

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Space Economy has Grown to \$8 billion to \$44 Billion

- The space economy has grown to \$8 billion and is projected to touch \$44 billion in the next decade.
- Milestones like the indigenous Gaganyaan Mission, the upcoming Chandrayaan-4 (2027), Shukrayaan (2028), and the Indian Space Station (2030) showcase India's robust trajectory.
- He lauded startups and FDI for fuelling innovation, with missions like SPADEX enabling docking capabilities, marking a leap in technological advancement. The Vyom Mitra robo mission was highlighted as a precursor to human space exploration.



Making Space

India accounts for only **2%** of the global space economy

In 2033, IN-SPACe aspires to make the country corner **8%** of the global market, including **\$11 billion** of exports over a 10-year period

At present, the share of the domestic market is **\$8.1 b**

THE EXPORT MARKET SHARE IS **\$0.3 BILLION**

The aim is to increase the domestic share to **\$33b**

Rs 1,561 Cr Contract Inked With Heavy Vehicles Factory

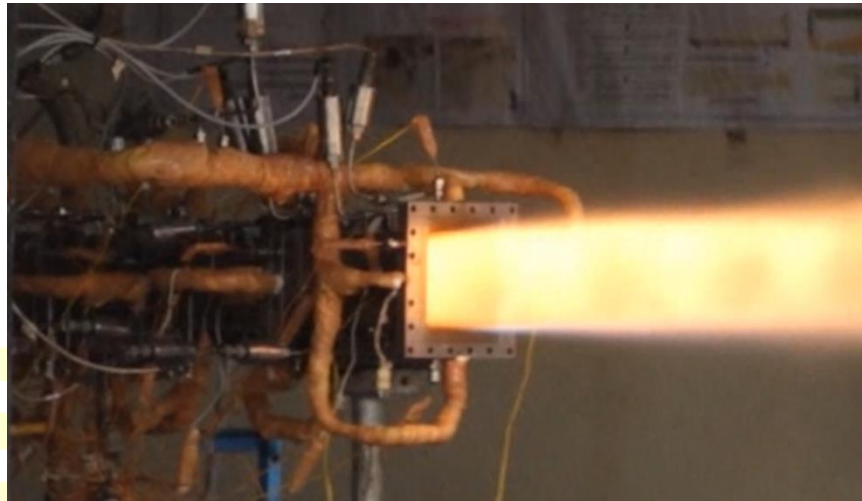
- MoD has signed a contract with Heavy Vehicles Factory, a unit of Armoured Vehicle Nigam Limited, for the procurement of 47 Tank-72 Bridge Laying Tanks for the Indian Army at a total cost of Rs 1,560.52 crore.
- The contract was inked by the senior officials of MoD and HVF/AVNL in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on January 21, 2025.
- The BLT is a critical equipment which is employed to launch bridges during offensive/defensive operations by Mechanised Forces. It provides integral bridging capability to the Tank and Armoured Vehicle fleet enhancing the battlefield mobility and offensive capability.



DRDO Conducts Scramjet Engine Ground Test

- **Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL)**, a Hyderabad-based laboratory of DRDO has taken the initiative in developing a long-duration **Supersonic Combustion Ramjet or Scramjet powered Hypersonic technology**.
- DRDL recently developed these technologies and demonstrated a cutting-edge **Active Cooled Scramjet Combustor** ground test for 120 seconds for the first time in India.

- The successful ground test marks a crucial milestone in developing **next-generation hypersonic missiles**.
- Hypersonic missiles are a class of advanced weaponry that travel at speeds greater than **Mach 5** i.e., five times the speed of sound or more than **5,400 km/hr**.
- Several nations including **USA, Russia, India and China** are actively pursuing Hypersonic technology. The key to hypersonic vehicles is Scramjets, which are air breathing engines capable of sustaining combustion at supersonic speeds without using any moving parts.



Quad Leaders Reaffirm Shared Commitment

- Foreign ministers from Quad countries -- **India, Australia, Japan and the United States**-- in a joint statement reaffirmed their shared commitment to strengthening a free and open Indo-Pacific where "sovereignty and territorial integrity are upheld and defended."
- The Quad nations also expressed strong opposition "to any unilateral actions aimed at changing the status quo through force or coercion."
- After the meeting, Quad foreign ministers issued a joint statement and stated '**preparing for the next Quad Leaders**' Summit hosted by India'.



India joins Eurodrone Programme as newest OCCAR Observer State

- The Government of India has officially become the newest Observer State in the OCCAR-managed **MALE RPAS (Eurodrone) programme**, led by Airbus Defence and Space as the industrial prime, an official statement noted.
- The **Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation** based in Bonn, Germany and overseeing several European defence programmes, has granted the Government of India, the Observer Status in the Programme following a formal request received in August 2024, the statement noted.
- This move is taken by OCCAR as a first step that shows India's willingness to explore opportunities to potentially collaborate on subjects of common interest between the country and Europe.
- India's interest follows the Government of Japan, which was recognised as the first official OCCAR Observer State in the MALE RPAS (Eurodrone) Programme in November 2023.
- The Chairmanship of the BoS was officially handed over officially on a yearly rotational basis, amongst the six OCCAR Member States, from **Belgium to Spain** in December 2024.



India, France step up maritime security cooperation

- India and France are deepening maritime cooperation to achieve a peaceful and secure Indian Ocean Region with New Delhi assuming chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) in 2025 for two years.
- India and France at their recently-held Maritime Cooperation Dialogue in New Delhi agreed to develop a joint assessment of threats to maritime security in the IOR for countering illicit maritime activity, including piracy and armed robbery, maritime terrorism, contraband smuggling, illegal unreported and unregulated fishing; hybrid as well as cyber security threats and marine pollution, said officials familiar with the issue.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What position will India assume in 2025 within the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)?

- A. Vice-Chair
- B. Secretary-General
- C. Member State
- D. Chair

ANSWER: D

2. What was demonstrated for 120 seconds by DRDL, marking a milestone in hypersonic missile development?

- A. Active Cooled Scramjet Combustor ground test
- B. Long-range Ballistic Missile ground test
- C. Advanced Anti-Ship Missile trial
- D. Plasma-powered propulsion system

ANSWER: A

3. What is the projected value of India's space economy by the next decade?

- A. \$8 billion
- B. \$22 billion
- C. \$44 billion
- D. \$60 billion

ANSWER: C

4. How many Bridge Laying Tanks (BLT) has the Indian Ministry of Defence contracted for procurement?

- A. 27
- B. 47
- C. 67
- D. 87

ANSWER: B

5. Which organization granted India Observer Status in the MALE RPAS (Eurodrone) programme?

- A. European Space Agency (ESA)
- B. Organisation for Joint Armament Cooperation (OCCAR)

- C. North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
- D. Airbus Defence and Space

ANSWER: B

6. Project 17A Is Related To

- A. Indian Navy
- B. IAF
- C. Indian Army
- D. BSF

ANSWER: A

7. SAGAR Stands For

- A. Security and Gross for All in the Region
- B. Security and Growth for All in the Rim
- C. Security and Growth for All in the Region
- D. None

ANSWER: C

8. MQ-9B Predator Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. Fighter Jet
- D. Drone

ANSWER: D

9. MH-60 Romeo Helicopter Manufactured By

- A. Boeing
- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. HAL
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: B

10. Where Is The Hq Of The SNC Of The Indian Navy?

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Gandhi Nagar
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

11. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Is In

- A. Kochi
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Gandhi Nagar
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: D

12. Vaduz Is The Capital Of

- A. Liechtenstein
- B. Qatar
- C. Lithuania
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: A

13. Which of the following countries constitute I2U2?

1. Iran, 2. India, 3. Israel, 4. United Kingdom, 5. USA, 6. UAE, 7. Iraq

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- A. 1, 2, 4 and 5 only
- B. 1, 3, 4 and 5 only
- C. 2, 3, 5 and 6 only
- D. 2, 4, 5, and 7 only

ANSWER: C

14. LAKSHYA Is A

- A. Helicopter
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Robot

ANSWER: C

15. Army Airborne Training School Is At

- A. Pune
- B. Agra
- C. Chennai
- D. Noida

ANSWER: B

16. "Advantage India: The Story of Indian Tennis" Book Is Written By

- A. Anindya Dutta
- B. JK Rowling
- C. Aakash Ranison
- D. Meghna Pant

ANSWER: A

17. B-1B Lancer Is A

- A. Bomber
- B. Sniper Rifle
- C. Anti-tank Guided missile
- D. Communication satellite

ANSWER: A

18. Hq of PARA SF Is At

- A. Chennai
- B. Bengaluru

C. Nagpur

D. Mumbai

ANSWER: B

19. Southwestern Air Command of IAF Is In

A. Mumbai

B. Kochi

C. Gandhinagar

D. Panaji

ANSWER: C

19. M61 Vulcan Is A

A. Six- barrelled Gatling gun

B. Heavy machine gun

C. Pistol

D. Rocket

ANSWER: A

20. Joint Exercises B/w The India And Singapore Is Called:

A. Yama

B. SLINEX

C. Indra

D. SIMBEX

ANSWER: D

