

Daily Defence Current Affairs

01 March 2025

‘You’re gambling with World War 3’: Donald Trump

- President Donald Trump on Friday said that Ukraine’s push for US security guarantees could risk a global conflict, telling President Volodymyr Zelensky that he was “gambling with World War III.”
- Volodymyr Zelensky met US President Donald Trump at a crucial moment for his country, as he sought to secure American support for Ukraine’s security against future Russian aggression.
- However, President Trump and Vice President JD Vance opposed Zelensky’s request for US security guarantees as the US tried to end the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Trump called the request disrespectful, saying that Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky was pushing for US commitments to protect Ukraine from further Russian aggression.
- Zelensky’s delegation is set to finalise a significant economic agreement with the US, aimed at financing Ukraine’s post-war reconstruction. The deal is expected to forge closer economic ties between the two countries for years to come.
- While the agreement highlights the importance of Ukraine’s security, it does not directly address military support. Instead, security assurances remain under discussion between the two leaders as they work on a separate accord.



Rajnath Singh visits DRDO's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited DRDO's Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex, the nerve centre for design and development of indigenous missile systems, in Hyderabad, Telangana on February 28, 2025.
- He was briefed about the missile technologies and related programmes being carried out by Research Centre Imarat (RCI).
- Shri Rajnath Singh also felicitated the team of the Long-Range Hypersonic Anti-Ship Missile project, successful flight-trials of which took place in November 2024.
- Every year, India celebrates National Science Day on February 28 to commemorate the discovery of the Raman Effect by renowned physicist Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman (known as CV Raman).
- The first National Science Day celebration took place on February 28, 1987.
- The theme for National Science Day 2025 is "**Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for VIKSIT BHARAT.**"



India In Talks For 10 More Airbus C-295

- India is currently in negotiations to purchase an additional 10 Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft, expanding its original order of 71. This move is part of a broader effort to revamp the country's ageing fleet, particularly the legacy Avro HS-748 aircraft that have been in service since 1961.
- The discussions are seen as a boost to Airbus' partnership with the TATA Group, following the establishment of a C-295 assembly line in Gujarat last year. In 2021, India signed a **\$2.52 billion** deal for 56 C-295s for the Air Force and later approved an initial order for 15 more for the navy and coast guard.

- The C-295 is a versatile multi-role transport aircraft capable of carrying up to 70 troops or eight tonnes of cargo, and can perform missions such as airborne warning, surveillance, and reconnaissance.
- The Indian government is also considering further orders for the C-295, with some sources indicating a desire for up to 75 additional aircraft beyond the initial 56.



Bangladesh Army Chief Warns "Country At Risk, Anarchy Of Our Own Making"

- Bangladesh Army chief General Waker-Uz-Zaman has acknowledged that there is a serious problem in his country with a rapidly worsening law and order situation. Blaming it on the political turmoil, leading to a sociopolitical crisis, the army chief said the situation is so dire now, that citizens are constantly "preoccupied with vilifying each other".
- Gen Zaman said "The anarchy we have witnessed is of our own making". He also shared his concern over the extremely inefficient police force, saying that officers across the board - from senior to junior ranks - were afraid, because their peers were either facing judicial cases or were jailed.
- Gen Zaman further noted that the gains of the student-led revolution that toppled the Sheikh Hasina government last August were at a risk too. General Waker-Uz-Zaman had taken over as Bangladesh's army chief after Ms Hasina fled to India amid widespread protests in the country.



In India-EU Talks, Free Trade Pact Gets Deadline

- India and the European Union have set a year-end deadline for a historic free trade agreement, which has been in the works for quite a few years.
- The announcement was made in a joint statement by PM Narendra Modi and **EU chief Ursula von der Leyen** after the two leaders met in New Delhi to further strengthen India-EU ties.
- Besides the EU, India is in talks with several other nations independently, including the UK, to set up free trade pacts as the world's fastest growing major economy aims to give a boost to its trade ties. The move also comes as the EU and most nations globally are trying to soften the impact of tariffs imposed by Donald Trump.
- This is not the first time that India and the EU aim for a free trade agreement. An attempt was made over a decade ago but talks stalled in 2013. Another attempt was made in 2021 and have been on since - both sides pressing hard for the best outcome for themselves.
- **THE CHALLENGE**
- The European Union is already India's largest trading partner with two-way trade accounting for more than \$137 billion in 2023-24. In the last decade alone - since 2014 - India-EU trade has grown by a massive 90 per cent.
- But each time an attempt has been made to have an India-EU comprehensive agreement, it has met hurdles. From India, New Delhi has not been in favour of lowering tariffs in certain industries, while for the EU, it has not been willing to ease visa restrictions currently in place to curb Indian professionals to work in Europe.

- While Europe wants tariffs to be cut on the import of cars and bikes as well as whiskeys and wines, India wants Europe to give greater access to Indian pharma firms to supply cost-effective medicines and chemicals across Europe.
- India also wants Europe to reduce import tariffs on textiles, garments, leather products. New Delhi also rejects a 20-35 per cent carbon tax imposed on industrial goods such as cement, steel, and aluminum.
- **THE INDIA-EUROPE CORRIDOR**
- In another significant update, PM Modi confirmed that detailed discussions were held with European leaders on the strategically important **India Middle East-Europe Corridor** or IMEEC as it is often called.



Taiwan reports Chinese military activity near its territory

- Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has detected 17 Chinese military aircraft, eight naval vessels and three official ships around the country until 6 am (local time) on Saturday.
-
- Of these, 15 sorties crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait and entered Taiwan's northern, central, southwestern and southeastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ), according to Taiwan's MND. In response to Chinese activity, Taiwan armed forces deployed aircraft, naval ships and coastal missile systems to monitor the situation.
-
- In a post on X, Taiwan's MND stated, "17 PLA aircraft, 8 PLAN vessels and 3 official ships operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 15 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern,

central, southwestern and southeastern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded."

- This incident follows a recent pattern of escalated manoeuvres by China around Taiwan, raising concerns over regional stability as Beijing continues to assert its claims over the island. Taiwan has been governed independently since 1949. However, China considers Taiwan part of its territory and insists on eventual reunification, by force if necessary.



SSBCrack
REVIEW QUESTIONS
EXAMS

1. How many additional Airbus C-295 military transport aircraft is India negotiating to purchase?

- A. 5
- B. 10
- C. 15
- D. 20

ANSWER: B

2. Which ageing aircraft fleet is India replacing with the Airbus C-295?

- A. IL-76
- B. AN-32
- C. Avro HS-748
- D. C-130J

ANSWER: C

3. What is the theme for National Science Day 2025?

- A. "Scientific Innovation for a Sustainable Future"
- B. "Empowering Indian Youth for Global Leadership in Science & Innovation for VIKSIT BHARAT"
- C. "Advancing Technology for a Better Tomorrow"
- D. "India's Scientific Breakthroughs in the 21st Century"

ANSWER: B

4. Which entity is India's largest trading partner, with trade exceeding \$137 billion in 2023-24?

- A. United States
- B. China
- C. European Union
- D. Russia

ANSWER: C

5. Where was the military exercise 'Jal-Thal-Raksha 2025' conducted?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Kerala
- D. Tamil Nadu

ANSWER: A

6. What is the name of India's last imported warship, set for commissioning in June 2025?

- A. Vikramaditya
- B. Tamal
- C. Shakti
- D. INS Kolkata

ANSWER: B

7. Which organization conducted the 'Sagar Kavach' coastal security drill?

- A. Border Security Force
- B. Indian Coast Guard
- C. National Security Guard
- D. Central Industrial Security Force

ANSWER: B

8. Which two IAF astronauts are undergoing space training at NASA for the Axiom-4 mission?

- A. Group Captain Ajit Krishnan & Group Captain Angad Pratap
- B. Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair & Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla
- C. Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair & Group Captain Ajit Krishnan
- D. Group Captain Angad Pratap & Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla

ANSWER: B

9. Where was the 11th ADMM-Plus meeting held?

- A. Bangkok
- B. Vientiane
- C. Jakarta
- D. New Delhi

ANSWER: B

10. When was the 10th anniversary of OROP observed?

- A. October 07, 2024
- B. November 07, 2024
- C. December 07, 2024
- D. January 07, 2024

ANSWER: B

11. What is the primary goal of the OROP scheme?

- A. Increasing soldiers' salaries
- B. Equal pension for same rank & service tenure
- C. Free medical services for veterans
- D. Granting additional allowances to ex-servicemen

ANSWER: B

12. What is the main goal of the Axiom-4 mission?

- A. Conducting deep space exploration
- B. Training astronauts for Mars missions
- C. A commercial mission to the ISS
- D. Building a new space station

ANSWER: C

13. "Sarvatra" (Everywhere) Is The Motto Of

- A. JKRIF
- B. RR

- C. CORPS OF ENGINEERS
- D. Madras Regiment

ANSWER: C

14. IAF Was Formed On

- A. 8 October 1932
- B. 8 October 1922
- C. 8 October 1942
- D. 8 October 1952

ANSWER: A

15. SLBM Stands For

- A. Submarine-launched Ballistic Misery
- B. Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile
- C. Submarine-launched Ballet Missile
- D. Solar-launched Ballistic Missile

ANSWER: B

16. Lima Is The Capital Of

- A. Poland
- B. Qatar
- C. UAE
- D. Peru

ANSWER: D

17. "The Epic Battle of Longewala" Book Written By

- A. Arun Kumar
- B. Ashish Ghatak
- C. Ramesh Kandula
- D. Air Marshal Retd Bharat Kumar

ANSWER: D

18. Joint Exercises B/w The India And UK Is Called:

- A. Yama
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Konkan Shakti

ANSWER: D

19. Where Is The Hq Of The Southwestern Command of The Indian Army?

- A. Jaipur
- B. Vishakhapatnam
- C. Pune
- D. Mumbai

ANSWER: A

20. Merkava Mk.4 Is The Tank Of

- A. Germany
- B. Israel
- C. USA
- D. India

ANSWER: B