

# Daily Defence Current Affairs

## 05 March 2025

### PM Modi To Soon Lay Foundation Stone For New Missile Testing Range

- At a time when the Indian defence researchers are developing a large number of tactical missile systems, the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has given approval in Oct 2024, for setting up a new missiles testing range in Andhra Pradesh valued at ₹20,000.
- The proposal was cleared by the CCS headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as per which the new missile range will come up in the Nagayalanka area of Andhra Pradesh.
- This facility is intended to enhance India's defence capabilities by providing a site for testing tactical missile systems, including surface-to-air and anti-tank missiles, as well as other projects developed by the DRDO.
- The approval of this new range is part of broader efforts to strengthen India's defence infrastructure. The CCS has also cleared other significant proposals, such as the procurement of 31 Predator drones from the U.S. and the construction of two nuclear submarines under Project ATV.



## EU Commission Proposes 800-billion-euro Defence Plan

- The European Commission proposed new joint EU borrowing of **150 billion euros** to lend to EU governments for defence as part of an overall **800 billion** total financing effort to boost Europe's defence capabilities.
- The 150 billion euros of new joint borrowing is to go towards building pan-European capability domains like air and missile defence, artillery systems, missiles and ammunition, drones and anti-drone systems or to address other needs from cyber to military mobility, the Commission said.
- "If Member States would increase their defence spending by 1,5% of GDP on average this could create fiscal space of close to 650 billion euros," von der Leyen said.
- The Commission also proposed that EU countries can use for defence purposes money they receive from the EU budget in funds to equalise the standards of living across Europe.



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## China Maintains Defence Spending Increase at 7.2%

- China will boost its defence spending by 7.2% this year, maintaining a steady growth rate as Beijing faces headwinds from three years of sluggish economic expansion and mounting geopolitical challenges from Taiwan to Ukraine.
- The increase, announced on Wednesday in a government report due to be released in parliament, is the same as announced last year, with the total budget having more than doubled since 2013, shortly after President Xi Jinping came into power.

- China remains the world's second-biggest military spender behind the U.S., whose proposed military budget for **2025 is \$850 billion**.
- The growth rate remains well above China's economic growth target for this year of **roughly 5%** - which analysts say was expected and reflected Beijing's ambitions for continued military modernisation amid roiling geopolitical challenges.
- It comes despite numerous **corruption scandals** affecting the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in the past two years which have felled two former defence ministers and a Central Military Commission member.



## Two Suicide Bombings At A Military Base In Pakistan

- Attackers launched two suicide bombings to breach a wall at a military base in northwestern Pakistan while others stormed the compound and were repelled in violence that killed at least nine people and injured 25.
- A group affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban militant group claimed responsibility for the attack in Bannu, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and said dozens of Pakistani security forces were killed. The military did not immediately confirm any casualties, but Bannu District Hospital said at least nine people were dead.
- Plumes of gray smoke rose into the air and gunshots continued after the two explosions, police officer said. Four of those killed were children, hospital officials said. The victims lived close to the scene of the blasts.

- The two suicide bombers blew themselves up near the wall of the sprawling military area, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters.



## Solar Industries Bags Order For The Supply of Hand Grenades

- Solar Industries India Limited, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited, has secured a significant contract worth ₹239 crore from the Ministry of Defence, Government of India.
- This contract involves the supply of multi-mode hand grenades, which are to be delivered over a period of one year. The deal reinforces Solar Industries' strong position in the defence manufacturing sector, contributing to India's self-reliance in defence production and enhancing national security capabilities.
- Contract Value: ₹239 crore
- Product: Multi-Mode Hand Grenades
- Delivery Period: One Year
- Entity Awarding the Contract: Ministry of Defence, Government of India
- Executing Company: Solar Defence and Aerospace Limited, a subsidiary of Solar Industries India Limited

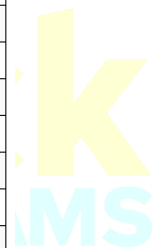


## VEM Technologies Unveils VIDHWAMS

- VEM Technologies, a Hyderabad-based aerospace and defence company, has unveiled the **VIDHWAMS Guided Rocket**. This innovative system is designed to enhance the Indian Army's precision strike capabilities with a remarkable range of 250 km.
- The VIDHWAMS is specifically engineered to target land-based infrastructure such as bunkers, radar installations, air hangars, and runways, making it a crucial asset for both offensive and defensive operations.
- It features advanced specifications, including a weight of less than **600 kg**, a length of less than 6 meters, and a solid rocket motor for propulsion.

### Specification Summary

Specification	Parameters
Maximum Range	250Km
Warhead	Blast & Fragmentation
Navigation	GPS Assisted IMU
Precision	CEP Better than 10metres
Launch Tech	Cannister Based
Propulsion	Solid Rocket Motor
Control	RF & IR Seekers
Targets	Bunkers
	Radar Installations
	Runway Denial
Weight	600 Kgs
Length	5.0m
Mobile Launcher	No of Rounds 3

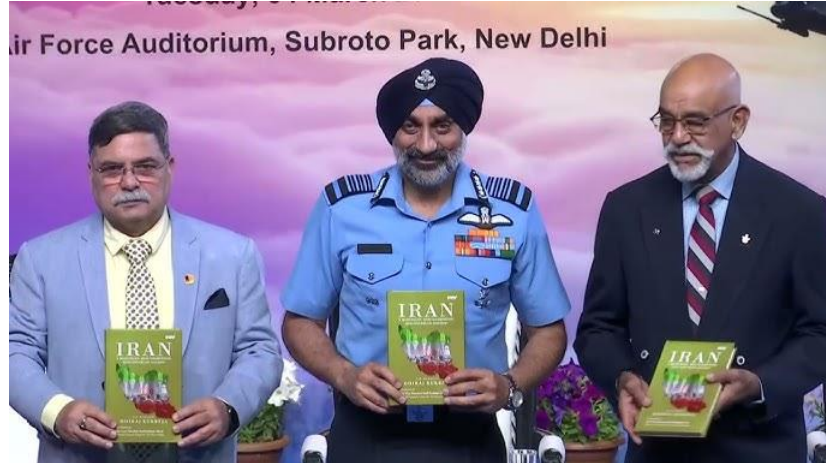


## 16<sup>th</sup> Jumbo Majumdar International Seminar

- Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Chief of the Air Staff, inaugurated the 16th 'JUMBO' Majumdar International Seminar organised by the Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS) on 04 March 2025 at Air Force Auditorium.
- The theme for the Seminar was '**EVOLVING DYNAMICS OF AEROSPACE POWER**'. The welcome remarks were delivered by Air Vice Marshal Anil Golani (Retd), Director General, CAPS.
- 'Jumbo' Majumdar International Seminar is an annual event organised by CAPS in commemoration of late Wg Cdr Karun Krishna Majumdar, an ace fighter pilot of pre-Independence India.
- A host of topics ranging from Integrated Aerospace Management, Effective Space Exploitation for gaining 'Control of the Air', exploitation of Drones and Manned Unmanned Teams in future conflicts, impact of EW and Cyber on Aerial



Warfare, the Way Forward for induction of Emerging and Niche Technologies to 5th gen aircraft by IAF, were discussed by the eminent panellist.



## REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. How much joint EU borrowing has the European Commission proposed for defence lending to EU governments?

- A. 100 billion euros
- B. 150 billion euros
- C. 200 billion euros
- D. 250 billion euros

**ANSWER: B**

2. By what percentage will China increase its defence spending this year?

- A. 5.5%
- B. 6.8%
- C. 7.2%
- D. 8.0%

**ANSWER: C**

3. Which Indian company secured a ₹239 crore contract from the Ministry of Defence?

- A. Bharat Dynamics Limited
- B. Solar Industries India Limited
- C. Larsen & Toubro
- D. Tata Advanced Systems

**ANSWER: B**

**4. What is the range of the VIDHWAMS Guided Rocket unveiled by VEM Technologies?**

- A. 150 km
- B. 200 km
- C. 250 km
- D. 300 km

**ANSWER: C**

**5. What was the theme of the 16th 'JUMBO' Majumdar International Seminar?**

- A. Future of Air Combat
- B. Aerospace Innovations and Challenges
- C. Global Security and Air Power
- D. Evolving Dynamics of Aerospace Power

**ANSWER: D**

**6. Operation Meghdoot, initiated in 1984, aimed to seize control of which strategic location?**

- A. Siachen Glacier
- B. Kargil
- C. Aksai Chin
- D. Doklam

**ANSWER: A**

**7. Operation Blue Star, started in 1984, was aimed at quelling unrest in which Indian state?**

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

**ANSWER: A**

**8. Operation Cactus, conducted in 1988, aimed to protect the President of which country?**

- A. Maldives
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Mauritius
- D. Seychelles

**ANSWER: A**

**9. Operation Rajeev, carried out in 1987, targeted the capture of which post in Siachen?**

- A. Kargil
- B. Dras
- C. Qaid
- D. Batalik

**ANSWER: C**

**10. UDHR Stands For**

- A. Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- B. Universal Declaration of Human Riot
- C. Universal Declared of Human Rights
- D. None of the above

**ANSWER: A**

**11. Which one of the following statements is/are correct regarding BRICS?**

**1. It was set up with the sole purpose of countering the NATO influence and emerging as its substitute.**

**2. The New Development Bank is one of the initiatives of BRICS.**

**Choose the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither 1 nor 2

**ANSWER: B**

**12. World Economic Forum Hq Is In**

- A. Geneva, Switzerland
- B. Lausanne, Switzerland
- C. The Hague, The Netherlands
- D. Gland, Switzerland

**ANSWER: A**

**13. Which Is Not An Asian Country?**

- A. Singapore
- B. Brunei
- C. UAE
- D. Peru



**ANSWER: D**

**14. GPMG Stands For**

- A. General Purple Machine Gun
- B. General Purpose Machine Gun
- C. General Purpose Machine Gum
- D. None

**ANSWER: B**

**15. 'Ex Zapad' Conducted B/W India &**

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

**ANSWER: B**

**16. Padma Vibhushan Award Was Instituted on**

- A. 2nd January 1954
- B. 2nd January 1955
- C. 2nd January 1956
- D. 2nd January 1957

**ANSWER: A**

**17. Hq Of Department of Space Is In**

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Kochi
- D. Kolkata

**ANSWER: B**

**18. CAIR Stands For**

- A. Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics
- B. Centre for Artificial Intelligent & Robotics
- C. Centre for Artillery Intelligence & Robotics
- D. Centre form Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

**ANSWER: A**

**19. "An Odyssey in War and Peace" Book Written By**

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. SHF Manekshaw
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Lt Gen J.F.R. Jacob

**ANSWER: D**

**20. With reference to the Project 15B warships, consider the following statements:**

1. They are equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and long-range Surface-to-Air Missiles.
2. 'INS Surat' was the first-ever ship of Project 15B Destroyers.
3. Project 15B warships are completely indigenous.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

**ANSWER: A**