

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Narendra Modi US Visit Highlights

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Donald Trump for the first time since his return to the White House on January 20 for his second term as US President.
- The two leaders praised their strong bond and hoped for stronger ties and trade deals as the meeting took place amid concerns over Donald Trump's reciprocal tariff plans, which can impact India hard.
- India has more tariffs than nearly any other country, said Donald Trump while announcing reciprocal tariffs. The tariffs could mean duties levied on Indian imports to the US, which Trump had earlier stated would be equal to the taxes charged by other nations on their products.
- Commenting on India-China tensions, he said, "I look at India, I do see the skirmishes on the border which are quite vicious... If I could be of help, I would love to help... I would hope that China, India, Russia and US, all of us can get along. It's very important."
- Donald Trump on Thursday said that the United States will be increasing its military sales to India by billions of dollars and his administration is paving the way to provide India with **F35 Stealth fighters**.
- Donald Trump in the US, spoke about India's vision of '**Make India Great Again (MIGA)**' - a phrase inspired by Mr Trump's signature slogan '**Make America Great Again (MAGA)**'. According to PM Modi, a joint vision of 'MAGA' and 'MIGA' becomes a mega partnership for prosperity.
- The two leaders also announced that India and the US have set a **USD 500 billion** target for bilateral trade **by 2030**.
- We will strengthen oil and gas trade to ensure India's energy security. In the energy infrastructure, investment will increase. In the nuclear energy sector, we

spoke about deepening our cooperation, in the direction of small modular reactors.



BrahMos-NG Set For First Flight In 2026

- The BrahMos-NG (Next Generation) missile is slated for its first flight test in 2026, with production expected to begin in 2027-28.
- It is designed to be more compact and lightweight than its predecessor, while retaining the same capabilities.
- BrahMos Aerospace has begun work on the **BrahMos-LR (Long Range) variant**, an iteration of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, which has an extended range of **800km** while retaining its **Mach 3 speeds**.
- The BrahMos-LR's development marks overcoming constraints imposed by the **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)**. BrahMos was previously limited to a 290km range due to international agreements.



Govt Starts Process of Procuring Nearly 1000 Surveillance Helicopters

- The Indian government has initiated a significant procurement process for nearly **1,000 surveillance** helicopters designed for high-altitude operations, as announced on February 13, 2025.
- This move is part of a broader strategy to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Army, particularly in challenging terrains such as those found in the northern and eastern regions of the country.
- The preferred categorisation for the project as per provisions of Chapter-II of **DAP-2020** may be indicated by the vendors with due justification.
- The helicopters will be capable of operating at altitudes up to 5,500 meters, ensuring functionality in extreme conditions typical of mountainous areas in India.
- The Request for Information (RFI) emphasizes that the helicopters should have a modular design to facilitate future upgrades without significant structural changes.



Bharat Forge Partners Liebherr-Aerospace & Transportation

- Bharat Forge has announced a strategic partnership with **Liebherr-Aerospace & Transportation SAS** to establish an advanced aerospace manufacturing facility in Pune, India.
- The new facility is designed to cater to the increasing global demand for aerospace components, specifically focusing on high-precision parts such as landing gear components.
- The manufacturing plant will incorporate a state-of-the-art ring mill along with advanced forging and machining technologies. It aims to produce precision-engineered components essential for the aerospace sector.

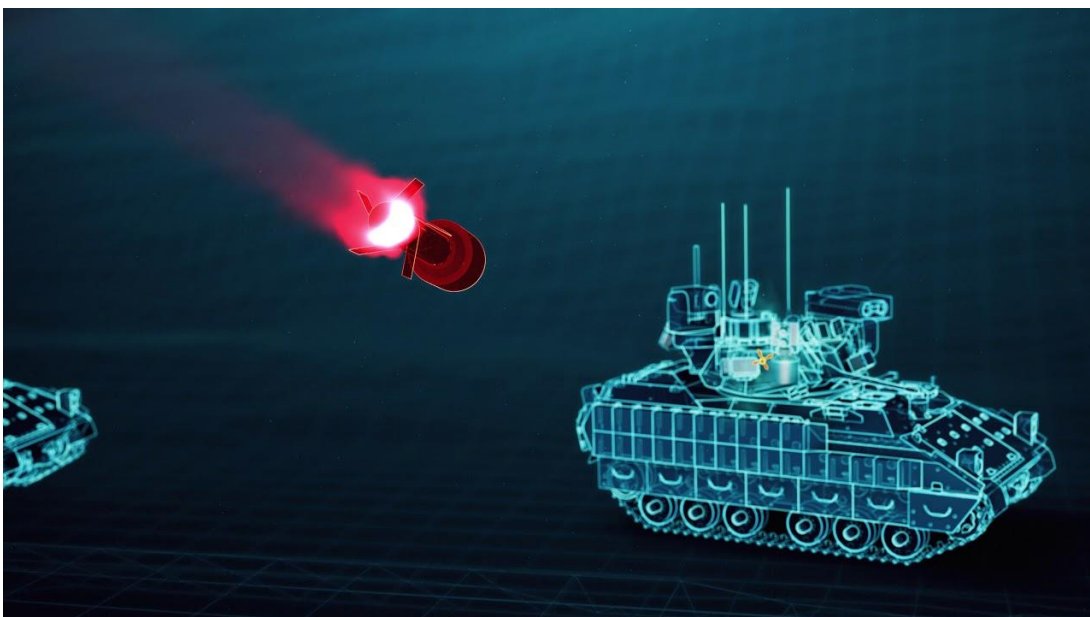


DRDO Develops Hard-Kill Active Protection System

- DRDO of India has made significant advancements in developing a hard-kill **active protection system** aimed at enhancing the survivability of armoured vehicles against modern threats, such as ATGMs and kinetic energy rounds.
- Hard-kill APS are designed to physically intercept and destroy incoming munitions before they can impact the vehicle. This is typically achieved through the use of explosive countermeasures that can neutralize threats at close range.

Key Features of DRDO's Hard-Kill APS

- 1. Kinetic Countermeasures:** The system employs kinetic projectiles or explosive devices to intercept incoming threats. This method is crucial for neutralizing RPGs, ATGMs, and high-explosive anti-tank (HEAT) rounds effectively.
- 2. Integration with Existing Platforms:** DRDO is focusing on integrating this hard-kill APS into existing platforms like the T-90S Bhisma tanks, enhancing their defensive capabilities against evolving battlefield threats.
- 3. Dual Approach:** The system is designed to work alongside soft-kill measures, which include electronic countermeasures like multispectral smoke grenades and jammers that confuse or blind incoming missiles. This comprehensive strategy aims to provide layered defence against a variety of threats.
- 4. Development Timeline:** The initiative reflects a broader effort by the Indian Army to modernize its armoured units, with DRDO actively engaging in technology development and testing phases to ensure effectiveness against both current and future threats.



IAF Plans To Retire The Oldest Jaguar Fighters Between 2028 And 2031

- India is the world's only Jaguar operator, maintaining approximately 120 aircraft distributed among six squadrons.
- A portion of these Jaguars are undergoing upgrades to meet the **DARIN-III** (Display Attack Ranging Inertial Navigation) standard, which includes an Elta active electronically scanned array radar, an indigenous D-JAG integrated electronic warfare system, a new mission computer, and a glass cockpit.
- These upgraded aircraft are also equipped with MBDA ASRAAM close combat missiles. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is currently delivering six upgraded DARIN-III aircraft each year.
- The Jaguar was first used operationally during the Indian Peace Keeping Force operations in Sri Lanka between **1987 and 1990** for reconnaissance and was also utilized during the **Kargil War of 1999**. The aircraft further carried out aerial reconnaissance during the standoff with **Pakistan in 2001-2002**.
- The IAF plans to retire the oldest Jaguar aircraft between 2028 and 2031, replacing them with **HAL TEJAS MK-1A aircraft**.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. When is the first flight test of the BrahMos NG (Next Generation) missile scheduled?

- A. 2019
- B. 2026
- C. 2021
- D. 2022

ANSWER: B

2. How many surveillance helicopters is the Indian government planning to procure for high-altitude operations?

- A. 500
- B. 750
- C. 1,000
- D. 1,500

ANSWER: C

3. Which company has partnered with Liebherr-Aerospace & Transportation SAS to establish an aerospace manufacturing facility in Pune?

- A. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
- B. Bharat Forge
- C. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
- D. Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

ANSWER: B

4. What type of system is DRDO developing to protect armoured vehicles from modern threats like ATGMs?

- A. Soft-kill Countermeasure System
- B. Hard-kill Active Protection System (APS)
- C. Advanced Reactive Armour System
- D. Smart Vehicle Shield System

ANSWER: B

5. Which aircraft will replace the Indian Air Force's retiring Jaguar jets between 2028 and 2031?

- A. Rafale
- B. HAL TEJAS MK-1A
- C. Sukhoi Su-30MKI

D. AMCA (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft)

ANSWER: B

6. INS 'Vikrant' Is Designed & Built By

- A. Indian Navy & DRDO
- B. Boeing & Indian Navy
- C. DRDO & MDL
- D. Warship Design Bureau & CSL

ANSWER: D

7. Defence Research & Development Laboratory Hq Is In

- A. Hyderabad
- B. New Delhi
- C. Kochi
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

8. Lieutenant Commander Of the Indian Navy Is Equivalent to Which Rank Of IAF?

- A. Squadron Leader
- B. Major
- C. Group Captain
- D. Flying Officer

ANSWER: A

9. Which Is The Capital Of Uzbekistan?

- A. Moscow
- B. Dodoma
- C. Tashkent
- D. Dushanbe

ANSWER: C

10. Ex 'DESERT EAGLE' Conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Oman
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: C

11. Naib Subedar Jeremy Lalrinnunga Is Related With

- A. Table Tennis
- B. Cricket
- C. Boxing
- D. Weightlifting

ANSWER: D

12. What Is The Highest Commissioned Rank Awarded In The IAF?

- A. Air Marshal
- B. Air Chief Marshal
- C. Wing Commander
- D. Admiral

ANSWER: B

13. Rashtriya Raksha University Is In

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. Mumbai
- C. New Delhi
- D. Chennai

ANSWER: A

14. The Zorawar Is A

- A. Tank
- B. Machine Gun
- C. UAV
- D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: A

15. Current Scientific Advisor To The Defence Minister Is

- A. Rakesh Sinha
- B. S. Somnath
- C. G. Sateesh Reddy
- D. Samir Kamat

ANSWER: C

16. The Current Chairman Of DRDO Is

- A. Rakesh Sinha
- B. S. Somnath
- C. G. Sateesh Reddy

D. Samir Kamat

ANSWER: D

17. Havildar Achinta Sheuli Is Related With

- A. Archery
- B. Weightlifting
- C. Judo
- D. Football

ANSWER: B

18. Ex SHAKTI, Ex VARUNA, GARUDA India conducted with

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. None of the above

ANSWER: C

19. ___ Is India's 3rd Highest Military Decoration Award.

- A. PVC
- B. MVC
- C. Veer Chakra
- D. Kirti Chakra

ANSWER: C

20. Motto of THE MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY REGIMENT

- A. Parakramo Vijayate
- B. Assam Vikram
- C. Yudhaya Krit Nishchaya
- D. Duty, Honour, courage

ANSWER: D