

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 25 February 2025

### India's Technological Sector Is On Rise & Is Expected To Reach \$300-350 Billion

- "India's technological sector is on the rise and is expected to reach 300-350 US billion dollars in the next five years.
- With more than 1.25 lakh start-ups and 110 unicorns, our country is emerging as the third-largest start up ecosystem in the world," highlighted Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh while addressing the **16th Foundation Day of the IIT Mandi**, Himachal Pradesh.
- Raksha Mantri also threw light on India's progress in defence self-reliance, highlighting that "India has achieved 88% self-sufficiency in ammunition production, and defence exports have reached approximately Rs 23,000 crore in 2023-24. Our goal is to reach **Rs 50,000 crore** in defence exports by 2029."



### 'Conference on Women Peacekeepers From Global South'

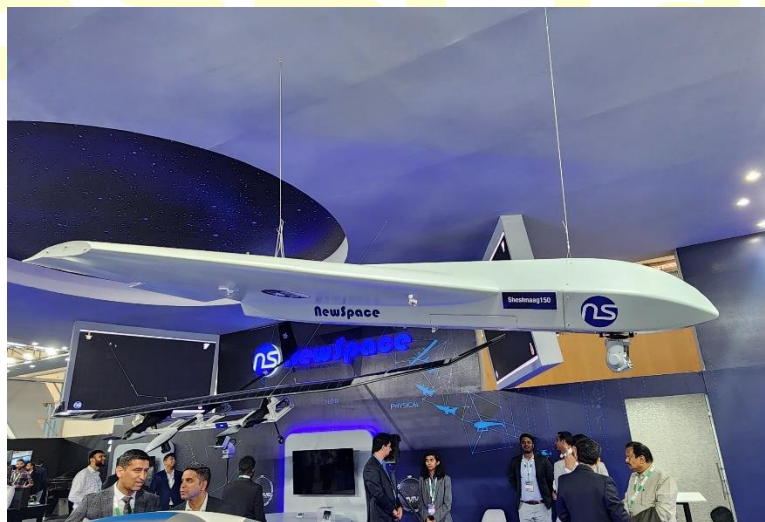
- Indian Army, through the Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK), India, is hosting a two-day conference titled 'Conference on Women Peacekeepers from the Global South' at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi, on 24-25 February 2025.

- The conference aims to strengthen the role of women in UN peacekeeping by fostering dialogue, sharing experiences, and improving collaboration among the nations of the Global South.
- This conference reaffirms India's leadership in promoting inclusive and effective peacekeeping operations, underscoring the nation's commitment to gender equality and the vital role women play in global security and peace efforts.
- Peacekeeping by the United Nations is a role of the UN's Department of Peace Operations and an "instrument developed by the organization as a way to help countries torn by conflict to create the conditions for lasting peace".
- Founded: 29 May 1948
- Active personnel: 81,820 total
- Budget: \$6.7 billion
- Commander-in-chief: António Guterres
- History: United Nations peacekeeping missions
- Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations: Jean-Pierre Lacroix



## Sheshnaag-150

- India is currently facing significant challenges in selecting its next manned fighter aircraft, with a recent offer from both Russia and the U.S. to acquire **F-35 & Su-57 stealth fighters** adding to the complexity.
- Simultaneously, a breakthrough in indigenous defence technology has been achieved with the successful flight test of the Sheshnaag-150, a long-range collaborative attack swarming drone developed by **New Space Research Technologies (NRT)**.
- This system is designed for coordinated swarm attacks, capable of overwhelming enemy defences and executing precision strikes.
- With an operational range exceeding 1,000 km and an endurance of over 5 hours, the Sheshnaag-150 can loiter over target areas, providing real-time surveillance and strategic attack options.
- The drone's capability to carry warheads weighing between 25-40 kg enables it to inflict substantial damage on enemy infrastructure, vehicles, or personnel.



## USAID Funded 7 Projects In India

- The Finance Ministry of India has reported that the **United States Agency for International Development (USAID)** funded seven projects in India worth approximately **\$750 million** during the fiscal year 2023-24.

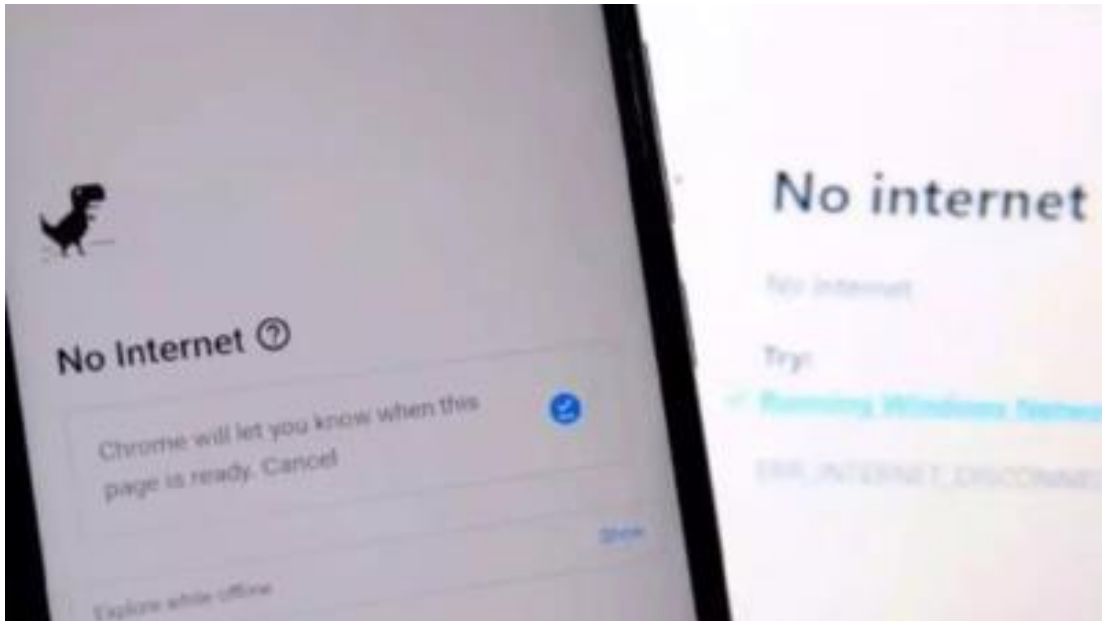
- For the financial year 2023-24, an obligation of a total of \$97 million has been made by USAID under the seven projects, the latest annual report of the Finance Ministry said
- These projects focus on key sectors such as agriculture and food security, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), renewable energy, disaster management, health, sustainable forests and climate adaptation, and energy efficiency technology commercialization.
- USAID has been a significant partner in India's development since 1951, providing over **\$17 billion** in economic assistance across more than 555 projects. However, recent controversy has surrounded USAID's activities in India, with claims of **potential electoral influence** being strongly denied by both the Indian government and USAID.



## India Saw 84 Internet Shutdowns in 2024

EXAMS

- India recorded 84 internet shutdowns in 2024, the highest among democratic nations, surpassed only by Myanmar, which saw 85 such blackouts imposed by the military junta in the country, according to a report by digital rights organisation Access Now.
- The Access Now report said that Myanmar imposed 85 shut downs last year followed by India, which stood at 84 and Pakistan at 21.
- It said that the four offenders with the highest total number of shutdowns -- Myanmar, India, Pakistan and Russia -- accounted for 209 cases, or 71% of the global total.
- The ethnic strife-torn state Manipur witnessed the highest number of internet blackouts, followed by Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir.
- "People in 16 states and territories experienced a shutdown, with state government officials in Manipur (21), Haryana (12), and Jammu & Kashmir (12) topping the list of offenders in India. Of the 84, 41 shutdowns were related to protests, and 23 were related to communal violence," the report said.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. **Where is the 'Conference on Women Peacekeepers from the Global South' being hosted by the Indian Army?**

- A. Rashtrapati Bhavan
- B. Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi
- C. India Gate, New Delhi
- D. DRDO Bhavan

**ANSWER: B**

2. **What is the name of India's indigenous long-range collaborative attack swarming drone?**

- A. Agni-X
- B. Shourya-500
- C. Sheshnaag-150
- D. Prahaar-200

**ANSWER: C**

3. **Which country recorded the highest number of internet shutdowns in 2024?**

- A. India
- B. Pakistan

- C. Russia
- D. Myanma

**ANSWER: D**

**4. What is the export target for defence equipment by 2029?**

- A. Rs 30,000 crore
- B. Rs 50,000 crore
- C. Rs 40,000 crore
- D. Rs 60,000 crore

**ANSWER: B**

**5. Which company is manufacturing the Indian Light Tank 'Zorawar'?**

- A. DRDO
- B. Larsen & Toubro
- C. HAL
- D. Bharat Forge

**ANSWER: B**

**6. Which is the second Arihant-class submarine commissioned in 2024?**

- A. INS Vikrant
- B. INS Arighaat
- C. INS Viraat
- D. INS Chakra

**ANSWER: B**

**7. Where was INS Tushil commissioned?**

- A. Mumbai, India
- B. Kaliningrad, Russia
- C. New Delhi, India
- D. Vishakhapatnam, India

**ANSWER: B**

**8. Which company is supplying 240 AL-31FP Aero Engines for Su-30MKI aircraft?**

- A. Boeing
- B. Lockheed Martin
- C. HAL
- D. Dassault Aviation

**ANSWER: C**



**9. INS Arighat Is A**

- A. Nuclear Powered Submarine
- B. Diesel Powered Submarine
- C. Destroyer
- D. Sailing Ship

**ANSWER: A**

**10. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Is A Project Of**

- A. Brazil
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**11. Operation Meghdoot Was Conducted In**

- A. 13 April 1984
- B. 14 April 1984
- C. 15 April 1984
- D. 16 April 1984

**ANSWER: A**

**12. QRFV Stands For**

- A. Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle Medium
- B. Quick Reaction Fighting Vast Medium
- C. Quick Reaction Fight Vehicle Medium
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**13. The IAI Harpy Is A**

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

**ANSWER: C**

**14. Motto Of Integrated Defence Staff**

- A. Victory Through Jointness
- B. Victory Everywhere

- C. Always Ahead
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**15. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Hq Is In**

- A. Queenstown, Singapore
- B. Berlin, Germany
- C. Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- D. Kathmandu, Nepal

**ANSWER: A**

**16. XIV Corps Of Indian Army Is Also Known As**

- A. Fire and Fury Corps
- B. Chinar Corps
- C. White Knight Corps
- D. None

**ANSWER: A**

**17. First Made In India Passenger Aircraft Is \_\_\_\_\_**

- A. Dornier 228
- B. Chetak
- C. Cheetah
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**18. Operation Sarp Vinash Was Conducted In**

- A. 1978
- B. 2016
- C. 2003
- D. 1980

**ANSWER: C**

**19. "All Time Favorites for Children" Book Written By**

- A. Sunita Dwivedi
- B. Avtar Singh Bhasin
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Ruskin Bond

**ANSWER: D**



**20. War Cry Of THE BRIGADE OF THE GUARDS Is**

- A. Garud ka hun bol pyare
- B. Everywhere
- C. Victory Is Mine
- D. Charge and Attack

**ANSWER: A**

