

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Mahindra Group Partners With US Firm

- Mahindra Group has announced a strategic partnership with US-based Anduril Industries to enhance India's defence capabilities through advanced technology.
- This collaboration, unveiled on February 19, 2025, focuses on developing Autonomous Maritime Systems and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS), along with innovative **Command and Control (C2) software**.
- The partnership aims to create modular Development of Autonomous Underwater Vehicles AUVs designed for rapid deployment in security, surveillance, reconnaissance, and survey missions. These vehicles will significantly improve operational capabilities underwater.
- The collaboration will also focus on technologies capable of detecting and neutralising drone threats, Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (CUAS). This is crucial for enhancing protection against the increasing use of unmanned aerial systems in security operations.



EAM Jaishankar, Chinese Counterpart Wang Yi Meet

- EAM S. Jaishankar met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on February 21, 2025, during the G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. The discussion focused on several key areas concerning India-China relations.
- The ministers reviewed the state of bilateral ties since their last meeting in November 2024, emphasizing the importance of managing peace and tranquillity along their shared border.
- A significant outcome of the meeting was the agreement to resume the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** in the summer of 2025. The two sides will discuss the necessary modalities for this resumption in accordance with existing agreements.
- Beyond bilateral issues, Jaishankar and Wang exchanged views on broader topics such as their roles in the **G20 and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, highlighting the need for continued dialogue amid global challenges.
- This meeting is part of ongoing diplomatic efforts to stabilize and rebuild relations between India and China, particularly as 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of their diplomatic ties.



Global Firepower Index 2025

- Global defence spending has reached unprecedented levels in 2025, driven by escalating geopolitical tensions and security concerns. The total military expenditure worldwide is estimated to be around **\$2.46 trillion**, marking a significant increase from previous years.

- India has recently solidified its position as the fourth-largest defence spender globally, with a military budget of **\$75 billion** for 2025.

Top 10 Military Powers In 2025

- 1. United States:** Leading the pack, the U.S. has allocated a staggering \$895 billion for defence, which constitutes approximately 62.3% of the combined military budgets of the top five spenders.
- 2. China:** Following the U.S., China has committed \$266.85 billion to its military, focusing on modernisation and regional security initiatives, particularly in the South China Sea.
- 3. Russia:** With a defence budget of \$126 billion, Russia continues to invest heavily in military capabilities amid ongoing conflicts and strategic ambitions in Eastern Europe.
- 4. India:** India ranks fourth globally with a defence budget of \$75 billion, emphasizing military modernisation and self-reliance in defence production as it addresses regional threats.
- 5. Saudi Arabia:** Allocating \$74.76 billion, Saudi Arabia remains a key player in Middle Eastern defence spending, reflecting its ongoing security partnerships.
- 6. United Kingdom:** The UK has set aside \$71.5 billion, focusing on maintaining its military capabilities in a changing global landscape.
- 7. Japan:** Japan's defence budget stands at \$57 billion, aimed at enhancing its self-defence forces amid regional tensions.
- 8. Australia:** With a commitment of \$55.7 billion, Australia is investing in advanced military technologies and capabilities.
- 9. France:** France's defence budget is approximately \$55 billion, supporting its strategic military operations and commitments.
- 10. Ukraine:** Ukraine rounds out the top ten with a budget of \$53.7 billion, reflecting its ongoing conflict and need for enhanced military support.

Comparative Summary

| Rank | Country | Defence Budget (USD) |
|------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1 | United States | \$895 billion |
| 2 | China | \$266.85 billion |
| 3 | Russia | \$126 billion |
| 4 | India | \$75 billion |
| 5 | Saudi Arabia | \$74.76 billion |
| 6 | United Kingdom | \$71.5 billion |
| 7 | Japan | \$57 billion |
| 8 | Australia | \$55.7 billion |
| 9 | France | \$55 billion |
| 10 | Ukraine | \$53.7 billion |

Army Looking To Acquire Radars To Counter Pakistan

- At a time when Pakistan is using Chinese drones to smuggle weapons and drugs into India, a top Army official has said that the force was in the process of acquiring and deploying low-level lightweight radars capable of detecting even small drones like the DJI Mavic.
- DJI is a Chinese firm whose drones are widely used worldwide by both civilian and military organisations.
- Explaining the modernisation of the air defence systems, he said the tender for **220 air defence guns** is already out and trials are planned in July this year. The guns would be used to replace the **vintage L-70 and ZU -23mm gun systems**.
- He said the Army is also looking for Guns with fragmentation ammunition and missile with **8-10 km range**.
- On the Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) system, he said this was an extremely good project by the DRDO with a likely range of 30 km. "We are looking forward to getting that in large numbers, both wheeled and tracked. The contract is likely in 4-5 months," he said.



Indian Navy To Induct INS Himagiri, INS Udaygiri

- The Indian Navy is set to add **INS Himagiri** and **INS Udaygiri**, two advanced stealth frigates, to its fleet under **Project 17A**. These warships are part of the Nilgiri class and will boost the Navy's combat capabilities in warfare domains, including anti-air, anti-surface, and anti-submarine operations.
- Both INS Himagiri and INS Udaygiri are made with 75 per cent indigenous components.
- Weighing **6,600 tons**, these giants can cruise at **30 knots (56 km/h)**. Their stealth technology minimises radar, infrared, and acoustic signatures, making it difficult for enemies to detect enemies.
- **Ships in the Project 17A series**
 - **Nilgiri**: The first ship in the series, launched in 2019
 - **Himgiri**: The first of the three ships built at GRSE
 - **Udaygiri**: Launched in 2023
 - **Dunagiri**: Launched in 2023
 - **Taragiri**: Named after a hill range in the Himalayas
 - **Vindhya Giri**: Named after a mountain range in Karnataka
 - **Mahendragiri**: The seventh and final ship in the series



India, Bangladesh Agree to Launch New 'hotline'

- India and Bangladesh have decided to establish a new communication link between the deputy commanders of their respective border-guarding forces and identified about 99 fresh patches for erecting a fence along their shared border.
- The decisions were finalised during the biannual director general-level talks between the BSF and the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) that concluded.
- A total of 864.48 km of the front remains unfenced, including 174.51 km of "non-feasible" gap, according to official data.
- Currently, "hotlines" or links of communication exist between the two force chiefs and officers in the ranks of inspector general (regional commander for the BGB), deputy inspector general (sector commander for the BGB) and other field-level officers.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which US-based company has Mahindra Group partnered with for enhancing India's defence capabilities?

- A. Lockheed Martin
- B. Raytheon Technologies
- C. Anduril Industries
- D. Northrop Grumman

ANSWER: C

2. What is the primary focus of Mahindra and Anduril Industries' strategic partnership?

- A. Manufacturing fighter jets
- B. Developing Autonomous Maritime Systems and CUAS
- C. Producing battle tanks
- D. Building next-generation aircraft carriers

ANSWER: B

3. How many new anti-aircraft guns is the Indian Army planning to acquire?

- A. 150
- B. 200
- C. 220
- D. 250

ANSWER: C

4. Which existing anti-aircraft guns will be replaced by the new systems in the Indian Army?

- A. Bofors and M777
- B. L-70 and Zu-23
- C. Akash and Spyder
- D. S-400 and Barak-8

ANSWER: B

5. What is India's total military budget for 2025?

- A. \$60 billion
- B. \$100 billion
- C. \$75 billion

D. \$50 billion

ANSWER: C

6. Drishti 10 Starliner Is A

A. Helicopter

B. Machine Gun

C. UAV

D. Fighter Jet

ANSWER: A

7. Current Executive Of Defence Planning Committee

A. Rajnath Singh

B. Narendra Modi

C. Nirmala Sitaraman

D. Ajit Doval

ANSWER: D

8. Field Marshal Of Indian Army Is A

A. 2 Star General

B. 3 Star General

C. 4 Star General

D. 5 Star General

ANSWER: D

9. Defence Space Agency Hq Is Located At

A. New Delhi

B. Bengaluru

C. Chennai

D. Noida

ANSWER: B

10. INS Kochi Is A

A. Guided-missile destroyers

- B. Landing ship tank
- C. Submarine
- D. Frigates

ANSWER: A

11. _ Is Not A G7 member.

- A. China
- B. USA
- C. UK
- D. France

ANSWER: A

12. The Standard Meridian Of India Is

- A. 82 degrees 30' E
- B. 84 degrees 30' E
- C. 72 degrees 30' E
- D. 92 degrees 30' E

ANSWER: A

13. Army Medical Corps Motto Is

- A. Courage and Valor
- B. Sarve santu niramaya
- C. Service Before Self
- D. Lethal

ANSWER: B

14. Glock 18 Is A

- A. Destroyer
- B. Machine Pistol
- C. Assault rifle
- D. Submachine gun

ANSWER: B

15. Which Is The Largest Uranium-producing Country In The World?

- A. USA
- B. India
- C. Kazakhstan
- D. Uzbekistan

ANSWER: C

16. Kaiga Atomic Power Plant Is In

- A. Karnataka
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand

ANSWER: A

17. Who established the Atomic Energy Commission of India in 1948?

- A. P.K. Iyengar
- B. M.R. Srinivasan
- C. Vikram Sarabhai
- D. Homi Bhabha

ANSWER: D

18. Nay Pyi Taw Is The Capital Of

- A. Bhutan
- B. Nepal
- C. Afghanistan
- D. Myanmar

ANSWER: D

19. "India's Women Unsung Heroes" Book Is Written By

- A. Chandrachur Ghose
- B. Ruskin Bond
- C. Dr. Thomas Matthew
- D. Meenakshi Lekhi

ANSWER: D

20. Ex 'Konkan Shakti' conducted b/w India &

- A. Qatar
- B. UK
- C. UAE
- D. Japan

ANSWER: B

