor (Lucknow-Agra-Aligarh) and Tamil Nadu Corridor (Chennai-Coimbatore). Target: Rs 20,000 crore investment each. Manufacturing hubs under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

**Q1. Which missile system tested under “Mission Divyastra” in March 2024 demonstrated India’s MIRV capability for the first time?**

- (a) Agni-P (b) BrahMos-II (c) Agni-V (d) Pralay

**Answer: (c) Agni-V**

MIRV (Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicles) = one missile carries multiple nuclear warheads aimed at different targets. India tested this on Agni-V in March 2024. India became the 4th MIRV-capable nation. Agni-P is a shorter-range canisterised variant. BrahMos-II is under development. Pralay is a conventional quasi-ballistic missile.

**Q2. Exercise SIMBEX is India’s longest continuous bilateral naval exercise. Which country does India conduct it with?**

- (a) Indonesia (b) Malaysia (c) Singapore (d) Australia

**Answer: (c) Singapore**

SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) has been held annually since 1994 without interruption, making it India’s longest bilateral naval exercise. Key focuses: anti-submarine warfare, fleet manoeuvres, live-fire drills.

**Q3. INS Vikrant, commissioned in September 2022, is historically significant because it is:**

- (a) India’s first nuclear-powered submarine (b) India’s first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier (c) India’s largest warship imported from Russia (d) India’s first helicopter carrier

**Answer: (b) India’s first indigenously designed and built aircraft carrier**

Designed by the Indian Navy’s Directorate of Naval Design; built at Cochin Shipyard Ltd. 45,000 tonnes; 262 m long. Previous carriers (INS Viraat, first INS Vikrant) were purchased/leased from UK. India joins USA, UK, France, Russia, China as nations able to indigenously build aircraft carriers.

**Q4. The C-295 aircraft will be manufactured in India by which company and at which location?**

- (a) HAL at Bengaluru (b) Tata Advanced Systems Ltd at Vadodara (c) BEL at Hyderabad (d) DRDO at Pune

**Answer: (b) Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) at Vadodara, Gujarat**

40 of the 56 C-295 ordered will be manufactured in India under Transfer of Technology

(ToT) from Airbus Spain. This is the first time a military transport aircraft is produced in India. Replaces HS-748 Avro. PM Modi laid the foundation stone in Oct 2022.

**Q5. Which exercise between India and the USA is specifically focused on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) and involves all three services?**

(a) Yudh Abhyas (b) Vajra Prahar (c) Tiger Triumph (d) Cope India

**Answer: (c) Tiger Triumph**

Tiger Triumph is India's first tri-service HADR exercise with the USA (all three services of both nations). It includes amphibious evacuation and disaster response. Yudh Abhyas = land/mountain warfare. Vajra Prahar = Special Forces counter-terrorism. Cope India = air exercise.

**Q6. Who is the current Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India, and when was he appointed?**

(a) General Bipin Rawat, 2020 (b) General M.M. Naravane, 2022 (c) General Anil Chauhan, October 2022 (d) Admiral R. Hari Kumar, 2022

**Answer: (c) General Anil Chauhan, October 2022**

General Anil Chauhan is India's 2nd CDS, appointed Oct 2022 after the tragic death of Gen Bipin Rawat (India's 1st CDS) in a helicopter crash in Dec 2021. Gen Chauhan has a Para SF background and served as GoC-in-C Eastern Command. Admiral R. Hari Kumar is the former CNS.

### TRICKY QUESTIONS

### Defence — Confusing Pairs & First-Ever Tests


 **T1. INS Vikrant is India's first indigenous carrier, but India had a carrier called "INS Vikrant" before. How are they different?**

**Old INS Vikrant (R11, 1961–1997):** Originally HMS Hercules (British Majestic class).

Purchased from UK, commissioned 1961. Played key role in 1971 Bangladesh war (naval blockade of East Pakistan). Decommissioned 1997; broken up for scrap.

**New INS Vikrant (IAC-1, 2022):** 100% indigenously designed by Indian Navy + built at Cochin Shipyard Ltd. No foreign base design. First truly "Made in India" carrier. Named after the old INS Vikrant in tribute.

*NDA key:* Both are carriers named Vikrant, but the old one was British-built; the new one is India's own design. The question "first indigenous carrier" = new 2022 one only.

 **T2. What is the difference between Agni-V, Agni-P, and Pralay? All three are recent DRDO missiles that NDA confuses.**

**Agni-V:** ICBM-class (5,000+ km range). Nuclear-capable. Mission Divyastra tested MIRV on it. Surface-launched ballistic missile. India's longest range missile.

**Agni-P (Agni Prime):** New-gen medium range (1,000–2,000 km). Canisterised (stored in launcher, quick deployment). Lighter than Agni-I/II which it replaces. Nuclear-capable.

**Pralay:** Quasi-ballistic (NOT purely ballistic). Range 150–500 km. Conventional warhead (NOT nuclear). Manoeuvres in terminal phase. India's answer to Pakistan's Nasr/China's short-range systems.

*Key: Agni-V = longest + MIRV + nuclear. Agni-P = medium + canisterised + nuclear. Pralay = shortest + conventional + quasi-ballistic.*



## **Rapid Revision – CFNo1 Defence & Security**

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### ✂ Land Exercises

- ∴ Yudh Abhyas = India–USA (land/HADR)
- ∴ Vajra Prahar = India–USA (Special Forces)
- ∴ Shakti = India–France (land CT)
- ∴ Dharma Guardian = India–Japan (land)
- ∴ Garuda Shakti = India–Indonesia (SF)
- ∴ Mitra Shakti = India–Sri Lanka (HADR/CT)

### 🚢 Naval/Air/Tri–Service

- ∴ SIMBEX = India–Singapore; LONGEST bilateral naval
- ∴ Varuna = India–France (naval)
- ∴ Milan = Multilateral; India hosts (50+ nations)
- ∴ Malabar = QUAD naval
- ∴ Garuda = India–France (air; Rafale)
- ∴ Tiger Triumph = India–USA TRI–SERVICE HADR

### 🚀 Missiles by Role

- ∴ Agni–V MIRV = Mission Divyastra (Mar 2024)
- ∴ BrahMos = cruise; Mach 2.8; Philippines export
- ∴ Pralay = quasi–ballistic; conventional; 150–500 km
- ∴ Astra = BVR air–to–air (70–80 km)
- ∴ QRSAM = surface–to–air (army field)
- ∴ SMART = anti–submarine torpedo delivery

### 🚢 Ships & Chiefs

- ∴ INS Vikrant = 1st indigenous carrier (Sep 2022)
- ∴ INS Vaghsheer = 6th Scorpene sub (Jan 2025)
- ∴ INS Jatayu = Minicoy, Lakshadweep NAS
- ∴ C–295 = Vadodara, TASL (ToT from Airbus)
- ∴ CDS: Gen Anil Chauhan (Oct 2022)
- ∴ COAS: Gen Upendra Dwivedi (Jun 2024)

## ⚡ Quick Booster — CFNo1

### Exercise Trick

- HADR tri-service = Tiger Triumph
- Longest bilateral naval = SIMBEX (Singapore)
- Multilateral naval = Milan (India hosts)
- 1st India-Japan air = Veer Guardian
- Special Forces India-USA = Vajra Prahar

### Missile Role Trick

- Agni-V = ICBM + MIRV; nuclear
- BrahMos = cruise; Mach 2.8
- Pralay = quasi-ballistic; conventional
- Astra = air-to-air BVR
- VSHORADS = MANPADS (shoulder-fired)

### NDA Traps

- Tiger Triumph = HADR; NOT mountain warfare
- Mission Divyastra = MIRV (NOT ASAT)
- Mission Shakti (2019) = ASAT only
- INS Vikrant = indigenous; NOT British-built
- C-295 = TASL Vadodara; NOT HAL Bengaluru



**NDA Mock Tests**



**NDA Quizzes**



**Telegram**

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