

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 03 March 2025

### Exercise Desert Hunt 2025

- An integrated Tri-Service Special Forces exercise named Exercise Desert Hunt 2025 was conducted by the Indian Air Force at Air Force Station Jodhpur from 24 to 28 February 2025.
- The exercise involved elite Para SF from the Indian Army, the Marine Commandos from the Indian Navy along with the Garud from the Indian Air Force, participating together in a simulated combat environment.
- This high-intensity drill was aimed at enhancing interoperability, coordination and synergy among the three Special Forces units to ensure swift and effective response towards emerging security challenges.



### Amit Shah Chairs Review Meeting On Situation Of Manipur

- Amit Shah, chaired a high-level review meeting on the security situation of Manipur in New Delhi.
- Amit Shah said that the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, remains fully committed to restoring lasting peace in Manipur and is providing all necessary assistance in this regard.

- Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah directed that free movement to be ensured for people on all roads in Manipur from March 8, 2025. He also directed that strict action should be taken against anyone attempting to create obstructions.
- Amit Shah directed that the fencing work on both sides of the designated entry points along Manipur's international border should be completed at the earliest. He said that to make Manipur drug-free, the entire network involved in the drug trade should be dismantled.



## France, Britain propose partial one-month Ukraine Truce

- France and Britain are proposing a partial one-month truce between Russia and Ukraine that would not cover ground fighting, French President Emmanuel Macron told the daily newspaper Le Figaro on Sunday.
- However, Macron said the truce would cover air, sea and energy infrastructure attacks.
- Under the Franco-British proposal, European ground troops would only be deployed to Ukraine in a second phase, Macron said.
- "There will be no European troops on Ukrainian soil in the coming weeks," Le Figaro quoted Macron as saying.
- Macron has said his country and other European nations must spend more on defense. He told Le Figaro that this might mean in the region of 3% to 3.5% of gross domestic product. The European Commission also needed to be more innovative in financing defense spending, he said.



## British PM Starmer Announces New \$2 Billion Funding For Ukraine

- The UK will provide Ukraine with a new £1.6 billion (\$2 billion) export finance package to strengthen its defences, allowing the purchase of 5,000 air-defence missiles, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced on Sunday.
- Starmer urged European powers to move beyond discussions and take decisive action, following a defence summit on Ukraine. He warned that the West stands at a “crossroads in history.”
- Keir Starmer also called on European leaders to join a “coalition of the willing” alongside Britain and France to help maintain stability if the war in Ukraine reaches a negotiated settlement.
- Starmer announced that Britain, France, and Ukraine had agreed to develop a ceasefire plan to present to the United States. He said the proposal emerged from discussions among the leaders following the White House dispute.



## Russia Launches Soyuz Rocket

- Russian Aerospace Forces, part of the country's armed forces, launched a Soyuz rocket carrying a spacecraft for defence purposes, the state RIA news agency reported early on Monday, citing the Russian Defence Ministry.
- The Soyuz-2.1b launch lifted off from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome in the Arkhangelsk region in Russia's north, RIA said, without elaborating.
- The Russian Soyuz rocket is launched as needed for space missions, including carrying equipment and astronauts to the International Space Station. According to the European Space Agency, the Soyuz vehicles have had nearly 1,700 launches so far.
- The Soyuz launches for scientific and exploratory purposes are usually announced by **Russia's Roscosmos space agency**.



## DRDO Unveils BM-04 SRBM

- DRDO recently unveiled a mock-up of the BM-04 missile at the 'Vigyan Vaibhav' defence exhibition in Hyderabad.
- Described as a Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM), the BM-04 is designed to counter enemy anti-access/area denial (A2/AD) capabilities, which are strategic systems used by adversaries like China and Pakistan to restrict operational freedom in contested zones.
- The BM-04 incorporates a Common Hypersonic Glide Body (C-HGB) atop a two-stage booster, suggesting it may achieve speeds exceeding Mach 5, blending ballistic reach with hypersonic agility. This configuration allows for low-altitude, unpredictable flight paths that can evade radar and missile defences, making it ideal for penetrating A2/AD systems.
- The BM-04 has a range of 400-1500 km, which places it within the short to medium-range category, though it is officially classified as a Short-Range Ballistic Missile (SRBM).
- It uses two-stage solid propulsion, which provides reliability and quick response times. The BM-04 uses an inertial navigation system and satellite navigation as its guidance system.



## India Becomes A Hypersonic Power

- India has marked a significant milestone in its military capabilities by unveiling its latest advancements in hypersonic technology. The DRDO showcased a Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) and a Transporter Erector Launcher (TEL) as part of the Long-Range Anti-Ship Missile (LR-ASHM) program.
- This development positions India as a hypersonic power, alongside nations like the United States, China, and Russia, which have also made significant strides in this field.
- Hypersonic missiles, capable of travelling at speeds greater than Mach 5 (approximately 3,800 mph or 6,100 km/h), represent a significant advancement in military technology.
- Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) plays a critical role, particularly in the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile (LR-ASHM) program. The HGV is designed to travel at speeds exceeding Mach 5, positioning it as a potent tool in India's anti-ship warfare strategy.
- The successful test of India's long-range hypersonic missile, capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear payloads over distances exceeding 1,500 km, underscores the country's growing technical prowess in advanced missile development.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

**1. How much export finance package is the UK providing to Ukraine for strengthening its defences?**

- A. £1 billion
- B. £1.6 billion
- C. £2.5 billion
- D. £3 billion

**ANSWER: B**

**2. Which advanced technology did DRDO recently showcase as part of the Long Range Anti-Ship Missile program?**

- A. Stealth Bomber
- B. Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV)
- C. Anti-Satellite Missile
- D. Laser Weapon System

**ANSWER: B**

**3. What is the range of the newly unveiled BM-04 missile?**

- A. 100-500 km
- B. 200-800 km
- C. 400-1500 km
- D. 1000-2500 km

**ANSWER: C**

**4. Where did the Russian Aerospace Forces launch the Soyuz-2.1b rocket from?**

- A. Baikonur Cosmodrome
- B. Vostochny Cosmodrome
- C. Plesetsk Cosmodrome
- D. Kapustin Yar

**ANSWER: C**

**5. What was the name of the Tri-Service Special Forces exercise conducted by the Indian Air Force in Jodhpur in February 2025?**

- A. Exercise Vayu Shakti
- B. Exercise Desert Hunt 2025
- C. Exercise Prahaar 2025
- D. Exercise Shatruvinash 2025

**ANSWER: B**

**6. What is the highest commissioned rank awarded in the Navy?**

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Wing Commander
- D. Admiral

**ANSWER: D**

**7. 'Varuna' is a multilateral Defence Exercise b/w India &**

- A. Japan
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. France
- D. Australia

**ANSWER: C**

**8. Super Hornet Is Made By**

- A. Dassault
- B. Boeing
- C. Airbus
- D. HAL

**ANSWER: B**

**9. Heron Is A**

- A. Tank
- B. Rifle
- C. UAV
- D. Helicopter

**ANSWER: C**

**10. Exercises B/w India And Nepal Lanka Is Called:**

- A. Vayu
- B. SLINEX
- C. Indra
- D. Surya Kiran

**ANSWER: D**

**11. AEW&CS Stands For**

- A. Airborne Early Warning and Center System
- B. Airborne East Warning and Control System



- C. Airborne Early Warning and Control System
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: C**

**12. Air Marshal Rank of IAF Is Equivalent to which rank of Indian Navy?**

- A. Commodore
- B. Captain
- C. Commander
- D. Vice Admiral

**ANSWER: D**

**13. 'CORPS' In Indian Army Headed By\_\_**

- A. General Officer Commanding (GOC)
- B. General Officer Commanding-in-chief (GOC-in-C)
- C. Major General
- D. Brigadier

**ANSWER: A**

**14. Which Is/Are The Combat Arms Of The Indian Army?**

- A. Infantry
- B. The Armoured Corp
- C. The Mechanized Infantry
- D. All of the above

**ANSWER: D**

**15. Bugatti Car Manufactured By**

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Mexico
- D. USA

**ANSWER: B**

**16. India Purchased Dragunov SVD from**

- A. USA
- B. Sweden
- C. France
- D. USSR

**ANSWER: D**

**17. Oslo Is The Capital Of**

- A. Norway
- B. Palau
- C. Philippines
- D. Maldives

**ANSWER: A**

**18. "Mind-Master" Book Written By**

- A. Roopa Pai
- B. Neha J Hiranandani
- C. M Venkaiah Naidu
- D. Viswanathan Anand and Susan Ninan

**ANSWER: D**

**19. Heckler & Koch MP5 Is A**

- A. Submachine gun
- B. Machine pistol
- C. Sniper rifle
- D. Anti-material rifle

**ANSWER: A**

**20. Lt Gen. Rank Of Indian Army Is To Which Rank Of IAF?**

- A. Vice Admiral
- B. Air Commodore
- C. Commodore
- D. Air Marshal

**ANSWER: D**